

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**October 12, 2021 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Present: James Cleary, David Hardwick, David Foster

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Appointments:** 6:00 pm Chief Sullivan & Jeff Danforth – Chief Sullivan introduced Jeff Danforth, who currently works for the Town of Contoocook and is ready to join Bennington Police Department. His wife, mother and children are here to witness his swearing in. Jeff brings with him 15+ years of experience and is familiar with the Town of Bennington, he is also a resident of Bennington. Selectmen welcomed Jeff Danforth.

In accordance with RSA 91A:3 II (a & b) at 6:13 motion by Chairman Cleary to enter into a non-public to discuss employee compensation and hiring of an employee. Seconded by Selectmen Hardwick and Foster. All in favor.

At 6:20 pm motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of the non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & Hardwick.

Decision: Jeff Danforth will be hired, his salary will start at \$57,000.00 annually, he will receive full benefits. His start date will be Monday, October 18, 2021.

Chairman Cleary read the Oath of Office and Jeff Danforth was sworn in as a full time Police man for the Town of Bennington. Danforth was welcomed by everyone.

At 6:25pm in accordance with RSA 91A:3 II (a) motion by Chairman Cleary to enter into a non-public session to discuss the promotion of a town employee. Seconded by Hardwick and Foster. All in favor.

At 6:30 pm. Motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of the non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Foster & Hardwick.

Decision: Effective October 26, 2021 there will be a badge pinning ceremony for Sargent LePine, who will be promoted to Chief of Police for Bennington. His Salary will be \$70,000.00, benefits to remain as they are, he will be awarded 4 weeks vacation time and will remain at 4 weeks indefinitely.

Chief Sullivan was thanked for his years of service to the Town of Bennington.

6:35 – Frank Woodward – Structural issues at his property located at 303 Greenfield Road. Mr. Woodward explained that he had hired a company to lift his home and put a foundation under the home. There are many structural inequities. The contractor has not been receptive, the contractor is in the process of selling his home in Sullivan and moving west. Mr. Woodward has had to hire attorneys and his own structural engineering firm to assist with the damage that has taken place. Further discussion followed as to the foundation has cracks in the concrete, and Mr. Woodward feels there is not adequate re-bar. Code Officer, John Kendall explained how footings work, and further discussed when a house moves, trusses, roof floors, the entire house sags and sways. Woodward feels his house is in worse condition than when he started this project. He has spoken to a local contractor who isn't interested in trying to correct the job at this point.

Code Officer, John Kendall explained his has 45 years as a general contractor and understands Mr. Boles was hired to lift the house and reset it. In 2020 a shoreland permit was obtained, Kendall went over the time frame and inspections from June, 25, 2020 when the first inspection took place. The foundation inspection was discussed and it appeared to be good work. Kendal continued explaining how inspections work, it is either Pass or Fail, if it is a Fail it needs to be corrected.

Mr. Woodward asked Kendall to review the engineer report and would like his opinion as to the cost to complete this project properly. Kendall indicated he does not give quotes.

Kendall agreed to meet with the engineers and discuss with them how Mr. Woodward should move forward. Kendall indicated he can help with that, discussed snow loads and code requirements. A lengthy discussion followed regarding how this situation can be resolved. Kendall did indicate he will meet with Mr. Woodward and the engineers on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 1:00 to discuss going forward.

Selectmen thanked Mr. Woodward for talking to them about this and assured him John Kendall will be helpful.

John Kendall remained and asked Selectmen about Cary Holter. If he is going to continue to live on the property he will need to have a porta-potti delivered. The driveway is not to code and Carey cannot get his deposit back until the driveway issues are addressed. The driveway can pitch to the culvert and be paved into the culvert. It currently is not. There is also an issue with dogs, one is vicious. Kendall will notify Holter of the Health & Safety issues.

Discussion followed regarding the Planning Board and possible updates to zoning. Specifically, Camping, Air B & B and Temporary Structures should all be addressed.

Minutes: Accepted minutes of September 28, 2021

Financial: Payroll Register  
A/P Register

Old Business: Cupola – Guyer & Sons will be here to start on October 20th

Gym Ceiling – Matt Harwood – Harwood Painting, Hancock – provided the only quote for the repair. Selectmen reviewed and approved the quote from Harwood, the price is \$7,000.00, Primex will cover the cost less the deductible.

Bats – waiting for roof repairs to be completed before we can deal with the bats. Purchase of bat houses?

VFW – Chairman Cleary – Chairman Cleary indicated the piano can be removed. The roof is complete, the Handicapped ramp has been removed and the new one has started to be built.

New Business: Beaver concern at Whittemore, 3+, causing problems – Deb spoke with Andy Stout from NHDES. This is not a Town issue, the property owner can address it as they see fit, with guidance from the State.

Correspondence: Benevolent fund made a donation of \$350.00 to the town to assist someone in need. Suggested names were provided, no decision at this time.

Boston Post Cane – Deb located the cane, it will be given to the historical society. Discussed presenting the next one and who the recipient will be. Hillsborough would like to include a picture when they have their 250<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2022.

Fire Dept. – Chief/Selectman Foster made the motion to hire Greg Sandquist as a Fireman to the Bennington Fire Department. Seconded by David Hardwick. Discussion regarding hiring Greg Sandquist followed. Voted unanimously to hire Sandquist. Foster will get the paperwork to the office.

Signatures: Selectmen signed an intent to cut for Richard Verney, Map8 Lot 17.

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm, the next meeting will be Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

