

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Monday – August 24, 2026
Selectmen's Minutes – 6:00 pm

Selectboard: Chairman, James Cleary, Tony Parisi, Travis McClure

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Appointments:

6:00 pm – Fire Chief, Zack Andersen – Chief Andersen was before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the recent repairs needed to the mini-splits at the Fire Station. There was no warranty and the units needed repairs. Chairman Cleary asked why there was no warranty, Chief Andersen stated the warranty paperwork was never submitted. The Selectmen approved this being paid out of Town Building Expendable Trust Fund.

Chief Andersen reported that he recently purchased \$6,000.00 of tools for the Fire Truck, that expense was budgeted.

He purchased rescue ropes, and the tanker needed to have the pump fixed, it did not pass inspection. The new truck did pass pump testing.

Chief Andersen stated he still needs to replace two doors and 3 windows in the fire station. Discussion followed, Chairman Cleary contacted Mike Young, he is unable to do that at this time. Steve Frosch and Norm Shephard will be asked if they could do the job and if they can, they will be asked for quotes. Andersen will report back to Selectmen.

Recent inspection from Verisk was completed, the last rating for Bennington was 5/Y, the town will get a new rating when the company is completed the inspection. Variables are water, tools, equipment, training etc.

Discussion followed regarding the recent fire in Peterborough. Chief Andersen stated he was there. The stipend rate of pay for the volunteers was discussed. Andersen advocated for a higher pay rate for EMT/Fire personnel.

With discussion taking place as to response or not responding, Chief Anderson asked why recently there has been no response from Police, when two officers appeared to be on duty. Andersen indicated there have been two calls, which the State Police came from Goffstown for one of the calls. Selectmen did not know about this and will look into it.

Chief Andersen was asked if the Fire Department will be available for the Halloween Hay Ride again. Andersen said yes, he has spoken with Melissa Clark and the department is planning on being there.

Minutes: August 10, 2026 were accepted as written.

Financial: A/P & Payroll Manifests were reviewed and signed
Conservation Commission CD – Chairman Cleary motioned to authorize the investment of a CD for the Conservation Commission of 3.5% for a 6-month CD. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & McClure. Motion passed 3-0. The Treasurer will let the bank know on August 25, 2026.

Signatures:

Facility Rentals – 13Y girls softball tournaments, Sawyer Field – 9/6 & 10/18 - approved

Recreation, Gymnasium – 12/5 & 12/6 – Santa and Vendors - approved

Timber Tax – Sweeney

Building Permits – Dial, 167 S. Bennington Rd

Other:

Rain Diverters – Tabled Item – Chairman Cleary will get prices from Stephen Frosch & Norm Shepherd

Ice Diverter – Table Item – Chairman Cleary will get prices from Stephen Frosch & Norm Shepherd

Bible Hill Rd. – Update letter to residents regarding property clean up.

A resident asked the Town Administrator to bring before the Selectmen if there could be a no thru trucks or a weight limit placed on Bible Hill Rd. Selectmen discussed this, no decision was made at this time, this matter will be tabled pending further discussion.

Map 12 Lots 13 & 14 – Letter from Richard & Mary Baksa-Mathews asking to purchase lot 13 & 14 on map 12. Mr. & Mrs. Baksa-Mathews offered \$16,960 for both lots. Selectmen discussed this offer, the location of these lots is on the Class VI portion of the road, the road would need to be upgraded if any improvements were to be made on the lots. Selectmen discussed it is a very dangerous portion of the road and is barely passable in a four-wheel drive vehicle. At this time, Selectmen motioned to not accept the offer from Baksa-Mathews and will put the lots out to public bid before any decisions will be made.

WI-FI Connector – The new connector to the VFW has been installed and is working fine.

Election – Town Administrator reminded Selectman that they must be present at the election, Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - 8:00 am – 7:00 pm. Selectman Parisi will do the first half of the day, able to stay until 1 or 2, McClure and/or Cleary will be present the second half of the day.

Transfer Station – Selectmen reviewed an application for the Transfer Station position. Tom James is planning on retiring soon and his position will need filling. This person is willing to work the hours and seems very enthusiastic. Selectmen unanimously agreed to hire this person, instructing the Town Administrator to contact him and offer him the job.

Budgets – Selectmen reviewed budgets, discussion followed. Selectmen McClure & Chairman Cleary voted to have Selectman Parisi speak to Chief Horne about budgets, crossing guard, schedules and more and to further invite Chief Horne to the next Selectmen's meeting on August 31, 2026.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, August 31, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator