

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Hall
Minutes
May 18, 2017**

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

Others Present: Bob Hardesty, Cliff Spatcher, Holly Spatcher, Dan Galvis.

Call to order 6:45pm.

Fire Dept. Update

Jeff explained the reason for asking Cliff to meet with the Board. The Board is embarking on a new direction for the Fire Department. In the past couple of years, the Board has lost confidence in the leadership of the Department. He explained that the Board was completely bypassed by the Fire Department concerning the purchase of the fire truck and the training facility to be located at Avery Field. Bill added that there have been a series of events that have led to the Board's feeling that there is a lack of leadership in the Department. They feel as if the Fireman's Association is actually running the Department. Cliff stated that he is still running the Department and that he has no say as to what the Association does; he does not vote. Holly explained to Cliff that the Board has already made their decision, so he needs to decide whether to make changes or to not fight the decision. She suggested that the Board should give Cliff six months to get the Department straightened out. Holly also suggested previous damage to the pump on the Engine One could have been caused by pumping pond water. The Board agreed that they were, and still are, frustrated by the constant referral to the Fireman's Association for decisions made. Holly further explained to Cliff that municipalities have procedures that must be followed. Any procedural changes to departmental responsibilities should be discussed with the executive office for approval. After further discussion, the Board agreed to meet with Cliff again on June 8.

Police Department Update

Dan told the Board that he would like to have a policy in place concerning the use of social media for Town employees. He said that he would draft a policy and submit it to the Board. Basically, no pictures in uniform, and no pictures of Town vehicles. He would also like to hold a Town 5K race on Columbus Day weekend. Route will start at PRES and go up Brattleboro Rd. to Zimmerman Hill Rd.; up Zimmerman Hill Rd. and connect to West Leyden Rd.; up West Leyden Rd. to Mid County Rd.; then down Mid County to Greenfield Rd. and back to PRES.

The Board explained to Dan that they would like to downsize the number of Town vehicles and other equipment. They asked Dan for a list of vehicles and equipment to be declared surplus.

MLP Manager Discussion

Lance reported that Bob Ryan and Tom Luck have reviewed the last mile contract. He suggested that Bob Ryan be appointed as the Manager of the Municipal Light Plant, and that three other Committee members be appointed as the Advisory Board. All agreed. He also suggested that the Municipal Light Plant meeting be scheduled for May 23, at 8:30, following the meeting with Crocker Communications, to appoint the MLP Manager and authorize an Advisory Board.

Selectboard Reorganization

MOTION: Jeff moved to elect Lance Fritz as Selectboard Chairman for FY 18. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jeff moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty