

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, May 12, 2025**  
**Selectmen's Minutes – 6:00 pm**

**Selectboard:** Chairman, James Cleary, Tony Parisi, Travis McClure

**Public:** See attached

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:02 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & McClure

**Appointments:**

**6:00 – Bennington Fire/Rescue** – Selectmen thanked everyone who was in attendance for coming to the meeting. Zack Anderson opened the meeting stating the Selectmen wanted to discuss the proposal from Great Brook Ambulance with the Selectmen.

Chairman Cleary mentioned he invited Marshall Gale to the meeting. Marshall had taken the time to stop by last week, but there was no meeting for the public.

Chris Rousseau, President and Director of Great Brook Ambulance Service discussed the business, which was started in 2010, currently has 45-48 full and part time employees, 7 ambulances, 24/7 coverage, in-house dispatch 8:00 am – midnight 7 days/week. The business is located in Hillsborough. Mr. Rousseau went on to discuss the business model and response times. He stated that he was approached and asked to put a bid in to Bennington for services, he was also asked for mutual aid services in the event that Antrim can't get out.

Rousseau stated he is staffed with 2-3 crews every day, Rousseau further stated he has spoken with Chief Gale of Antrim and will always help Antrim if ever needed.

Chairman Cleary stated the Board is relying on Keith and Zack, the department heads, to provide the knowledge needed to make a decision. Cleary further stated no decisions will be made this evening.

Fire Chief, Zack Anderson had some questions for Rousseau pertaining to training and staffing.

Rousseau commented he is not looking to subsidize his business.

Chairman Cleary asked to hear what Keith and Zack think.

EMD, Keith Nason stated that Great Brook Ambulance consistently keeps employees mid to advanced level certifications. Nason asked how each department would handle the “non-pay” or transports?

Antrim Fire Chief, Marshall Gale stated each year they anticipate approximately \$21,000 shortfall.

Rousseau stated that insurance doesn’t want to pay, each year they have a loss of approximately \$250,000 - \$275,000. They work the loss into the budget each year.

Nason stated his thoughts on Rousseau and his business, also stated his thoughts on Antrim Rescue.

Chief Gale commented that Antrim Ambulance formed in 1972, together with Bennington in 1975. Reminding those present, that for many years Antrim did not charge anything to the Town of Bennington. It is not for profit, but must operate to keep going as a business. Chief Gale mentioned Rousseau had quoted Deering \$225,000/year to provide them services. Rousseau explained what Deering was looking for, they were looking to cover all their bases and needed a comparison.

Chief Gale spoke to MCH is their resource Hospital, they have paramedic agreements, both trucks are licensed at paramedic level. Most of the time 99.9% of the attendants are advanced EMT Level.

Gale stated he understands the BOS looking around for prices, that is their job. He further commented that no matter what decisions are made, there will be no retribution or hard feelings. He did mention that he believes it is a disgruntled rescue employee and he has nothing bad to say about Great Brook.

Chairman Cleary explained how we got here, stating that Chief Anderson brought this to the Board. As a Board, they have a responsibility to look into the options. No decisions have been made at this time.

Chris Rousseau responded that Antrim Rescue is incredibly qualified, very qualified and thinks the world of Marshall Gale & Sherry Miller. No matter what decision is made, the Town of Bennington will have good service.

Meredith Andersen commented that a lot of times members of Bennington jump on with Antrim because Antrim doesn't have the staffing. Andersen further stated that we are paying for a service and our members jump onto calls, it causes some to discuss it within the department. She stated the Chief is on almost every call, what happens when he retires? What is their plan?

Chief Gale stated that he has at least a couple years left, currently there are three people at the academy, there are some with daytime availability. Yes, there have been times Bennington members have had to go on calls, however, it gives them a great opportunity to learn. It does happen.

Keith said that we sign time off and the time moves to Antrim and responders are paid by Antrim when this happens. Bennington doesn't pay the wages, if that is a concern.

Sherry Miller commented that they have no intention to cause problems, but to allow for experience.

Keith Nason commented that we need to be sure we are comparing apples to apples. Great Brook will also allow Bennington to cross license if this goes through.

With nothing further, Selectmen thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**6:30 – Mary & Rich Baska-Mathews** – Mr. and Mrs. Baska-Mathews were before the Selectmen to discuss their driveway & requesting to upgrade a very small portion of the Class VI portion of Onset Road to accommodate their driveway. They went on to explain Meridian did put the driveway where it was located on the plan, it was the safest place to put the driveway. Road Agent, DJ Wing and Code Officer, John Kendall recommended this be upgraded to Class V, Baska-Mathews will maintain the upgrades so not to add maintenance costs to the town. There will be no cost to the town. They will upgrade approximately 44' of the Class VI Road.

Mary mentioned they intend to build a 400 sq. ft. log home.

Fire Chief, Zack Andersen suggested in the winter leaving a snowbank there to stop traffic from going through. Selectmen, Road Agent and Baska-Mathews noted this suggestion.

**Motion:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the proposal from the Baska-Mathews to upgrade 44' of the Class VI portion of Onset Road, at the Baska-Mathews expense. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & McClure. Motion passed 3-0

#### **6:45 – Road Agent, DJ Wing –**

Road Agent Wing presented two quotes for road work this summer. One is an increase of \$1,000.00 as there was a revision of work to be done. The other is a decrease of \$4,000.00 to make it a more appealing quote.

**Additional help** - DJ discussed utilizing Johnathan for a third person on the highway. DJ stated that a third person would make the difference and asks that the Selectmen please consider this request. Discussion followed regarding having a third full time during the summer months at the very least. Possibly hiring more per diem for the transfer station and see how it goes. Discussion for people who could fill in at the Transfer Station followed, those who regularly work will be asked if they could work a little more during the summer.

**Decision:** Selectmen approved DJ & Town Administrator to look at the budget to determine the funding and use 3 guys for 12 weeks if funds are available.

**Bridges** – DJ let Selectmen know that he is getting prices on guardrails, he would like to do work on Mountain Road, Old Greenfield Road and S. Bennington Road. Options were discussed.

**Sawyer Field** – Selectmen commented that Sawyer Field looks good. They discussed water issues, culvert options and the possibility of a new apron. No decisions were made.

**Trucks** – DJ discussed truck options, Sizemore has asked if they could purchase the green international after the engine has been destroyed. Discussion followed. Selectmen think this is a good option.

With nothing further, Selectmen thanked DJ for the updates.

**7:00 – Fire Chief, Zack Anderson** – Zack discussed the ambulance, 25% reduction of costs, the level of service and response time.

Zack has a quote for the doors \$7,000.00, he will get another bid from Champion Door.

Selectmen asked Zack if he could be available for a non-public next week to discuss a personnel matter. Zack will be scheduled for 6:00 pm.

**Minutes:** April 28, 2025 & May 5, 2025 minutes were accepted as written.

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

**Signatures:**

- **Facility Use Contract** – Sawyer Field, Men's Softball League was approved for use of the field for the 2025 season. M-Th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

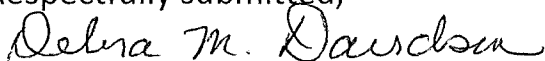
**Other:**

- **Update on Sawyer Field** – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson mentioned that she spoke with Jim Craig, they discussed the needed electrical upgrades at Sawyer park. Jim offered to provide a price. Discussion followed, a few quotes will be obtained, Road Agent, DJ Wing will be the main contact for the project. Selectmen will reach out to the various electricians.
- **Audit** – Town Administrator mentioned the auditors are here this week.

Selectmen discussed they would like a scheduled non-public for next Monday, May 19, 2025. There will be no other appointments.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm for a non-public meeting only. Seconded by Parisi & McClure. Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator

12/12/25

J. Pongers  
Greg Sandquist  
Chris Rousseau

Sherry Miller, Deputy Chief - EMS Antrim Ambulance

Meredith Andersen

Jennifer Sandquist

Zack Andersen

Keith Nason

Marshall Gale