

Leyden Selectboard and Finance Committee
Leyden Town Hall
Regular Session Minutes
April 9, 2018

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

Others Present: Bob Hardesty, Michele Giarusso, Michele Higgins, Barbara Francis, Ginger Robinson, John Higgins, Pam Brown, Patty Solomon, Lisa Armstrong, Bob Snow, Ginny Rockwood, Marie Lovley.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:03pm

Minutes

MOTION: Lance moved to accept the minutes of March 26 as presented. Unanimous.

Pre-School and After School Programs for PRES

Bill explained that since residents are concerned about the possible closing of Pearl Rhodes Elementary School, he has been thinking of ways to keep families from “choiccing-out” their children to other school districts. He thinks that maybe by adding pre-school and after school programs, parents would be more likely to keep their children at PRES, and some may return to PRES. Patty Solomon and Lisa Armstrong, teachers at PRES, addressed the Board concerning the possibility of the Town funding Pre-School and After School programs for the school. Patty, third and fourth grade teacher, and Lisa, fifth and sixth grade teacher, presented the Board with a proposal for the programs. They explained that some parents of school choice students and parents of Leyden residents are choiccing their students into Greenfield. Their main reason for doing so is that there is no before and after school programs. Their proposal is for one year, fiscal year 2019. The hope is that with enough students taking advantage of this program, the program will be self-sustaining for FY2020. The funding request is for \$7,500 for the year. (The proposal is included with these minutes.) Lance and Bill suggested that instead of raising and appropriating the money that it be transferred from Stabilization.

MOTION: Lance moved that the Selectboard put an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to transfer \$7,500 from Stabilization for the purpose of establishing a before and after school program for Pearl Rhodes Elementary School for fiscal year 2019. Unanimous.

Historical Commission Update

Ginny Rockwood addressed the Board concerning the conservation and preservation of Town relics and artifacts. The church has agreed to allow the Historical Commission to use some rooms upstairs for storage. In return, the Commission has agreed to help pay for utilities. At Town Meeting, instead of the usual \$3,000 article for the purchase of a building, they would like to have that money go into a separate account for preservation supplies and rental expenses. Discussion. The Board would like to have a formal agreement from the Church for use and rental of the space. We would then have Town

Counsel review the agreement. They also decided that they would eliminate the warrant article and add a line item on the omnibus budget for Historical Commission Expense.

Finance Committee Update

Ginger presented the Board with an explanation of House Bill H2987 and Senate Bill S619 concerning single payer health insurance. These bills are known as “Improved Medicare for All”. She also presented a report that she put together that explains the savings in health costs that these bill would represent. If these bills are enacted, the health care savings for this year would be a savings of \$1,021,417 for PVRSD and \$61,591 for Leyden’s share. (Information sheet included with these minutes.) The Finance Committee feels that, at last year’s meeting, voters directed them to report on these bills and to present that report at this year’s meeting. Discussion.

MOTION: Ginger moved that the Finance Committee accept the report and recommend that, if Town Meeting voters accept this report, the Selectboard send a letter of recommendation of support for House Bill 2987 and Senate Bill S619 to the Massachusetts Legislature. Michele Higgins seconded. Unanimous.

MOTION: Lance moved that the Selectboard accept the Finance Committee’s report concerning House Bill H2987 and Senate Bill S619 and put an article on the ATM Warrant to present the report to the Town for acceptance, and if accepted, Selectboard send a letter of support to the Massachusetts Legislature. Unanimous.

Adjournment

MOTION: Lance moved to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty