

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Hall
Minutes
February 2, 2017**

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

Others Present: Bob Hardesty, Tony Streeter, Daniel Nietsche.

Call to order 9:00am.

Daniel Nietsche, FRCOG Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, arrived at 9:00am. He expected to be on the agenda to discuss possible regionalization of Leyden, Bernardston, and Greenfield Fire Departments. Bob did not get the message about the agenda. The Board asked Daniel to come back at the end of the meeting for “other business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair”.

Minutes

MOTION: Lance moved to accept the minutes of January 19 and January 26 as written. Unanimous.

School Budget Discussion

Tony Streeter addressed the Board concerning the School District budget and other problems he sees. He’s concerned that line item funds, that should not be moved, are being moved around. The School is not required to explain line items. Jeff added that the Secretary and Assistant Superintendent salaries were increased \$13,000 each. The increases were transferred from Steve Field’s salary line. Tony added that there is no policy in place for employees to ask questions and to vent their problems and concerns. He said he’s asking for more accountability. He feels that the Selectboards should be following the money trail, and they will find the problems. After further discussion, he thanked the Board for their time, and glad to see that this Board is aware of the situation and is on top of it.

HEART Committee Appointments

The Board discussed the requests for appointment to the Heart Committee. Written requests were received from Richard Fontaine, Michele Giarusso, Ginger Robinson, Lance Fritz, and Brian Pelletier. The Board read and discussed the requests. Lance decided that since there were several requests, and that the scope of the Committee has changed considerably, he would withdraw his request. He only submitted his request in case there were too few submissions. Discussion.

MOTION: Bill moved to appoint Ginger Robinson, Michele Giarusso, and Richard Fontaine to the Heart Committee. Unanimous.

Town Hall Dumpster

Bill said that he’s not in favor of having a dumpster at Town Hall. He feels that it would cause problems with unauthorized people using it for personal use. He also feels that spending \$100.00 a month is inappropriate when, during budget discussion, we nickel and dime employees over salary increases. After discussion, the Board agreed to cancel the delivery of a dumpster.

Open Meeting Law Complaint

The Board reviewed an edited the draft of the response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint. After review, Jeff signed the response. Bob will mail, with copy to the Attorney General’s Open Government Division.

Broadband Discussion

The Board discussed the recent WiredWest meeting held on Jan. 28. Wired/West has a new approach. Once the Towns have completed their build-out, they would serve as ISP. They would also handle the billing and maintenance. The Towns would be responsible for their debt service, depreciation, and reserve. The depreciation and reserve would amount to about \$12 to \$18 per month per subscriber, depending on the take rate.

Regional Services Discussion

Daniel Nietsche, FRCOG Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and the Board discussed the process and the pitfalls of the Town of Leyden combining Fire Dept. services with another Town. Lance explained that the Selectboard has been in informal discussions with Peter Shedd and Bob Raymond concerning combining our fire departments. These discussions were conducted to simply see if there is any interest on their part. Dan suggested that, when we are really serious about this, we might want to be specific about what we're actually wanting and put out a Request for Proposal. He feels that regionalization is certainly on the horizon. It will take a while for Towns and departments to realize that, small towns in particular, can't continue to support and maintain volunteer fire departments. Jeff added that before we really get further into any type of regionalization, the Board needs to have Cliff in to discuss the matter and to get his input. After further discussion, Dan said he would look into the pros and cons of sharing departments and come up with some options. In the meantime, the Board will continue to discuss this matter with Bernardston and Greenfield.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty