

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Hall
Minutes
January 19, 2017**

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

Others Present: Bob Hardesty, Nick Creigle, Bob Ryan, Dave Brooks, Elwin Barton.

Call to order 9:00am.

Pole Hearing

MOTION: Lance moved to open the Pole Hearing and to return to regular session upon completion of hearing. Unanimous.

Nick Creigle explained the reason for the hearing. Eversource wants to install six new, fully owned, forty foot poles on Mid County Road. The reason for this action is to remove cabling from the wooded Right-of-Way. Eversource will absorb the costs. Discussion. There were no objections.

MOTION: Jeff moved to allow Eversource to install six new utility poles on Mid County Road as Nick Creigle described. Unanimous.

The Board signed the hearing papers.

MOTION: Lance moved to return to regular session at 9:17am. Unanimous.

Broadband Discussion

Bob Ryan reported that Ryan Clary has offered to map out the pole locations once MBI can give him the coordinates. He can also pinpoint the highest points in Leyden that could be used for wireless signals. Bob mentioned that this is important because in a few weeks we will be signing the application to move forward. When that is done, we will be committed to going with wired. So, we have a very short time period to decide if maybe wireless is a viable alternative.

Jeff and Bob discussed the proper etiquette when sending e-mails concerning Broadband information. Jeff said that he was offended by the language contained in one of Bob's e-mails copied to the Selectboard and Broadband Committee. Bob apologized and said that it was certainly not his intent to offend Jeff.

Bob and the Board further discussed the confusion caused by the WiredWest and Broadband Committee articles published in the Leyden Life newsletter. After discussion, all agreed that articles concerning Broadband should be coordinated, and presented factually, so as not to confuse Leyden residents.

Bob explained to the Board that he is in weekly communications with MBI Bill Ennen and John Furey, and has recently expressed frustration concerning the pole survey. He said that they are generally responsive in a timely manner. As for the make-ready and building of the project, we have contracted MBI to be the project manager, and they will sub-contract different vendors for the various aspects of the project. Jeff voiced concern about sending large amounts of money to MBI and then the project slows down or gets postponed. Bob explained that the bureaucratic process could slow down, but when we get to the make-ready, MBI is obligated to proceed, and Verizon is obligated to complete the make-ready within six months. Also, when we decide that it is time to apply for the bonding, Clarke Rowell, our financial advisor, can get the money within about two weeks.

Bob said that he and the Committee will keep in touch with MBI and push for faster results. He and the Committee would be happy to meet with the Board for monthly updates.

PVRS District Agreement Committee

The Board discussed appointments to the committee to review and possibly amend the School District Agreement. After lengthy discussion, they agreed that the appointees should be residents that could look at the Agreement and act in the best interest of the students, the Town, and all residents. They feel that Ginger and Lance would be able to review the Agreement honestly and fairly.

MOTION: Jeff moved to appoint Ginger Robinson and Lance Fritz to the PVRS District Agreement Review Committee. Jeff, yes; Bill, yes; Lance abstained. Motion passed.

Lance added that the appointees should be reminded that they could simply amend the Agreement without opening up the entire Agreement which could be a long and tedious process. Also, the charge is to review the Agreement and to bring it up to date; not to discuss whether or not to close a specific elementary school. Any discussion concerning realigning students, or to consider closing any elementary school, would be premature.

Highway Department Budget

Dave and the Board discussed the Highway Dept. Budget. Dave said that he didn't want to waste his time working up a budget if the Board and Finance Committee is planning to level fund. He's concerned about salaries. He feels that past increases of 2% is inadequate, especially when some employees in Town received larger raises last year. Jeff explained the higher raises. These raises were agreed upon by a previous Board as a means to slowly bring these employees' salaries in line with those of similar sized towns. After further discussion, the Board agreed to take a close look at salaries of full time employees. The Board may consider level funding expenses, keeping retaining level of service in mind.

Requesting Assistance for Mapping East Hill Cemetery

Lance reported that Ryan Clary has offered to map East Hill Cemetery. He would like the Selectboard to approve asking Linda Dunlavy for the appropriate protocol to request Ryan to do the mapping. Ryan may also be helpful in mapping the poles for Broadband when the pole survey is complete. Discussion. The Board agreed that requesting Ryan's services is good idea and Lance should pursue this. Bob will e-mail Linda with request.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Bill moved to adjourn. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty