

**Leyden Selectboard  
Leyden Town Offices  
Regular Session Minutes  
December 7, 2020  
6:30pm**

**Selectboard Members Present:** Bill Glabach, Jeff Neipp

**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso, Beth Kuzdeba, Michele Higgins, Dan Galvis  
Bob Depalma, Ken Spatcher

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.

**Minutes**

**Motion:** Jeff moved the November 23, 2020 meeting minutes as printed. Unanimous.

**Discussion**

Michele Higgins asked the board to appoint Andrea Zimmerman to the Council on Aging (COA). Andrea has been a member of the Leyden Board of Health in the past and she has been helping with lunches on the COA.

**Motion:** Bill moved to appoint Andrea to the COA. Unanimous.

Michele H. also asked about allowing the COA to offer tax prep to citizens in the town office building. Jeff asked how many people were serviced last year and Michele H. stated only one due to COVID. Jeff stated COA should work with BOH. Beth stated she would look into remote services due to the county Covid numbers going up. Residents could gather the information and leave somewhere to be picked up. Then the residents should be able to talk by telephone to the tax prep person.

Tax classification hearing started at 7:12 pm. Bob Depalma handed out the Tax recap sheet plus other forms that Assessors need to send to the state. Select board read over and asked questions. Ken Spatcher stated the town has always had one classification factor of 1 and he is recommending the same this year.

**Motion:** Jeff moved that we stay with one classification. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

Beth asked if there was any response in regards to everyone wearing masks in this building. Select board stated no. Assessors stated they can move their days around to do the work to avoid their clerk not being in the building with other employees. Michele G. asked then when would the assessors be open to the public? They have posted hours to be available to the public and if that is changing then all postings including voice message needs to be changed. Dan stated how could the police move into this building without everyone following the governor's orders when he is mandating his officers to wear masks at all times? Beth stated then there is no discussion this building is open to the public every day, there is no day that is not open. Everyone has to abide by the governor's orders. Bill stated since there has been no response it was time to send a final notice to comply with the mandate. Jeff said the notice should state a response is needed by December 10, 2020.

Dan called Paul Sullivan from MA state police and he said it is ok to have cell phones in the cruiser purchased by the town instead of using officer's personal cell phones. Dan will get pricing.

Michele G. stated that the town should consider a workforce backup plan for departments should employees get sick or require quarantining. Jeff stated he would discuss with Dave Brooks. Michele has spoken with Steve from Spirit Fire about the Beaver issue.

Dan said he has called the environmental police as Dave called him and asked him to. Michele asked if there was anything more she has to do and Dan said “No wait until the Environmental police get here they will tell Dave what to do.” Michele has called Whip City and all town buildings will be connected to town’s broadband on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Michele had called movers and they can move police station on January 11 or 12. Dan said he cannot move until partitions are up. Jeff stated he would like Dan to map out where partitions go and Jeff will try and find a contractor or two to look at the work. Michele will wait until she hears back from Jeff. Michele called state elections division in Boston about having a special town election during COVID for Select Board position. They advised we contact our town counsel since he or she would know the climate of the area. Bill gave Michele permission to contact town counsel. Bill moved to adjourn meeting at 9:20pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele Giarusso