

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**July 24, 2023 - 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman, James Cleary, Tom James, Tony Parisi

Others Present: Town Administrator, Debra Davidson

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

**Appointments:**

**6:00 Chief of Police, Jason LePine –**

**New Hire** - Chief LePine was before the board to update them on Hayley Minahan. Hayley has passed all her boards. He would like to get her on board, starting wage at \$22.00/hour after she is certified and has completed the P/T academy he would like to increase her to \$24.00/hour. She will be part-time, though she is interested in a full-time position at some point. She has indicated she is interested in days, nights and weekends. She is in the military and does have a couple more years. Ms. Minahan is EMT certified and has medic training, she is fluent in sign language. He would like to get her started as soon as possible, she will need field training for approximately 4 months, then she will go to the academy, more field training for a few weeks after completing the academy. Discussion followed as to when she could be sworn in. Selectmen will meet next week, July 31, 2024 and she can be sworn in at that time.

The P/T academy can't begin until after January 1, 2024. LePine spoke of a second potential officer, he will need to also attend the academy. He is a former police officer and would like to work in the field again. Jason will begin the paperwork for this potential, who also could attend the academy in January.

The appointment of Haley will be put on the Facebook page and website. Her family will be present, as well as the Selectmen, and police department.

**Tahoe** – Chief LePine said the Tahoe is running great, he loves it. Jeff’s cruiser has 3 more years, Chief LePine reported it is running really good. It will be replaced with a Tahoe in three years.

**Letter of Commendation** – Selectmen reviewed a Letter of Commendation written on behalf of Jeff Danforth. This will be placed in Jeff’s personnel file.

**6:30 – Fire Chief, David Foster –**

**Fire/Rescue Applicants** – Chief Foster presented the board with two new applicants for the Fire/Rescue Department. Harley Miller, he is already level one and Kayla Sandquist, who has completed EMT training. Foster highly recommends both applicants.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the applicants, Harley Miller and Kayla Sandquist as new Fire/Rescue workers pending background checks. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. Motion accepted.

**Grant** – Chief Foster discussed a grant Tyler Howe found. It is a clean vehicle fleet grant, it is a federal grant which pays 80% of replacement cost of 2009 or older vehicles. They will be applying for the engine. The grant is for diesel vehicles only. Lengthy discussion followed. This grant will also be presented to Road Agent, Matt Blanchard in an effort to replace the backhoe and green truck.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to have the highway and fire departments apply for this grant. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Motion accepted.

Selectmen thanked Chief Foster for this information.

**Transfer Station** – Selectman James discussed he recently received the resignation from Auralee. The attendants have been having problems with attitudes of residents, there are more hazards with the disposal of cans that are not properly rinsed, bees, maggots, disposal of dead animals, disposing from barrels that are full of non-recyclables and more. Selectmen then reviewed the Transfer Station Ordinance and further discussed the enforcement of the ordinance. Once a problem is brought to the Board of Selectmen, they in turn would ask the Police Department to enforce any fines. Tom would like to get additional signage.