

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, October 21, 2024**  
**Meeting Minutes– 6:00 pm**

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

**Staff:** Deb Davidson, Town Administrator; Cathy McGillicuddy, Administrative Assistant

**Public:** Melissa Clark

Motion by Chairman Cleary to open the meeting at 6:00 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Voted 3-0

**Appointments:**

**6:30 – Police Chief, Jason LePine** – Chief LePine was before the Selectboard to discuss some updates within the Police Department.

- **Antrim Contract** – Chief LePine discussed the current contract with Chief Blake of Antrim. They discussed possibly 4 shifts/week or 32 hours/week. This will save some in the overall budget.
- **Officer Minahan** - Haley will be finished with Field Training and on her own January 1, 2025.
- **Full-Time Officer** – Chief LePine reported he has a full-time certified officer, who is considering a full-time position with the Bennington Police Department.
- **Resignation** - Chief LePine presented his resignation to the Board of Selectmen. After 9.5 years with Bennington, Chief LePine will be taking on other projects and police work will not be his primary focus. He would like to retire from full-time police work. His resignation will take effect as of March 14, 2025.

Selectmen regretfully accepted Chief LePine’s resignation effective March 14, 2025.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of October 7, 2024 as written. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Approved 3-0

**Financial:** A/P & Payroll Manifests were signed

### Signatures:

**Intent to Cut** – Map 22 Lot 10-5

**Driveway Permits** – Map 2 Lot 3; Lots 22, 23, 24 (merged lots, one driveway); Map 19 Lot 16

**Town Hall Rental – Gymnasium** – Alcoholics Anonymous; 4-H Saint Lucia Celebration;

**Abatement** – M7 L86 – incorrect read. New w/s bill.

**VFW Rental** – 4-H Decorated Tree Stroll, Girl Scouts

### Other:

- **Proposed budget review** – Selectmen reviewed the proposed 2025 budgets, comparative budget from 2021 was provided. Town Administrator went over some of the changes that have been requested. Selectmen requested wages all be put back to what is current (raises may come at a later date) – some adjustments are needed.
- **Temple Elementary School Committee** has asked to be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- **Insurance Rates** – Town Administrator discussed increases of 5% for Dental and 3.8% and 4.2% for 2025 health insurance.
- **Whittemore Lake** – DPW picked up the beach on Monday, it looks great.
- **Trash** – It was reported that there was some household trash and gas cans that were found at the trout pond. The transfer station would not accept the gas. Chairman Cleary stated he would take care of the gas cans and dispose of them accordingly. The Town Administrator was instructed to let the DPW know that every week on Fridays and Mondays the trash should be picked up at Whittemore, Sawyer Field the Library and the Town Hall.
- **VFW Tables** – It was reported to the Board there were 4 VFW tables that were removed from the Depot and not returned. Whenever these tables are removed from the VFW they need to be returned promptly, they are used often by the VFW for their breakfasts and dinners. Town Administrator was instructed to let everyone know this.

- **Office Key F.O.Bs** – Discussion regarding office key fobs followed. Security of the office and the necessity of additional space for minutes and other binder books followed. The ZBA, Planning Board, Trustees of Trust Funds and Conservation Commission mail boxes have been relocated to the conference room. There is a two-drawer file cabinet for anyone of those departments if they need it also available in the conference room. The front door can be a means of access and the conference room has been left open for anyone who needs access.

Motion by Selectmen Parisi to have the Town Administrator notify the departments mentioned and to further change the F.O.B. access to the building to be via the side entrance only for the noted departments.

Seconded by Selectman James and Chairman Cleary. Motion passed 3-0.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi. Voted 3-0. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Meetings will resume weekly unless noted otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator.