

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.

The goal is to minimize trash/maximize recyclables, people are not recycling. They are throwing recyclables into the hopper in dark trash bags and it is creating a problem.

Backhoe was discussed, Tom stated that it is not fixed. 3 different people have looked at it. DJ, Harley Miller and Mike Richardson have all looked at it, Mike Richardson will continue to work on it. Over the weekend, Matt went by the Transfer Station and did get the backhoe operating.

Selectmen continued to discuss the situation at the Transfer station. It was suggested to call the NRRA and ask for their suggestions. In the meantime, Selectmen will begin in August to require all trash needs to be bagged, preferably in clear bags. Effective January 1, 2024 clear bags will be required.

Decisions:

- Additional signage will be installed
- Trash will be required to be bagged
- Advertise for additional help at the transfer station
- Contact NRRA for additional suggestions
- Update Transfer Station Ordinance

Minutes: Selectmen approved the minutes of July 10, 2023 as written

Financial: Payroll Registers weeks of 7/16/23, 7/23/23 and A/P Registers weeks of 7/16/23, 7/23/23 were approved.

Other:

Cemetery Plot – A cemetery plot deed for Brenda Paradise was signed and will be delivered to the Cemetery Trustees.

Letter – Selectmen reviewed and signed a letter to Greenfield Code Officer regarding the property of Jim & Robin Mose, which is accessed through Bennington. Bennington Selectmen have supported Mr. & Mrs. Mose with this access, giving a driveway permit, and assuring that Bennington would send first responders to the property if ever needed. This is not an isolated incident and Selectmen support this opportunity for the Mose's to build in Greenfield. Greenfield does have to assign the E-911

number, as the property is located in Greenfield. The State would not allow Bennington to assign the number based on the driveway being in Bennington.

Building Permits – Selectmen signed building permits for Cameron Quale & James Cleary. Both are new homes.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 31, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator