

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 05/13/2026

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha McCrohan-Chair, Jennifer Vincent-Member

TOPIC		ACTION
Call To Order	Board of Selectmen - Called to Order at 6:00PM in the Counsel On Aging Room	
Public Hearing:	<p>Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 166, Section 22, the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room at the Town Office Building, 1 North Main Street, Berkley, Massachusetts, on the sole petition of Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant proposing the installation of one joint pole locations EL40 on South Main St. approximately 960' S of the intersection of South Main St. And Bryant St intersection, in the Town of Berkley. Interested parties are welcome to attend and comment; persons wishing to be heard should appear on the date and at the time and place designated above. Comments can also be sent to the Board of Selectmen either by mail, c/o Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator, One North Main Street, Berkley, Massachusetts 02779, or via e-mail, selectmen@berkley.ma.us, prior to the date and time of the public hearing. Plans on file in Town Clerk's Office for public viewing. Seeing no one come forward to speak, Ms. Vincent made a motion to approve the pole relocation as described on plan number 31326 and authorize signature of all related documentation, which was seconded and approved unanimously. Ms. Vincent then moved to close the public hearing, which was also seconded and approved.</p> <p>Taken out of Order: Board to discuss possible Board reorganization following the Annual Town Election; review of matter; votes may be taken. Following the annual town election, the Board of Selectmen voted to reorganize its leadership, with Jennifer Vincent moving to appoint Tabitha McCrohan as chair of the Board of Selectmen, the motion being seconded and approved unanimously. The board then proceeded to recognize that there were now two members on the board and confirmed that the reorganization was complete</p> <p>Board to review and possibly appoint Roseanne Kulibaba to the Finance Committee for the Town of Berkley with a term expiring June 30, 2027. Review of matter; votes may be taken.</p> <p>Board to finalize and execute contract with Ashleigh Haslam for the position of Town Accountant; review of matter; votes may be taken. Contract is for 3 years.</p> <p>Board to finalize and execute contract with Sandra Cameron for the position of Principal Assessor; review of matter; votes may be taken. Contract is for 3 years</p> <p>Board to review and possibly appoint Daly McCabe as the Children's Librarian for the Town of Berkley. Review of matter; votes may be taken. The Library Director Carol Buote and Daly each spoke about their background working with children and in a school library, and the importance of restoring the long-understaffed children's room. Ms. McCrohan expressed concern about hiring amid town-wide layoffs and unresolved budget issues after the failed override, while the Ms. Buote stressed that without a children's librarian the children's room would likely have to close or reduce hours significantly. Due to disagreement between the two Selectmen and the need to resolve broader budget questions first, the board voted to table the appointment until after further budget discussion later in the meeting [0:14:04–0:14:47]. After those broader budget talks and a short recess, the board returned to the item and voted to appoint Daly McCabe as Children's Librarian.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: JVincnt motioned: TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to approve: JVincnt motioned: TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned: JVincnt second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned: JVincnt second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to move: TMcCrohan motioned: JVincnt second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned: JVincnt second; Motion approved</p>
New Business:		

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 05/13/2026

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha McCrohan-Chair, Jennifer Vincent-Member

<p>Old Business:</p>	<p>Board to accept resignation of Guy Parenteau as the plumbing inspector for the Town of Berkley; Review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board voted to accept the resignation of Guy Parenteau from his position and expressed thanks for his service.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; JVincent second; Motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to accept the resignation of Mark Horsfall from the Board of Selectmen; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board voted to accept the resignation of Mark Horsfall from the Board of Selectmen, effective immediately, with members noting the difficult climate around the recent election and thanking him for his service.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; JVincent second; Motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to appoint Joel Figueredo to position of plumbing inspector for the Town of Berkley; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board voted to appoint Joel Figueredo as Plumbing Inspector for the Town of Berkley, noting he had previously served as Assistant Plumbing Inspector and that the position is not paid out of taxation</p>	<p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; JVincent second; Motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to approve job posting for Assistant Plumbing Inspector position; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board voted to approve posting the Assistant Plumbing Inspector position to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Joel Figueredo to Plumbing Inspector.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; JVincent second; Motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to consider and potentially approve attestation for Chief of Police for the POST Commission; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board voted to authorize execution of the attestation for the Chief of Police required by the POST Commission, acting as the Chief's appointing authority.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; JVincent second; Motion approved</p>
	<p>Taken out of Order: Board to consider recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding the FY2027 operating budget and potentially vote on a final recommendation to Annual Town Meeting; review of matter; votes may be taken. During the review of the Finance Committee's FY27 operating budget recommendations, Mr. Chabot noted that the FinCom's budget was roughly \$14,000 below the Town Administrator's guidelines budget, primarily due to a reduction in a veterans' benefits line that is currently unused and a level-funding of the moderator's expense. Ms. Vincent delivered extensive prepared remarks emphasizing respect for departments' 4.5% cuts, opposition to using free cash or general stabilization for recurring operating expenses, the need to save for capital and avoid pushing the town toward possible state receivership, and the importance of maintaining local control. Ms. Vincent defended funding for positions that generate or protect recurring revenue (e.g., full-time building inspector tied to higher permitting revenue and e-permitting, and the Town Administrator role that also functions as finance/grant writer), and stated she would support a balanced budget reflecting the FinCom recommendations while avoiding structural reliance on one-time funds.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p>

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 05/13/2026

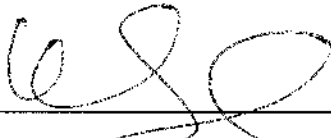
SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha McCrohan-Chair, Jennifer Vincent-Member

	<p>Board to discuss possible traffic control measures on South Main Street, including potential installation of "No Jake Brake" signage; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board voted to authorize installation of "No Jake Brake" signage on South Main Street in response to neighborhood truck-noise complaints, with the Town Administrator noting the signs are advisory and not directly enforceable.</p> <p>Board to discuss future social media operations and communication practices of the Town of Berkley; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board briefly reached the agenda item on future social media operations and communication practices for the Town of Berkley and, due to the length and intensity of the budget discussion and overall exhaustion late in the meeting, voted to table the item for a future meeting without substantive discussion.</p> <p>Board to discuss and potentially approve Capital Improvement Plan proposals for FY2027 and future fiscal years; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board reached the agenda item to discuss and potentially approve FY27 capital improvement plan (CIP) proposals, but given that another budget meeting was already planned and the current meeting was running long, they chose to defer CIP discussion/decisions to the next budget session.</p> <p>Board to consider recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding the FY2027 operating budget and potentially vote on a final recommendation to Annual Town Meeting; review of matter; votes may be taken. The Board agreed to pause detailed budget deliberations and scheduled a follow-up budget meeting for Wednesday May 20th at 6:00 p.m. to continue work on the FY27 operating budget and capital improvement plan, explore remaining funding options without using general stabilization, and coordinate with departments and residents ahead of town meeting.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to table: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to table: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p> <p>Motion to table: JVincent motioned; TMcCrohan second; Motion approved</p>
<p>Meeting Mail:</p>	<p>Bristol County Agricultural High School Graduation Invitation. The Board noted the Bristol County Agricultural High School graduation ceremony invitation and announced that graduation will be held on May 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bristol County Agricultural High School baseball field, 135 Center Street, Dighton, MA.</p>	<p>Discussion only</p>
<p>Meeting Minutes:</p>	<p>Board to review and approve meeting minutes of April 29, 2026; review of matter; votes may be taken and Board to review and approve Executive Session minutes of April 29, 2026; review of matter; votes may be taken.</p>	<p>Motion to approve: TMcCrohan motioned; JVincent second; Motion approved</p>
<p>Town Administrator Report:</p>	<p>Discussion regarding the failed override ballot and the resulting Annual Town Meeting process. Mr. Chabot explained that because the Proposition 2½ override ballot question failed, the related warrant article to create and fund an override stabilization fund (Article 5) will simply be passed over at Annual Town Meeting, since there is no longer a funding source. As a result, there will be no second vote at Town Meeting on the override itself; instead, Town Meeting will consider one omnibus FY27 budget article based on the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen's recommended budget within existing revenues, and residents will still be able to debate and amend that budget on the floor, but not to revive the failed override.</p>	<p>Discussion Only</p>

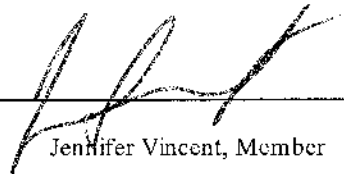
MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 05/13/2026

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha McCrohan-Chair, Jennifer Vincent-Member

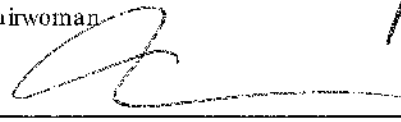
<p>Adjournment:</p>	<p>OpenGov e-permitting procurement. Mr. Chabot reported that an open solicitation for e-permitting software was conducted through the state contract, a vendor has been selected, and implementation is expected to begin in late summer with a target public go-live around December/January.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm</p> <p>*Next Scheduled Meeting is Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.*</p>	<p>Discussion Only</p>
----------------------------	--	-------------------------------



Tabitha McCrohan, Chairwoman



Jennifer Vincent, Member



Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator