



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Meeting Minutes

Bernardston/Leyden Police Services Advisory Committee

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

When: March 3, 2026 at 11:00 am

In Attendance

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

Members: Ken Bordewieck. Ginger Robinson absent.

Audience:

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am

1) Motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2025 minutes was made by Emily and seconded by Peter N

Votes: Yes: Liz, Erica, Peter, Emily, Ken

Abstentions: Jane

2) Police Services Report/Updates

Chief Palmeri reported that:

- No updates on staffing. A FT officer is withdrawing from FT and wants to be PT. Chief P is looking into it and will then go before the Bernardston SB.
- Officers can no longer do training videos in a mobile unit – they must now be in station or any “stationary” place. There are 40 hours of training annually.
- No issues during the last snowstorm in either town.
- Liz asked about ICE activity in Western MA – at this point, there is very limited activity here. Discussion of whether the BPD would “hold someone for ICE”. Chief P answered only with a judicial warrant, not an administrative warrant. BPD’s job is also not responsible for “finding” someone for other agencies, ie ICE.

3) Committee review, concerns or questions regarding the IMA

IMA review. PSAC to go section by section:

- **Sec 3.I:** Police Cruiser – what happens to the last cruiser after five(5) years when a new cruiser is purchased. The current vehicle is financially owned by Leyden, Bernardston pays for insurance and maintenance. Jane suggests to not make the language too specific as vehicles can break down randomly. Should we add language to that section to say something like – the cruiser will be returned to Leyden (title change) after a new cruiser is purchased.
- **Sec 3.C:** FY27 Budget: Leyden will get the number after Jane D and Ginger R will work on updating the spreadsheet from 2023 to reflect 2026 numbers (including healthcare). The spreadsheet will be updated each year moving forward. Should the wording of the section be reworded to only reflect the “quarterly” or “annually” payment and not a dollar amount.



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- **Next steps on IMA:** Liz to make revisions and have the Committee read through one final time. Liz will make presentations to both SB's for vote and approval.

4) Leyden-Bernardston Regionalization grant updates

Liz update: the committee is focused on Fire and Town Clerk. There are ongoing interviews with Fire personnel and both Town Clerks. Committee looked at Town Administrator – a shared position did not save any money and “politically” it did not make sense based on other town case studies. Liz is taking the lead on Fire and Katherine D is taking the lead on Town Clerk possibilities.

5) Future agenda items:

IMA discussion continues. Finance review by Jane and Ginger. IMA expires July 2026.

Schedule next meeting – Tuesday May 19, 2026, 11 A.M. in the Bernardston Town Hall

6) Leyden Life and Bernardston newsletter:

Liz suggested drafting an article for new IMAs. Committee agreed and Liz will draft.

7) Public Comment – none presented.

Other topics not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

N/A

Motion to adjourn was made by Emily Y and seconded by Peter N

Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Jensen