

**Leyden Selectboard  
Pearl Rhodes Elementary School  
Minutes  
September 15, 2016**

**Selectboard Members Present:** Jeff Neipp, Bill Glabach, Lance Fritz.

**Others Present:** Bob Hardesty, Deana LeBlanc, Michele Giarusso, Tracey Baronas, Bob Ryan, Tom Luck, Al Woodhull.

Call to order 9:10am.

**Minutes**

**MOTION:** Lance moved to accept the minutes of September 8 as written. Approved unanimously.

**Glen Road Maintenance**

The Board discussed the maintenance of Glen Rd. and if that is Greenfield's responsibility or Leyden's. It was the consensus that, since Greenfield gated the road on both sides of the Glen, it is their responsibility. After further discussion, it was decided that the Board should send a letter to Don Ouellette, Greenfield Public Works Director, inviting him to a Selectboard meeting to discuss the situation both town's responsibilities.

**PRES Update**

Deanna LeBlanc, new Principal at PRES, presented an update for the new school year opening. There is a new music teacher this year, Nancy Nesheim; and a new P.E. Teacher, Sue Scott. Tim Randall is the new facilities director. After further discussion, Deanna said that she would look into the requirements for the back fence.

**Broadband Finance Discussion**

Bob Ryan addressed the attendees and explained the options he feels are available for financing and operating the Broadband project. Those options are (1) operating through the Town accounting procedures, (2) using an MLP to fund and operate the project, and (3) using Enterprise Funds. Bob said that he leaning towards an MLP that would take care of everyday operations and separate accounting for the buildout. He presented and explained a plan that described the estimated operating costs for the MLP Network. These costs included administrative, insurance, plant costs, network operator costs, and electricity. Total operating expense for first year would be approximately \$178,170. Monthly subscriber costs would be approximately \$103.50, which includes \$68 for the MLP, \$20.00 for internet, and \$15.00 for phone. Jeff questioned Bob Ryan's comment that the entire cost of the broadband buildout would have to be funded by taxation. He commented that the votes taken at Town Meeting reflected a different model that WiredWest proposed. That model projected that the bond payments, starting in year four or year five, would come from internet monthly charges. Now, the Broadband Committee says that is not the case. Discussion. Bob also reported that he has not received any response from Joel Bard at K|P Law concerning MLP and debt exclusion votes taken at Town Meetings. He asked for permission to seek legal counsel, other than Town Counsel, to support the Broadband buildout.

**MOTION:** Lance moved to authorize the Broadband Committee Chair, Bob Ryan, to seek legal counsel, other than Town Counsel, as necessary to support the Broadband buildout, not to exceed \$5000.00. Unanimous.

After further discussion, Bob said that he, at this point, feels that an MLP is probably the best solution for operating the Broadband project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jeff moved to adjourn. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty