

**Bennington Budget Hearing**  
**January 20, 2026 6:00 PM**  
**7 School St. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Gymnasium**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Moderator:** John Cronin

Moderator Cronin opened the meeting at 6:00 pm explaining to those present how the meeting will move forward. Reading each budget line, bottom line and if residents had any questions that would be the time to ask them.

A sign in sheet was at the door for those present to sign.

Budgets were moving along with no questions until General Government Buildings. Resident, Robyn Clough asked about the status of the VFW. Chairman Cleary explained the furnace died, renovations are needed and Selectmen are in the process of getting quotes for necessary work.

Resident, Joe McGregor asked about the cleaning of the VFW, seeing there is \$500.00 for cleaning in the budget, can it be properly cleaned. His concerns were noted and will be addressed when the building is re-opened.

Moving along, there were no questions until the Police Budget came up. Resident, Joe McGregor asked Chief Horne for a status update of employees.

Chief Horne reported that the Town has hired, Jeff Cote as a full-time officer. Mr. Cote is not certified though he is scheduled to be at the academy in May. He will complete the academy in September and will then be ready to be independent.

Resident, McGregor asked about Officer Maia?

Chief Horne explained that there are some certification complications, upon completion of the investigation, if all works out, and the warrant article passes for a third full-time officer, Chief Horne is prepared to offer the position to Officer Maia, as he would be the best choice.

Chief Horne commented that Officer Sullivan remains part time for the Town of Bennington.

Resident, McGregor asked what BWC is?

Chief Horne answered that it is Body Worn Cameras. Horne strongly feels they are needed and at some point will be required by every police department.

Moderator, Cronin continued with the budget.

Resident, Robin Clough asked for a breakdown of the highway wages for the two full-time employees, not for the Road Agent.

Moving along, once Moderator Cronin got to the Transfer Station budget, Resident, Joe McGregor asked if the Town makes money to get rid of the trash?

Chairman Cleary discussed we do not. Brief discussion followed regarding options for recycling vs. not recycling.

Resident, Karen Belcher asked about the re-evaluation Capital Reserve Fund, noting the voters did not approve funding in 2025, how would this affect the future reval? And would the additional \$3,000.00 be enough over the next few years to pay for the reval?

Chairman Cleary explained that by not funding it, re-evaluation being mandatory every 5 years, will put a larger burden on the tax-payers. Cleary stated he does not think \$3,000.00 will be enough.

Librarian, Leslie McGregor asked to comment, she wanted to acknowledge the good working relationships over the past couple of years. All town employees work well together and go over and above for each other, she thanks all employees for their hard work and dedication.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm. The Deliberative Session will be held at 7 School Street, 6:00 pm on Monday, February 2, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Davidson

Town Administrator

Town of Bennington  
2026 Budget Hearing  
January 20, 2026  
6:00 pm

Name

Address

Jess w Clay 152 Old Greenfield Rd

Anthony Parisi 34 Bible Hill Road

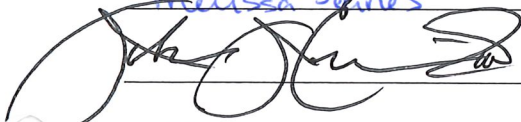
Travis McClure 310 Paradise Dr.

Debra Belcher 216 South Bennington Rd

JILL WILMOTH 63 DURGIN RD.

maussa Soares

587 N Benn Rd Bennington NH



55 Mt. Rd

Jon Manley

227 Bible Hill Rd

Zachary Andersen

98 US Highway 202

Meredith Andersen

" "

Jessie MacGregor

27 Bible Hill Rd -

Jessie MacGregor

Bible Hill

Kerth Nason

69 Pine Meadows Circle

Karen Belcher

582A Francestown Rd

Rhonda Davis

68 Gillis Hill Rd.

David McKenzie

18 Knightland Rd

David McKenzie

131 Gillis Hill Rd

Melissa Clark

241 Dodge Hill

Don Robertson