

**Leyden Selectboard  
Leyden Town Hall  
Minutes  
January 26, 2017**

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

**Others Present:** Bob Hardesty, Peggy Kaepfel, John Rodgers.

Call to order 9:00am.

**Minutes**

**MOTION:** Lance moved to accept the minutes of January 12 with the addition of Michele Giarusso being interested in the Committee to Review the PVRSD District Agreement. Unanimous.

**January 25 Bernardston Joint Meeting**

The Board discussed the previous night's joint School District Agreement meeting. They decided that since the number of appointees has changed to three from each Town, and the charge and scope of the Committee has changed considerably, they should rescind the previous committee appointments, and reappoint three members.

**MOTION:** Jeff moved to rescind the previous appointments to the Committee to Review the District Agreement due to the fact that the charge and scope of the Committee has changed. Unanimous.

The Board discussed the best way to appoint the new HEART Committee members. They agreed that interested residents should send written notice of interest to the Selectboard, to be received no later than 9:00am on February 2, 2017. They will appoint three members at their meeting that morning. Applicants who the Selectboard agree have the best interests of the students and the Town in mind will be appointed to the Committee.

**School Committee Discussion**

The Board, Peggy Kaepfel, and John Rodgers discussed the FY18 PVRSD budget and their thoughts on keeping any assessment increase to a minimum. Jeff asked about large salary increases for some administrative personnel, and approximate costs for the elementary schools. He would like to see what the figure is for funding the operation of PRES. Peggy explained that, Gail Healy, for example, has had a change in her job description. She is now also going through old records and determining which ones are required to be retained and ones can be destroyed. She added that for the next fiscal year, the Committee is proposing reducing the administrative positions at the high school from three to two. John suggested that consolidating administration personnel for the four elementary schools could be a solution. As for the costs for each elementary school, many of the costs for those schools are in separate line items and not separated by school. Jeff suggested that consolidating students into two elementary schools would be another option.

**Open Meeting Law Complaint**

Bob informed the Board that Brian Pelletier filed an Open Meeting Law Complaint with the Attorney General's Office concerning the 12/19/17 meeting. He pointed out that it was actually the 1/19/17 meeting. The Board reviewed the complaint and Bob suggested that the Board respond as soon as

possible because he is leaving for vacation for a week and Jeff is leaving for two weeks. Discussion. The Board agreed that Bill and Bob should work on a response. Jeff will sign as Chair.

### **Budget Discussion**

Lance suggested that the budget should start with the bottom line figure, perhaps a 1.9% CPI increase for level sustained service and COLA for full time employees. Discussion will continue at future budget meetings.

### **Shared Fire Services**

Lance reported that he spoke to Bernardston Selectman Bob Raymond about sharing fire services. Bob suggested submitting a proposal for discussion. The question now is "How do we proceed?" Discussion. The Board agreed that this is an important discussion and should be continued with Bernardston, and possibly, with Greenfield.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jeff moved to adjourn. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty