

Bernardston-Leyden Public Safety Task Force
Minutes of Meeting
June 28, 2023

A duly posted meeting of the Bernardston-Leyden Public Safety Task Force was held in the Bernardston Town Hall at 11 am on June 28, 2023.

Present: Liz Kidder, Chair, Bill Glabach, Jane Dutcher, Peter Nai, Chief James Palmeri, Lou Bordeaux, Ken Bordewieck

Audience:

Remote attendance: Mike Edwards

Absent:

Meeting was called or order at 11:04 am

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2023 was made by Peter and seconded by Jane

Vote:	Jane Dutcher	yes	Peter Nai	yes
	Liz Kidder	yes	Ken Bordewieck	yes
	Bill Glabach	yes		

Review Proposed Police Budget for FY 24 and ATM plans – Liz explained that this agenda item was accidentally carried over from the previous meeting's agenda. Both towns have approved the budget as agreed to in the IMA. The agreement is in effect.

On behalf of the Town of Leyden, Liz Kidder thanked everyone who worked on the IMA over the past year, especially Mike Edwards of the Collins Center. She thanked the Chief and all of his officers who have totally won over the residents of Leyden, even those who have been stopped for speeding. The quality of their professionalism and dedication to true community policing was a key towards getting overwhelming support for the IMA budget at ATM. Bill Glabach also thanked the Town of Bernardston and this task force for the time and energy that they put into the IMA. He said this agreement has really benefitted Leyden and is so appreciate by our Town.

Jim Palmeri noted that he has received the new police cruiser funded by the Efficiency and Regionalization grant. Leyden established a Police Stabilization Account at their ATM and appropriated \$10,000 as a start to having sufficient funds available when it is time to replace that cruiser. Additional funds from our two-town grant were used to purchase 7 solar powered radar speed signs, one of which is portable. These signs will be used in both towns, 3 in each town. Once all the invoices are in from the police substation renovation, we will see what grant money is left and work with Jim to prioritize how to spend any remaining grant funds. Liz asked Lou to see if there were any outstanding legal bills from the development of the IMA.

REVIEW TRANSITION FROM INTERIM TO IMA – This is the last meeting of the Bernardston Leyden Police Task force and a new Police Services Advisory Committee is to be established with the start of the IMA. The composition will be one Select Board member, one Finance Committee member, and one citizen representative in each town. In order to have an odd number of members, there will be an additional Leyden citizen representative appointed by the Town Moderator. The committee recommended that the new advisory committee hold quarterly meetings and to expect they would last 1-1.5 hours unless there are major changes or issues to address. As Mike Edwards explained, the primary role of the advisory committee will be to focus on the policies in the IMA, not to serve as a monitor of the police department, and to keep the balance in the formula to make sure it reflects reality and to make it cost neutral.

Mike Edwards recommends that the Advisory Committee plan on a deep-dive into the financial formula of the agreement to see if any changes need to be made at least every 3 years. He said to expect insurance and retirement to be factors that may change. Mike recommended that he review the formula and budget “workbook” that the Collins Center developed with a couple of representatives from each Town to ensure continuity. Liz will try to arrange such a meeting. Mike noted that if the town want to invite the Collins Center to return in three years to review and update the workbook, they would be happy to receive that invitation.

Mike suggested that each town check with their MIIA representative to make sure that MIIA knows about the IMA and how it is going to work so that both Towns have appropriate insurance coverage. In addition, Liz and Lou were asked to check with Susan Bobe to make sure she has checked on any possible conflict of interest with her working for both towns.

It was decided that Liz would prepare a final set of minutes for this meeting and forward them to each Select Board reminding them to make the necessary appointments for the Police Service Advisory Committee. Liz noted that she was being appointed by Leyden’s Town Moderator and that she would call the first meeting of the new advisory committee at which time an election for Chair and clerk would take place. It was recommended that the Advisory Committee meet on the 1st Wednesday of the months of September, December, March and June at 11am unless there is a major scheduling conflict.

MOTION TO ASK THE BERNARDSTON AND LEYDEN SELECT BOARDS DISSOLVE THE BERNARDSTON LEYDEN POLICE TASK FORCE, TO APPROVE THE FINAL MEETING MINUTES AND TO ASK EACH SELECT BOARD TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE NEW POLICE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED BY THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT. Moved by Jane and seconded by Peter.

Vote:

Peter Nai	Yes	Ken Bordiewick	Yes
Jane Dutcher	Yes	Bill Glabach	yes
Liz Kidder	Yes		

REVIEW OF POLICE SERVICES PROVIDED TO DATE IN LEYDEN-- Liz noted that the Chief has been providing data to the Selectboard and he submits good informative articles to our Leyden Life newsletter. Jim said that he has been receiving more calls for service and that Leyden residents seem to be comfortable with him and his officers.

OTHER BUSINESS -- nothing presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT -- nothing presented.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter and seconded by Jane.

Vote: Liz Kidder	yes	Peter Nai	yes
Bill Glabach	yes	Ken Bordiewick	yes
Jane Dutcher	yes		

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Liz Kidder, Chair