

Bernardston Leyden Police Services
Advisory Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Time: 11: A.M.
Location: Main Conference Room, Bernardston Town Hall and online
Minutes of the Meeting

A duly posted meeting of the Bernardston Leyden Police Services Advisory Committee was held in the Bernardston Town Hall at 10 A.M. on December 6, 2023.

Present: Ken Bordewieck, Stan Garland, Jane Dutcher, Chief Jim Palmeri, Liz Kidder, Erica Jensen, Emily Yazwinski, Karen Kelly, Ginger Robinson

Absent: Peter Nehs

Call the meeting to order, review of minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 A.M.

Motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2023 was made by Jane Dutcher and seconded by Erica Jensen.

Vote: passed unanimously

Paper copies of the Bernardston Leyden IMA were distributed. It was requested that Leyden send a copy with original signatures to the Bernardston Town Offices.

Committee Organization, Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary

Motion by Emily and seconded by Ken to nominate Liz as Chair.

Motion by Ken and seconded by Jane to nominate Peter as Vice-Chair.

Motion by Emily and seconded by Ginger to nominate Erica as Secretary.

Motion to close the nominations was made by Jane and seconded by Erica.

Passed Unanimously.

Police Services Report by Police Chief

The Chief reported that he is challenged to keep all of his staff and one has recently taken another job. Meeting the requirements of the Police Reform Act is really a statewide issue not just Bernardston. He is looking to possibly share part time officers with another town. He is also looking into a federal grant that would help cover costs for 3 years.

Jim is getting his budget for FY25 to the Bernardston Finance Committee by the end of December and it will be reviewed with the Bernardston Finance Committee and Select Board, and discussed at the next committee meeting in March. He noted that he has heard that Greenfield is starting an internship program to support their recruitment needs and that Gill is considering regionalizing their police department.

Committee concerns or questions regarding the IMA

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Update

Liz reported that Leyden was in the final stages of using the grant funds. Leyden is most pleased that we now have 7-8 active firefighters and there are two more possibles that are being contacted. Pete Shedd had told Leyden in February that the best way we could support Bernardston Fire and the other members of Mutual Aid, was to rebuild our department and that is what we have been working towards. Leyden will prepare the grant final report and submit it to DLS.

Future Agendas

Liz asked if there were any specific items to be included on the next agenda and if there was a need for a meeting to discuss budget before our March meeting. The consensus was that the formula for what proportion of the budget should be paid by Leyden should remain the same for FY 25. By this time next year this committee should have 2-3 years worth of call data to analyze to see if the formula should be modified.

The next agenda will include the Chief's updates and a review of the budget for FY25. The agenda will also include "items unknown at the time of the posting." The next meeting will be at 11:00 A.M. on March 6th in Bernardston.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken and seconded by Erica.

Vote: Passed Unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Liz Kidder, Chair