

## Bennington Board of Selectmen

March 7, 2023 6:00 PM

### Meeting Minutes

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

#### **Appointments:**

**6:00 – Matthew Harwood** – Matt met earlier with the Selectboard. Selectmen discussed the elevator project & necessary renovations to begin the elevator, and 2<sup>nd</sup> bathroom. Work will begin the week of March 12, 2023 with getting ready for the sprinkler system.

#### **6:30 – Chief of Police, Jason LePine** –

- **Vacations** - Selectmen asked Chief LePine to come in to discuss vacations. Selectmen informed Chief LePine that the Board needs to know when department heads are taking vacation. Chief LePine said he understood this and will be sure to let the Selectboard know of any vacations in the future.
- **Schedules** – Chief LePine discussed schedules. Explaining it is hard for him to find part-time officers. Chief LePine went on to explain the State wants to dismantle the part-time academy. There will be no part-time certification in the future. There will be full-time certified officers only, some may want to work part-time. Discussion continued regarding options.
- **Training** – Discussion followed regarding training for Officer Danforth. He is working towards promoting Officer Danforth to Detective Sergeant. Danforth has 9 years full time.
- **Recruitment** – At this time, the main focus of the police department is recruitment of part-time officers.
- **Fire Arms** – Chief LePine discussed the current firearms need replacing. He is looking to replace all the firearms, he would like to have 3 part-time officers, with that there is only one extra gun. Discussed options for weapons, he can purchase 8 glocks for

\$2,000.00 with a \$250.00 per gun trade in. Chief LePine indicated that technically the department should have 9 weapons. Discussion regarding weapons followed. Selectmen approved the purchase of 8 new Glock weapons.

- **Wages** – Chief LePine indicated he would like to have a flat part-time wage for any new officers? Discussion followed, no decision was made at this time. Chief LePine also discussed paying Vint Boggis \$26.00/hour, he is a seasoned officer and said he would like to work Sundays for Bennington. Boggis will confirm with Chief LePine, tomorrow – Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Selectmen supported paying Boggis the \$26.00 per hour.

Selectman James asked about River Marmorstein and when he is expected to start? Chief LePine stated he has found full-time employment elsewhere and will not be joining Bennington Police Department. Chief LePine will continue to look for more part-time officers.

**Minutes:** Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of February 21, 2023 as written. Seconded by Selectman James. Motion passed

**Financial:** Payroll Manifests for the following weeks were approved; 2/23/23, 3/2/23 (Fire Department), 3/2/23, 3/9/23

A/P Manifests for the following weeks were approved; 2/23/23, 3/2/23, 3/2/23 (Library), 3/9/23

### **New Business:**

- Policies – Personnel & Sawyer Field – Selectmen will review and make any editions to the two policies provided to them. The changes will be reviewed at the next Selectmen’s Meeting.
- Building Permit – Map 8 Lot 18-1
- Timber Billing – Map 5 Lot 3; Map 8 Lot 17
- Municipal Assessment Certification

**Fire Department** - Selectman Foster presented a new application for the Fire Department. Selectmen reviewed and approved the application.

Foster also presented a hand drawn plan for the renovations at the Fire Station. Discussion followed, Selectmen would like a definitive cost for this project.

**Other Business:**

- **Signs** – discussion of signage at Sawyer Field took place. Signs will be made with respect to carry in/carry out and no alcohol.
- **Voting** – Selectmen were reminded they need to be at voting and also need to be available to count ballots.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:32. Seconded by Selectman James. The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting is Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator