

Leyden Selectboard Meeting
Leyden Town Hall
Minutes
February 16, 2017

Selectboard Members Present: Bill Glabach, Lance Fritz.

Others Present: Bob Hardesty, Kathie Benson, Nikolas Adamski.

Call to order 9:00am.

Minutes

MOTION: Lance moved to accept minutes of February 2 as written. Unanimous.

Board of Health Update

Kathie Benson updated the Board on Board of Health matters, including their FY18 budget. She reported that several area Boards of Health negotiated with UMASS to lower the cost of tick testing. By doing so, they were able to lower the cost per test from \$50.00 to \$30.00. Leyden Board of Health will pay half that cost, leaving residents with a cost of \$15.00 per test. They were also able to negotiate the cost of yearly training that is required to remain certified. That training was only offered at a couple towns near Boston. The cost was \$350.00 for the training, plus hotel and meals, and 300 miles of travel reimbursement. Now the training is done once a year in nearby towns and costs only \$40.00. For FY18 budget, salaries remain level funded. Expense line is reduced by \$650.00. FRCOG fee for Cooperative Public Health Service is \$3900.00; an increase of \$1138.00, due mainly to an increase in health insurance premiums.

Regionalization

Nik addressed the Board with concerns about the possibilities of regionalization. He's heard that regionalization doesn't always work. It sometimes costs towns more to regionalize. Lance said that, also, single small towns are rarely considered for any grant funding. It's much easier to qualify for grants if more towns apply together. This could be advantageous for Bernardston, considering they're looking into building a new fire station. He added that this conversation has just started. Any decisions or proposals would be way down the road. There would be meetings with the Fire Department, hearings for public comment, and also approval at Town Meeting.

Broadband Update

Lance reported that he and Bob Ryan met with Peter Larkin, MBI Special Advisor, and Edmund Donnelly, MBI Strategic Policy Director. There is a new MBI Assist Program. MBI will render assistance in the design phase and make ready. They will contract with a design firm and design our system. At the end of the design phase, we will receive a biddable package and a list of construction companies. We will have to choose a construction company. It seems that MBI is getting out of the actual construction part of the Broadband projects. The main reason for this is that MBI is concerned about litigations. Bob Ryan has looked over the RFP that was issued for interested companies for construction. Crocker is the only company that is willing to work with all Towns. Our message to Peter Larkin is that they (MBI) need to work out a deal. They need to pony up some more money, and to incentivize, maybe, Crocker to put up some of their own money. As it stands now, Crocker's proposal is that the Town build the system, and they will own it. The Town will certainly walk away from that. All in all, we have to consider that we may be building and operating the system on our own. Linda Dunlavy has agreed to compile a list of companies that would be capable of the build-out.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Bill moved to adjourn. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty