

Bennington Board of Selectmen

October 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Present at the meeting were

Selectboard: Chairman, James Cleary, Tony Parisi, Tom James

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator

Public: There was no public present

Appointments:

6:15 Chief of Police – Chief LePine was present and updated Selectmen with regards to the Police Department.

- **Officer Minahan** – Chief LePine reported Haley is connecting well, learning very quickly. Very logical, calculating and good at understanding the next step. With her knowledge of Emergency Management, Haley will become the liaison for the Fire Department. She is putting together “Go Bags” for the cruisers and is working with Jason Powers. Haley has been going to the elementary school once a week with Chief LePine to do lunch with the kids. She has toured the school to familiarize herself with the building.
- **Fire Arms Training** - The Bennington Police Dept. officers will be meeting with Greenfield Wednesday to become certified with the new 9mm, Glocks. They all have red dot sites and flashlights. The fire arms were received the week of October 9, 2023.
- **P/T Officer** – There is a potential new officer, Nicholas Cole – he has done excellent on his background so far. There will, hopefully be two people going to the part-time academy in January. The academy is 250 hours for 16 weeks at 15 hours/week. The cost to send people to the part time academy is \$11,000 per person. Their hours to the town will vary. Currently, Bret Sullivan is picking up two eight hour shifts per week.

- **2024 budget** – Chief LePine indicated he will be budgeting for two new radios and 3 rifles in 2024. The rifles will be sited for specific officers.
- **Policies** – Chief LePine reported he has completed the policies, and is working on a shared drive for the PD so all officers will have access to all policies via their computer.

6:30 Fire Chief – Chief Foster was a walk in.

- **Sale of F550** – Chief Foster presented to the Board of Selectmen an offer for the 2009 F550 Rescue Vehicle. The offer is from the Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department, Oakmont, PA for \$75,000.00, minus the \$7500.00 payment for advertising, this will be a net to the town of \$68,500.00. There will be a warrant article presented to offset the cost of the new Fire Truck and put the \$68,500.00 into the Capital Reserve Fund for the Fire Department.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the offer of \$75,000 for the 2009 F550 Rescue Vehicle from Oakmont Pennsylvania Volunteer Fire Department. Seconded by James & Parisi. Motion unanimously passed.

- **Application** – Chief Foster presented an application for Nick Lawrence to join the Bennington Volunteer Fire Department. Discussion followed.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to approve the appointment of Nick Lawrence to the Bennington Volunteer Fire Department. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Motion passed 3-0.

- **AED Town Wide** – Chief Foster discussed budgeting for 8-10 refurbished AED and to train all employees how to properly use them.

Minutes: Selectmen accepted the minutes of October 2, 2023 as written.

Financial: Selectmen signed and accepted the Payroll Register and A/P Register for the weeks of 10/5/23, 10/12/23

Other Business:

- **Fencing update** – Town Administrator has tried three times to contact Cheshire Fence with no call backs. Chairman Cleary did connect with Steve Crowe of Crowe Fencing. They will be meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7:30

am to review and obtain a quote for playground fencing at Sawyer Field, and to also obtain a quote for the storm damage that happened to Newhall Field fence and Whittemore Lake fence. Discussion followed, Town Administrator will contact Scott Liljeberg and invite him to join Cleary and Mr. Crowe.

- **Trick or Treat** – Selectmen were reminded that Tuesday, October 31, 2023 – 5-7 is Trick or Treat in Bennington and Trunk or Treat will be Friday, October 27, 5:30 – 7:00 at Newhall Field.
- **Tax Rate** – The DRA is waiting for ConVal to set the tax rate.
- **Transfer Station** – Selectman James reported that the transition at the transfer station has gone very well. Most people have had positive feedback as far as not being open on Sunday.
- **Gymnasium use** – A resident requested to use the gymnasium on weekends on a regular basis, the lift is not yet completed, Town Counsel advised against this, whereas the Town is making efforts to become ADA compliant, if individual residents or programs were to use the gymnasium it could create large fines for the Town of Bennington for not complying with ADA regulations.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to continue to not use the gymnasium for public or private events until the work is completed. Seconded by Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0.

- **Recreation Committee** – Town Administrator discussed with the Selectmen a resident has asked if there was currently a recreation committee. Town Administrator informed this resident there was not one at this time. Discussion followed. Motion by Selectman Cleary to not resurrect the committee at this time. Seconded by Parisi and James. Motion passed 3-0.

Signatures:

- **Building Permit Applications** – Boyd – Map 23 Lot 11; Curtis – Map 21 – L 27B; Hart – Map 11 Lot 5; Trow – Map 21 Lot 9

- **MS-535** – 2022 Financial Report prepared by the Town Auditor, Kyle Gringas. Selectman James asked about line 4290-4298 and the actual expenditure being so much higher than voted appropriation. It was explained that is due to the fact of a grant received and you will see that on the revenue side under line item 3401-3406.

Adjournment:

At 7:03 pm motion by Chairman Cleary to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. The motion carried 3-0.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator