

**Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Meeting Minutes**



Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Stanley D. Garland, Chairman

Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Minutes for the meeting of January 31, 2024

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

Selectboard Members Present:

Stan Garland
Ken Bordewieck

Others Present:

Karen Kelly
Jennifer Reynolds

Ken opened the meeting at 3:32pm.

First Order of business. Chief Palmeri would like to offer the open full-time Police Officer position to Officer Jordan Zukowski at the same wage as former Police Officer Curtis Weaver. Officer Zukowski is currently a part-time Police Officer. Chief Palmeri will advertise and recruit to fill the part-time position that will be vacated by Officer Zukowski. Ken made a motion to hire Officer Jordan Zukowski at the same FY24 pay rate as Officer Curtis Weaver. Stan seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0.

Second order of business. The Selectboard members present, Jennifer Reynolds and the Town Administrator discussed the four quotes submitted by the following IT Vendors: Tech 1 Computers, AdvanTech, Entre and NexLogix. The group agreed to remove NetLogix from the list because they canceled the presentation to the Selectboard and showed no interest in rescheduling. The Selectboard narrowed it down to two finalists, Entre and AdvanTech. Next steps are to schedule a Site Survey of all the Town buildings. After the Site Survey, both vendors will have an opportunity to refine the existing quotes for resubmission to the Selectboard. (One quote for the server, additional hardware and labor and a second quote outlining the IT services package). It is imperative that the Site Survey helps us determine the exact number of devices and email accounts within our environment that will be supported so that the recurring cost is as accurate as possible. In addition, answers to some additional questions will need to be answered including each vendor providing a list of other municipalities that they have served or are currently serving.

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Third order of business. Stan made a motion to approve the FRCOG FY25 Contract Signatory Authorization for the Collective Highway Program. Ken seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0.

Fourth order of business. Stan made a motion to accept the FY25 proposal (\$9025.00) for conducting the annual inspection/environmental monitoring services for the Town's closed landfill during the fall of 2024. Ken seconded the motion and it was approved, 2-0.

Fifth order of business: Changing the Town Administrator's additional duty titles of ADA and Affirmative Officer under the new title of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. This change coincides with the approved meeting minutes from March 2023.

Sixth order of business: At the planning board meeting on January 22nd the Planning Board decided to send a Solar letter of support to Representative Blais and Senator Comerford. Several other towns in Franklin County have sent letters as well encouraging a change to the state law governing large scale solar installations. The Planning Board is very concerned about losing our prime farmland and forests to development. These lands may be needed in the future for food production. Not allowing local governments to have more control over the siting of large scale solar installations puts our town at risk of losing our open space, scenic views and our rural community character which attracts new residents. The Selectboard signed the letter and the Planning Board will email the letter to Rep. Blais and Sen. Comerford.

With no further business to be discussed, Ken motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:02pm. Stan seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Attested by: Karen Kelly, Town Administrator

 , Chairman
Stanley D. Garland


Brian J. Keir


Kenneth R. Bordewieck