

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Monday – May 4, 2026
Selectmen’s Minutes – 6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Town Administrator, Deb Davidson taking minutes; Administrative Assistant, Cathy McGillicuddy

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

Public: There was no public present

Appointments:

6:00 – Code Officer, John Kendall –

Junk Yards – There have been concerns regarding properties becoming illegal junk yards in town. Discussion followed, 3 properties were specifically discussed. Two of the properties are located in the Water Protection Area, also a concern is the potential contamination of the neighboring properties. Prior to contacting the NHDES, Selectmen are the enforcers, registered letters will be sent out to the property owners in violation, if the properties are not properly cleaned up, the NHDES will be notified, as well as possible court orders.

Permit Fees – Kendall discussed effective May 15, 2026 permit fees increasing, .30/square foot for new buildings, demolition, plumbing, electric and septic application fees will increase to \$75.00/application. This keeps Bennington on track with neighboring communities for applications and building permit fees.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to increase the costs for permit fees, effective May 15, 2026. Seconded by Parisi and McClure. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0

6:15 – Police Chief, Tom Horne –

Advertising - Chief Horne discussed his options for advertising for the part-time and full-time police officer. The app, Police App is specifically for 1st responder applicants, the applicants are screened before they get to us so much of the vetting

is already completed. They would match applicants in NH only so not to get a lot of uninterested applicants. The cost of the program is \$800.00/year and \$40.00 for qualified applicants. Discussion of other options for advertising was discussed. Selectman McClure discussed running a constant ad, even if the positions are filled. Chief Horne reported there are two possible candidates who have shown interest in working for Bennington.

Selectman Parisi motioned to approve the Police App and to further instruct Chief Horne to move on in that direction for advertising. Seconded by Selectman McClure and Chairman Cleary. Motion passed 3-0.

Patrol - Selectmen discussed they have noticed patrolling seems to have picked up and they are glad to see this.

Axon & Central Square – Chief Horne discussed the acquisition of the dash and body cams is looking good. Hopefully the Town will be fully equipped with dash cams, body cams and tasers by July.

Hours – Chief Horne and Selectmen discussed the overtime hours. Horne inquired if they want him to keep it to 40 or would 6, 8-hour shifts be appropriate, as long as the bottom line is ok at year end. Selectmen all approved 6, 8—hour shifts at this time.

Minutes: April 13, 2026 were accepted as written.

Financial: A/P & Payroll Manifests were approved.

Signatures:

Building Permit - Despres, aka Guitard Homes, LLC – Map 10 Lot 48-2

Facilities Use Application - GBS – Sawyer Field

Delegation of Financial Functions – Selectmen signed the Delegation of Financial Functions for the Treasurer, authorizing Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Town Administrator to make deposits when necessary.

Other:

Rain Diverters – Fire Station, Town Hall – discussion followed, no decision was made.

Ice Diverter – Town Hall – discussion followed, no decision was made.

MPM Groundwater discharge permit - Annual application from MPM to State for a groundwater discharge permit was reviewed

Wrestling Team – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson discussed the Wrestling Team is going very well. The coaches have asked if they could use the space on Saturday or Sunday, twice a month. The time would be late afternoon-early evening. Selectmen were glad to hear the practice is going well and approved the team using the gym 2 additional days per month. The Town Administrator will get together with the coaches to determine what days will be used to avoid any overlap with anyone who has reserved the space on a weekend.

Sawyer Field – Selectman Parisi reported that the ballfield looks really good, it still needs a little work. The work that has been and is also needed yet was discussed. Those who have volunteered their time, money and/or equipment would like to measure out the field to assure they don't encroach on abutting properties. Selectmen discussed and identified the boundaries at Sawyer Field. Selectman Parisi stated that middle school ball teams will be able to use the fields in the future.

Motion by Selectman Parisi to verify the boundary and property lines of Sawyer field and to scrape the banking in left field. Seconded by Selectmen McClure and Cleary. Motion passed 3-0

Selectman Parisi will speak to the highway crew about scraping the banking. Parisi also mentioned that behind the back stop it was requested if the sponsors be acknowledged? Selectmen unanimously agree to this.

Plantings – Chairman Cleary reported that Paradise Landscaping is looking for appropriate plantings for the trees that were removed and need to be replaced near the driveway to the entrance of Sawyer Field. Selectmen will instruct the highway they will need to do the watering of the shrubbery to assure the plants survive.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm. The next Selectmen's meeting will be scheduled for May 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator