

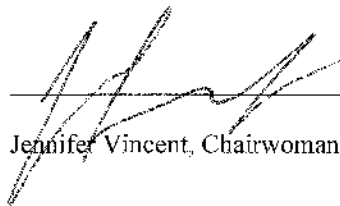
MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 04/29/2026
 SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Vincent-Chair, Tabitha K. McCrohan-Member, Mark Horsfall-Member

TOPIC		ACTION
Call To Order	Board of Selectmen - Called to Order at 6:00PM in the Moitoza-Petey Hearing Room	
New Business:	<p>Board to review, approve, and sign final Annual Town Meeting Warrant; review of matter; votes may be taken. During the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review, Ms. Vincent opened the meeting and asked Ms. McCrohan to read the full text of the final Annual Town Meeting warrant into the record. Ms. McCrohan read through all of the articles, which included hearing reports from the Finance Committee and Capital Improvement Planning Committee, appropriating and transferring FY26 funds to various departments and unpaid bills, and authorizing up to \$900,000 in borrowing for a new fire apparatus. The warrant also established an override stabilization fund for the schools, set salaries and compensation for elected and appointed officials, funded various debt service items, and appropriated money for education-related accounts such as the Berkley School Department, Bristol County Agricultural High School, and Somerset Berkley Regional School District. Additional articles set revolving fund limits for multiple departments, authorized the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend state and federal funds for roads, allowed assessors to perform tax maintenance work, expanded certain tax exemptions for seniors, and Board of Health fee schedules. Zoning-related articles proposed rezoning parcels on Padelford Street to a general business district and amending bed-and-breakfast use regulations, while others authorized the disposition of various surplus town properties on multiple streets. The warrant concluded with instructions on how and where it must be posted and mailed to residents. After the reading, Jennifer called for a motion to approve and sign the annual town meeting warrant; the motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.</p> <p>Taken out of Order: Board to review and consider approval of a one-day liquor license application submitted by the Bay State Beagle Club for wine and malt beverages at 44 Point Street on Saturday, May 9th, 2026. including authorization for one day before and one day after for transportation. Review of matter; votes may be taken.</p> <p>Taken Out of Order: Board to review and consider approval contingent on inspections by Berkley Building Department and Berkley Fire Department, of a Common Victualer license application submitted by Berkley Athletic Association (BAA). Review of matter; votes may be taken.</p> <p>Board to engage in Fiscal Year 2027 budget discussion with the Berkley Finance Committee; to include line-by-line review of contingency budgets under both override and non-override scenarios; review of the Capital Improvement Plan and proposed free cash expenditures; and possible vote on Fiscal Year 2027 budget recommendation. Review of matter; votes may be taken. The discussion between the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Finance Committee (FinCom) focused on how to approach the FY26–27 budget under two scenarios: override vs. no-override. FinCom explained they had held off deep budget work until the override vote, viewing it as inefficient to “get down and dirty” on two different budgets. BOS members, especially Jennifer Vincent and Tabitha McCrohan, pushed for more proactive planning, arguing they need clearer, concrete scenarios to present to the public before the vote, particularly what a “no-override” budget really looks like in terms of service cuts. Tabitha described multiple departments at “critical failure,” with staff over 32 hours still missing required state reporting and DOR warning that knowingly underfunded lines (e.g., data processing contracts) will not be approved. The groups discussed that a no-override budget would require restructuring rather than uniform percentage cuts, with</p>	<p>Motion to approve: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to approve: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; MHorsfall second; Motion approved</p> <p>Discussion only, no votes take.</p>

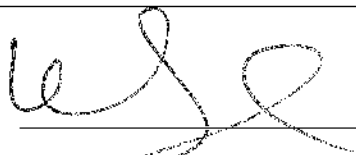
MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 04/29/2026

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Vincent Chair, Tabitha K. McCrohan-Member, Mark Horsfall-Member


<p>Meeting Minutes:</p>	<p>likely reductions in access to the transfer station, Town Hall public hours, and possibly more cuts to library, Council on Aging, and other departments, while trying to protect public safety (fire/EMS and police) where cuts could be self-defeating financially and dangerous. They also examined structural problems: an under-resourced finance team, limited assessing capacity choking off revenue, outdated and unintegrated IT systems that don't talk to each other, and lack of a formal IIR/compliance function. There was agreement that some positions or investments (e.g., a 32-hour building inspector who also manages permitting, zoning enforcement, and municipal building maintenance) could be revenue-positive or risk-reducing even if they increase costs on paper. Both bodies acknowledged the need to prioritize revenue-generating or revenue-protecting roles. FinCom members asked for more data, job descriptions vs. actual duties, examples of missed deadlines and problem areas, IT integration and cost/savings ideas, and audit access to better ground their recommendations. It was agreed that FinCom would begin more intensive work immediately (including an additional Monday meeting) and come into the upcoming public forum with at least preliminary recommendations and restructuring concepts, particularly for the no-override scenario, while BOS emphasized public communication, transparency, and the need for shared ownership of the hard choices.</p> <p>Board to approve Meeting Minutes of April 22nd. 2026; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Motion to approve: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p>
<p>Adjournment:</p>	<p>Board to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Not to return to open session.</p> <p>Robbins, Mandy et al vs. Town of Berkley, Massachusetts et al</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm</p> <p>*Next Scheduled Meeting is Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.*</p>	<p>Motion to enter into Executive Session: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved Roll Call Vote: JVincent-Aye TMcCrohan-Aye MHorsfall-Ayc</p>



 Jennifer Vincent, Chairwoman



 Tabitha McCrohan, Member



 Mark Horsfall, Member

Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator