



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Meeting Minutes

Bernardston/Leyden Police Services Advisory Committee

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

When: August 11, 2026 at 11:00 am

In Attendance

Members: Chief Palmeri, Peter Nai, Jane Dutcher, Erica Jensen, Liz Kidder: Chair, Ken Bordewieck, Emily Yazwinski, Ginger Robinson
No members absent.

Audience:

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 am

1) Motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2026 minutes was made by Jane D and seconded by Peter N

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

Abstentions: Ginger R

2) Police Services Report/Updates

Chief Palmeri reported that:

- Sgt Tom Cabot turned in his resignation. Last day 8/19. Will remain on PT until someone new is hired. Advertising for a new FT officer. Will make decisions on new Sgt position, etc.
- Sgt Chabot is technically OIC until Chief P returns from vacation. May do a neighboring Chief doing overwatch.
- Fall is a busy season so Chief P wants everything in terms of hiring to be complete by then. Lots of towns looking to hire – then are actively “poaching” local officers.
- New cruiser – Officer Josh is “loving it”. (New 2026 Durango). Still working on what will be done will cruiser that it replaced.
- Growing tired of the numerous details in Leyden (laying cable, closing road). Numerous large, long-term projects coming up in this fiscal year that will take up a lot of details as well. (Leyden Bog, Bernardston Bridge over 91, etc).

3) Bernardston-Leyden Fire and other merger/regionalization efforts

Liz update: West County/FRCOG study continues. The FRCOG has gathered approx. \$300k to do a county-wide study for all public safety services. West County study will act as an interim agreement (if one is reached) until the all-county study is completed and potentially implemented.

Also started a Fire Services Advisory Committee. Leyden to connect with Tracy Rogers to get the FRCOG onboard as project manager. Lou and Michele will collaborate to call a first meeting to elect a chair and begin to set the upcoming agendas. Bernardston will let all know who the citizen rep is for Bernardston.



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4) Review of financial workbook

- Ken asked does the work to next years budget on the inter-town worksheet stop the towns from signing the IMA.
- Leyden will work to find someone to work with Jane on the inter-town worksheet.
- Jane has worked on the spreadsheet independently and has updates:
 - *Spend the time to update each previous year (FY24, FY25). FY26 is already complete.
 - *Jane stated that no revenue will be resolved from the past – she hopes to leave the past behind.
 - *Jane hopes to have a fair assessment for FY28
- Ginger asked a clarifying question: were indirect costs updated annually? No, the percentages remained the same, but the indirect costs were not updated.
- Ginger would like someone from Leyden to work on the spreadsheet with Bernardston and also make sure that if there is any money left over from police budget that that will offset any monies that Leyden did not pay in FY24 and FY25 (given that the indirect costs for FY24 and FY25 were not updated annually).
- Ken: how does this affect the current, revised IMA? Jane asked that the final review of the IMA be done prior to voting on a recommendation to the Select Boards.

5) Committee final review and vote of the IMA revisions

Liz sent a copy of the revised IMA around to committee members.

- Section 3: Jane asked if Leyden is assessed quarterly or annually but pays quarterly?
 - 1) Can the “quarterly” report move to an “annual” report? *Yes, this was agreed on.*
 - 2) Remove “and quarterly revenue reports”.
 - 3) Delete 3C as it is redundant
- Section 6C: should the committee wait until the revised percentage is determined to the total town assessment? Jane suggested removing a percentage in the IMA, rather than updating each three years. Gave language to Liz: *For each fiscal year, Leyden will be assessed a percentage of the total cost of police services to include departmental costs and indirect costs. Indirect costs shall include those costs necessary to provide service to both Towns under this agreement.*

6) Future agenda and schedule of next meeting

Liz suggested a final draft of the IMA be reviewed and possibly voted on.

Next meeting: September 9, 2026, 11am

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 Ken and seconded by Peter N

Passed unanimously.



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The meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Jensen