

Bernardston/Leyden Police Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday March 11, 2025 **Time:** 11:00am

Location: Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston, MA

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Jane Dutcher, Chief Palmeri, Ken Bodewick, Ginger Robinson, Erica Jensen, Liz Kidder, Chair

Absent: Peter Nai, Emily Yazwinski

Audience: none present

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 am

Motion to approve the minutes of Dec 3, 2024 minutes was made by Jane and seconded by Liz

Votes: Yes: Liz, Jane Abstentions: Erica, Peter, Ginger

Police Services Report/Updates

Chief Palmeri reported that:

- Things are going well in his department.
- Budget may go up for FY 26. Potentially 3% on the upfront and equipment costs (tasers). Current tasers are obsolete and do not function. Jane is working on the backend cost increases.
- Tasers will be on a 5-year plan to pay off. Hoping to procure 5 new tasers (\$28-\$35K in total).
- Somewhat quiet right now – getting officers training up to speed during a “slower” period.
- Lots of gun licenses being issued.
- BPD all in good standing with the Academy requirements.
- Holding off on hiring a 5th FT officer until (potentially) next year.

FY26 BPD Budget

Jane discussed the backend costs and that she will continue to review the insurance costs and then those finalized costs will be sent to the Leyden team for their FY26 budget.

Committee concerns or questions regarding the IMA

No current concerns on the IMA. Committee should consider reviewing the IMA within the next few months, in anticipation of its upcoming three year review.

Leyden-Bernardston Regionalization grant updates

Liz updated the PSAC on the grant meetings that have started. The next grant meeting is Tuesday March 11. Liz has merged the “priorities” of both towns into one document. Liz discussed the memos that the Collins Center will work on based on data coming from both towns for final recommendations.

Schedule next meeting – Tuesday, June 17, 11 A.M. in the Bernardston Town Hall

Public Comment – none presented.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jane and seconded by Ginger.

Passed Unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Jensen

