

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, November 18, 2024**  
**Meeting Minutes – 6:00 pm**

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

**Staff:** Deb Davidson, Town Administrator; Cathy McGillicuddy, Administrative Assistant; Police Chief, Jason LePine

**Public:**

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Appointments:**

**6:15 – Amelia Sopko** – Mrs. Sopko was present to discuss the fact she is in support of Bennington merging with Antrim PD. She wants to see more police coverage, especially on Balch Farm Road. She would like an explanation why Bennington Selectboard does not want to merge with Antrim Police Department.

Chairman Cleary explained there is no savings and the proposal is not in the best interest of the Town of Bennington.

Chief LePine stated that there are liabilities that the Town of Bennington could face down the road.

Chairman Cleary mentioned that the Board is working hard to do the right thing for the Town of Bennington and all the residents with regards to the police department. Further discussion regarding the town needs a working chief, Bennington is too small for an administrative chief only.

Mrs. Sopko went on to discuss her concerns with a neighbor next door. Chief LePine indicated that on his shift he patrols Balch Farm Road at least 3 times.

Mrs. Sopko also has concerns with the shed on the Beck property, there are some safety concerns she discussed. These concerns will be reported to Code Officer, John Kendall.

Chairman Cleary reassured Mrs. Sopko that they are working on a solution with Chief LePine to get the police department back in shape as soon as possible.

**Minutes:** Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of November 11, 2024 as written. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed 3-0

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

**Other:**

**Budget:**

Increase in Sanitation for Hauling & Disposal and Recyclables Removal of \$30,000.00 total. Selectmen discussed this increase. Matt should get prices from at least two more haulers.

**Highway:**

Selectmen have received a verbal notice of resignation from Matt Blanchard. They would like a formal letter of resignation by next week. Matt has verbally indicated his last date of employment will be December 31, 2024. Current contract with Antrim – moving forward what are our plans

**Police:**

Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to invite Bret Sullivan to the next meeting to discuss the police department.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm. The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator