

Bernardston/Leyden Police Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday June 17, 2025 **Time:** 11:00am

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

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Jane Dutcher, Chief Palmeri, Peter Nai, Ginger Robinson, Erica Jensen, Liz Kidder, Chair, Emily Yazwinski

Absent: Ken Bordewick

Audience: none present

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am

Motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2025 minutes was made by Jane D and seconded by Erica J

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

Abstentions: Emily, Peter

Reorganization

Election of new Chair: Liz Kidder. Moved by Erica J, second: Ginger R. Vote: unanimous

Election of Secretary: Erica Jensen

Police Services Report/Updates

Chief Palmeri reported that:

- Things are going well in his department.
- May be a short fall in the FY26 budget based on DOR mandate to include overtime for both Leyden and Bernardston – specific to each officer and which town is paying for their time.
- Tasers have delivered to the police dept.
- Chief P verified that the “substation” in Town Office is basically a chair and table and that the IMA does not need to change. This was a question that CJIS brought up.
- More mental issues have cropped up in the recent month. Co-response may cease based on budget cuts (will know when State budget is approved). This is a shared service (Warwick, Leyden, Bernardston, Irving, Gill, Northfield). CSO will pay the mental health clinicians salary.
- BPD all in good standing with the Academy requirements.
- Holding off on hiring a 5th FT officer until (potentially) next year.

FY26 BPD Budget Town Meeting Actions

No questions asked at either town meeting re: police budget.

Committee concerns or questions regarding the IMA

No current concerns on the IMA. No further comments

Leyden-Bernardston Regionalization grant updates

Liz updated the PSAC on the grant meetings that have started. The next grant meeting is in June 2025. Liz discussed the six different “memos” that the Collins Center will work on based on data coming from both towns for final recommendations. This is an 18-month grant.

Future agenda items:

Begin discussing IMA (it is an auto-renew after a three-year timeframe). Expires July 2026.

Schedule next meeting – Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 11 A.M. in the Bernardston Town Hall

Public Comment – none presented.

Motion to adjourn was made by Emily Y and seconded by Ginger R
Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Jensen