

**Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Meeting Minutes**



Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

Minutes for the meeting of May 8, 2024

Meeting held at Bernardston Town Hall
38 Church St, Bernardston, MA 01337

Selectboard Members Present:

Ken Bordewieck
Brian Keir
Brian Hervieux

Others Present:

Karen Kelly
Christina Slocum-Wysk
Jane Dutcher
Brian Miner

Ken opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

First Order of business - Public Hearing: State law allows cities and towns to opt out of no-excuse early voting by mail in local elections. A city or town can only opt out of Vote by Mail for a local election after the Selectboard holds a public hearing and takes a recorded vote, and to do so at least 45 days before the election (June 25th, 2024). If the Town opts out of Vote by Mail for the special election, a Vote by Mail application will not be valid for that election.

This is a Public Hearing to discuss the merits of VOTE BY MAIL for the Special Election on June 25, 2024. The Special Election will include a single Proposition 2 1/2 question on the ballot to determine if the Town of Bernardston is allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition 2 1/2, the amount required (\$987,000) to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a replacement for Bernardston Fire Department Engine #3 (KME Pumper), and all costs incidental and related thereto.

Ken asked for a discussion. The Town Clerk reminded that it would be important to mail out ballots to those residents that requested ballots for every election. There are approximately 293 residents that have selected the option to receive ballots for every election. Postage is \$0.92 per ballot.

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The Selectboard elected not to make a motion and opt out of vote by mail. Therefore, the Town Clerk office will be mailing out ballots to the 293 residents that have selected the option to receive ballots for every election. This ends the public hearing! portion of the meeting.

Second order of business - Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Question: Article 27 was approved at Annual Town Meeting on April 29, 2024, to borrow or otherwise provide a sum up to \$987,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for Bernardston Fire Department Engine #3 (KME Pumper), and all costs incidental and related thereto, and further, to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow, pursuant to MGL Ch. 44, Sec. 7(1), or any other enabling authority, said sum or a portion thereof for the purposes set forth herein, and to issue bonds and notes therefore, and further, to authorize the Selectboard and other appropriate public officials to take all actions necessary to effect the purposes of this article, provided, however, this appropriation and debt authorization be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion referendum under General Laws Chapter 59, Sec. 21C(k).

Brian made a motion to approve the Proposition 2 1/2 question as written:

“Shall the Town of Bernardston be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to borrow or otherwise provide a sum up to \$987,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for Bernardston Fire Department Engine #3 (KME Pumper), and all costs incidental and related thereto, and further, to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow, pursuant to MGL Ch. 44, Sec. 7(1), or any other enabling authority, said sum or a portion thereof for the purposes set forth herein.”

Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and asked if the grant was still a viable option. The grant is still an option if awarded the funding. The motion was approved, 3-0.

Third order of business - Election of Officers: Each year the Selectboard selects a Chairman, Vice Chair and Clerk.

Brian Keir made a motion to nominate Ken Bordewieck as the Selectboard Chair, Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0. Ken abstained.

Ken made a motion to nominate Brian Keir as the Vice Chair, Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0. Brian Keir abstained.

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Ken made a motion to nominate Brian Hervieux as the Clerk, Brian Keir seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0. Brian Hervieux abstained.

Fourth order of business - Executive Session: Ken announced that we will go into executive session to discuss a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with personnel. The public body will not convene in open session at the end of the executive session. The executive session will be conducted in the Selectboard Office. Brian Keir made a motion to go into executive session and invited Brian Miner and Karen Kelly into the session, followed by a roll call vote of the body to enter executive session. This motion was seconded by Brian Hervieux and the motion was approved, 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Attested by: Karen Kelly, Town Administrator


_____, Chairman 
Kenneth R. Bordewieck Brian J. Keir 
Brian Hervieux



BERNARDSTON SELECTBOARD - MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting Date: 5/8/2024

Meeting Time: 6:00 AM/PM PM

Name	Address	Phone/Email
Brian Mizer		
Christina Stocum-Wyck		
Janet [Signature]		

Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Special Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 6:00 PM



Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston MA

Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

Agenda

Call to Order in Open Session

Election of Officers

Public Hearing: To discuss the merits of VOTE BY MAIL for the Special Election on June 25, 2024. The Special Election will include a single Proposition 2 1/2 question on the ballot to determine if the Town of Bernardston is allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition 2 1/2, the amount required (\$987,000) to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a replacement for Bernardston Fire Department Engine #3 (KME Pumper), and all costs incidental and related thereto.

Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Question

Executive Session - To conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with personnel.

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

Adjourn

This meeting was posted on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 7:50am.