

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**January 3, 2023 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman, James Cleary, Tom James, David Foster

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

**Appointments:**

**6:00 – Bennington Police - Chief, Jason LePine** – Chief LePine was before the Selectboard to discuss the hiring of a new officer. River Marmorstein is a 24 year-old, certified part-time officer in New Boston. He is also part time on the Peterborough Fire Department. He lives in Peterborough and is looking forward to picking up 1300 hours/ year or 3 shifts per week. Chief LePine has filled him in on Bennington, he will be on a probationary period for a while. LePine indicated Marmorstein is very interested in Cyber Crime and will be offered the opportunity for training. Chief LePine would like to offer Marmorstein \$26.00 per hour. Selectmen support Chief LePine’s decision to hire River Marmorstein and provide \$26.00 per hour starting wage. Vacation and any additional compensation were not discussed.

**6:15 – Bennington Recreation Committee – Bethany Craig, Haley Tramosch** – Bethany opened the meeting reviewing her recommendations for the 2023 budget. Discussion of port a potty and the phone at the beach was discussed. Town Administrator takes care of calling for the port-a-potties in April, the phone at Whitemore Beach is turned on in May. The phone is removed in the fall and plugged back in at spring.

Haley asked what is covered under recreation activities – Bethany explained Christmas, Halloween and other recreation activities. Any event items, programs etc. Same with miscellaneous.

Rhubarb Festival was discussed. How the town could accommodate if it grows. Options for growth of the festival were discussed. Bethany reminded Haley she will be available to help get the Rhubarb Festival rolling and attend some recreation meetings. She and Jim will be available for support/suggestions. Increasing the vendor fees was discussed.

Volunteerism was discussed.

The use of Sawyer Field does create a need for updates and each year different updates are addressed. The playground needs upgrading per our insurance, the Town Administrator has a

written recommendation from Primex that we can use as a tool for progress and prioritizing the upgrades. Rental cost for the use of the field was discussed and needs to be considered going forward.

Establishing a Sawyer Field Capital Reserve Fund was discussed.

Selectmen thanked Bethany for all she and Jim have done over the years for the benefit of the Town of Bennington.

**Scholarships** – Discussion of closing the Edward French Scholarship was discussed. Motion by Chairman Cleary to close the Edward French Scholarship at this time, funds are budgeted annually for this use. Seconded by Selectman Foster. Voted unanimously to close the account.

Bethany discussed the Bruce Edes Scholarship and that it needs to be advertised better. John Cronin will have more information on this scholarship. Town Administrator will reach out to John to get exactly what the use is of the scholarship.

**Fishing Derby** – Bethany mentioned that this also needs to be advertised better. As a long time resident, she knows it is always the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April. The Derby is held at the Cold Spring Pond on Bible Hill Road. Meredith Shepherd and Shelly Griswold are very involved and would know more about the Derby. Town Administrator will reach out to one of them and talk about better advertising for the Fishing Derby this spring.

**6:45 – Keith Nason – Fire Truck Purchase** - Fire Chief Foster asked Keith if he would present and explain a Capital Reserve Fund/Lease on the new firetruck. Nason provided new lease options with a significant savings. Nason discussed payment options, interest payments and how a 5-year plan is a better payment option. There is a huge interest payment savings. Discussion of selling the old fire truck and the rescue vehicle and putting the funds into the Fire Truck CRF, the wording of this on the warrant article is imperative. Nason discussed when the payment is due and the down payment amount.

**Class VI Roads** – Selectmen briefly discussed Class VI roadways and the responsibility to respond to these properties. Town Administrator provided a written reply to everyone from Town Counsel regarding this matter.

Selectmen thanked Keith for his presentation.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of 12/27/22. Seconded by Tom James. Minutes accepted.

**Financial:** Selectmen signed Payroll Registers for the week of 12/29; 12/29 FD; Selectmen signed the A/P Register for the week of 12/29.

**New Business:**

- **Use of Sawyer Field** – MSB requested the use of Sawyer Field Monday – Thursdays; May 1 – Oct 1, they stated they realize there may be some accommodations needed. Selectmen want to update the policies before any agreements for the use of the field are approved at this time.

**Correspondence:**

**Review/Approve/Signatures:**

- **Tax Collector Deed Waivers**
- **Town Clerk - DMV Audit**

**Other:**

**Budget** – Budget was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the budget at this time, seconded by Selectmen James and Foster. Discussion followed regarding Budget Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at PES at 6:00 pm. The Deliberative Session will be held at PES on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm with a snow date of Friday, February 10, 2023. ConVal is holding their deliberative session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm, with a snow date of Thursday February 9.

Warrant articles were discussed.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson  
Town Administrator