

**Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Meeting Minutes**



Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Stanley D. Garland, Chairman

Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Minutes for the meeting of January 4, 2024

Meeting held at Bernardston Town Hall
38 Church St, Bernardston, MA 01337

Selectboard Members Present:

Stan Garland

Ken Bordewieck (via Telephone for part of the meeting)

Brian Keir

Others Present:

Karen Kelly

Jim Palmeri

Stan called the Open Meeting to order at 3:00pm. The Selectboard did not go into Executive Session because Officer Weaver was not notified in writing within 48 hours to decide if he wanted to attend the session or not.

First order of business was a discussion about the wages for the Police Department. Chief Pameri would like to raise the salaries of Officers Weaver and Chabot by \$5000.00 immediately and increase another \$5000.00 in FY25 bringing their annual salary to \$65,000.00 in FY25. The total pay would be a combination of Leyden and Bernardston. Based on the current Intra Services Agreement between Leyden and Bernradston, Bernardston pays 83% of their salaries and Leyden pays 17% of the officers wages. Ultimately, the wage increase is \$20,000 for both officers' wages in FY25. The Annual Town Meeting and the Selectboard will be the deciding factor for the wage increase in FY25. Chief Palmeri will resubmit his budget reflecting a 3% wage increase across the board, plus the \$2,500.00 for Officers' Weaver and Chabot. Brian asked Chief Pameri to reconsider purchasing a new cruiser on his FY25 budget because we added the Leyden new cruiser last year. Brian also asked the Chief to consider capital expenses (improvements) for the Police Station. For example, replacing the floor, security doors, enclosed prisoner portal from the garage to the Police Station, etc.

Brian motioned to increase the hourly wages using the overtime budget for Police Officers Weaver and Chabot. The increase is \$2,500.00 to each officer thru the end of the FY24, increasing their annual salary in FY24 from \$50,409.54 to \$52,909.54.

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Stan seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0. The Selectboard called Chief Palmeri, informing him of the vote. Ken called in and the motion was discussed and Ken agreed with the vote.

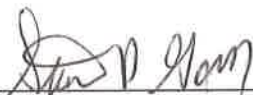

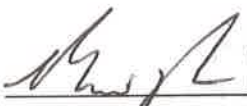
Second order of business: The SWCA change request was discussed. Brian recommended that we should not sign anything until we talk to the Solar Company, Nexamp. The Town Coordinator will continue to make contact with Bill Hill, Conservation Commission Chair, to see if he can attend the regular Selectboard meeting to discuss the change request from SWCA. The Town Coordinator will pull together all the ongoing solar projects and review against the Town Solar Bylaws. At this time, the Town is unsure if the solar projects are adhering to the contract agreements. Solar companies negotiate a deal with the solar project companies through the Assessors. The Town Coordinator will research via permits to see which solar companies are active, etc.

Third order of business: The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk job descriptions have been finalized and were discussed. The incumbents will be attending the regular meeting on January 10th, 2024 to rescind their letters of resignation. The Selectboard discussed courses of action on how to respond to the incumbents' request.

Fourth order of business: The Town Administrator job description has been finalized and the Selectboard will announce at the regular meeting on January 10th that the Town Coordinator position will be changed to Town Administrator (as per previous vote) and the incumbent will become the Town Administrator. It will be announced at the regular Selectboard meeting on January 10th, 2024.

With no further business to be discussed, Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:25pm. Stan seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Attested by: Karen Kelly, Town Coordinator

 , Chairman  
Stanley D. Garland Kenneth R. Bordewieck Brian J. Keir

Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Special Meeting Agenda
Thursday, January 4, 2024, 3:00 PM



Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston MA

Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Stanley D. Garland, Chairman

Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Agenda

Call to Order

Executive Session - To conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with personnel.

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

Adjourn

*This meeting was posted on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:00am
The agenda was updated on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 3:15pm*