

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Offices
Regular Session Minutes
January 19, 2021
1:30pm**

Selectboard Members Present: Bill Glabach, Jeff Neipp

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Robert Hardesty, John Higgins, Andrew Killeen, Brian Pelletier, Zack Delucca, Dan Galvis

Meeting called to order at 1:38 pm.

Select board reviewed mail and meeting minutes.

Minutes

Motion: Jeff moved the January , 2021 meeting minutes as printed. Unanimous.

Discussion

Andy Killeen shared 267 individual households are online out of 343 possible drops which is a 78% installation. There are 309 households. As of the first of the year everyone has been signed up except for some idiosyncrasies and Whip City (WG&E) is attending to those individually. The installation is \$1.29ml, \$1.22ml has been spent which leaves around \$75,000. Andy is projecting we may finish at \$22,770 over budget. The experience with WG&E has been impressive and wonderful. WG&E is taking in money from residents, the projected income should be around \$300,000. Around 280 households took phone and internet @ \$100/mo. and 88 took internet only @ \$85/mo. Year 1 cash projection is around \$300,000, the operating expense is projected at \$142,0000 which leaves a net income of \$156,000. We should be receiving from the state around \$120,000 for drop costs and the municipal bond account has \$277,929 in it. Jeff asked Andy about the \$23,000 in CAT money towards the bond. Jeff also asked Andy if he has thought about a MLP board compromised of residents for the future. Andy will ask other towns how they went about this. Jeff also wants to know who has the code to get into the hut? Fire and police should have the code in case there are any issues and he asked if they are putting a chain link fence around the hut. Andy stated he knew nothing about a fence and would inquire to Whip City about access to building.

Andy wanted the board to know that Jack Golden has done an excellent job coordinating with Whip City and wanted to recognize him for this. Select board very pleased with what Andy has accomplished. Andy in turn stated we should all recognize the outstanding work Bob Ryan did prior that led to these accomplishments. Andy presented a letter to Bill Ennen on Leyden's drop cost for the chair to sign Bill Glabach signed. Bob Hardesty has completed everything on the list Jeff gave him for the town clerk position that needed immediate attention. He will put something in the newsletter about his office hours, dog licenses and will start work on the street list. He did find a check never cashed from June 2020 and cash in a ledger. He does not know what the cash is for. He cannot find the dog licenses and may have to order more. Bob also said he needs help with the health and human services website for birth and death certificates and will get the help through our BOH chair or another town clerk. Select board told him to be prepared for nomination papers for our annual election as we will not have a caucus in February.

John Higgins stated he would to finish the policy for rental of town hall and wants a decision on alcohol being served. Jeff has no problem with liquor being served, he thinks after the pandemic over people will want to have fun. Michele mentioned we have not been allowing due to needing the renter has to purchase insurance and who will monitor this? Dan stated if serving hard alcohol you need a bartender who will be responsible for serving.

Motion: Jeff moved to allow alcohol be served at town hall functions. Unanimous. John said he will work to finish the policy with Michele G., Beth and Sue Howarth and return to select board.

Brian Pelletier sent an email to the select board about the squad truck not working after they received back from Dan. Jeff stated he tried calling Brian several times with no reply. Jeff stated the truck was working fine when it was returned to the station. Was it operator error? Brian stated it was. Brian then asked about the receipts to repair this. It was over what he was expecting and he is applying for a fire safety grant through the FRCOG for a Humatra Combo tool for \$8500. He was going to make up the difference of \$3400 with money in his expense account. Now he has to pay for this huge repair. There was further discussion on this and how the trucks do not have air compressors in them so they cannot use the jaws of life. Discussion on how we could plan better ensued. Brian also stated he has 3 firefighters that will be furloughed due to their working elsewhere for their fulltime jobs and he would like to appoint another person.

Dave Brooks could not attend the meeting. Jeff spoke to him. The beavers have been trapped. Bob Dean removed the dam with Conservation Commission approval. Dave will put in a diverter in the spring. Jeff asked Michele to remember to get a traffic count in the spring.

Dan presented 3 resumes of officers he would like to hire. Two men have already ridden with Leyden police and Dan is recommending all 3 be appointed.

Motion: Bill moved all 3 be appointed on Dan's recommendations for a 6 month probationary period. Names are William Salifu-Tex, Zachary Warner, John Shultis. Unanimous. Dan stated he did receive the 2 cell phones for the cruisers. He also said if people in need of food he can get food gift cards through MEMA.

Michele is working on extending the MVP planning grant to the end of this calendar year if possible since we could not have meetings due to the pandemic. She has finished reports required of 2 grants and has spoken to Eversource rep. about electric vehicle charger. Coates Road culvert engineering study and plan on track and her monthly meeting with Fish and Game went well.

Bill moved to adjourn meeting at 3:30 pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso