

Leyden Select Board and Finance Committee Minutes
Leyden Town Offices
Regular Session Minutes
November 1, 2021
6:00pm

Select Board Members Present: Jeff Neipp, Bill Glabach, Erica Jensen

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Michele Higgins, Ginger Robinson, Sara Seinberg, Barbara Wallace, Liz Kidder, Anders Ferguson, Ginny Rockwood, Aaron Dulles, Glenn Caffrey, Zack Delucca, Colleen Caffery, Beth Kuzdeba, Emily Yazwinski, Candace Hope, Dave Curtis, Mary Glabach, Trish Saline, Ann Zaveruha, Brian Pelletier, Fred Feldman, Robbie Milner, Don Sadowsky, Nanette Rolstad, Brenda Beck, Doug Beck, Robin Neipp

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Motion: Erica moved to accept the October 18, 2021, meeting minutes as written. Unanimous.

Motion: Bill moved to accept Zack Warner's resignation letter from the Leyden Police Department effective immediately. Erica seconded. Unanimous.

Motion: Bill moved to accept retirement letters from Daniel Galvis, Police Chief and Gilda Galvis, Captain, from Leyden Police department effective at 12pm on October 28, 2021. Erica seconded. Unanimous.

Police Department update- Jeff stated there are currently 4 police officers left on the police department. The schedule has been made out until November 4, 2021. Mike Aiken is on call until then. There is a potential joint meeting with the Bernardston Select board and Police Chief. Mike Aiken is currently Lieutenant.

Erica Jensen- I spoke to Charles about being the officer in charge then Jeff called Mike to ask him to be. Erica asked Jeff how the communication will be done between the officers if Mike Aiken has a full-time day job at the jail?

Aaron Dulles- I suggest the police liaison work on the police issues to not cause confusion.

Emily Yazwinski- I thought you broke things up between the 3 select board members to cover departments. Erica has been given no respect as the liaison to the police department. She is being railroaded. Jeff you are taking control of the situation. Let Erica have control.

Emily Yazwinski and Barbara Wallace- Jeff you are not listening.

Erica Jensen- the schedule is set, coverage is not the issue. I plan to communicate to Colrain and Bernardston for coverage for the future.

Jeff Neipp- I will let Erica be responsible, I think she will be successful.

Erica- I am working on all aspects for the police department and think we should set up the steering committee sooner rather than later to discuss the future of the police department.

Emily Yazwinski- I wonder if the moderator should set up the committee considering what is going on here.

Liz Kidder- It would be an ad hoc committee of the Select board.

Sara Steinberg- I feel frustrated because no one knows how to form this committee. It is going nowhere.

Erica- This is on us. Michele will get recommendations from Town Counsel.

Dave Curtis- Now that things have changed on the police department can we bring Tina Riddell back?

Update on Town Charter and Bylaws from Aaron Dulles- The Charter does not exist. I have emailed the Attorney General's Office and Secretary of State.

Don Sadowsky- Sounds like there is more to this, it sounds like it could be a legal issue. We need to look forward as to what we want to do with the research.

Aaron-we may not do anything; we may just have a bunch of papers in the end. I will contact people to set up a meeting.

Leyden Fire Department and EMS team-Ann Zaveruha explained what the newly formed team which calls itself The EMS Club, Keep the Hills Alive has been doing. She thanked Mark Fournier from the Northfield Fire Department for all his help. The group has met a couple of times and as Mark shared public safety is a team sport. The team started with a few members and since the Columbus Day weekend have added a couple more. There is a lot of interest from residents. Ann read their mission statement and stated many residents have signed up to take safety courses for the future. This is an independent, volunteer group not under town government structure.

Barbara Wallace-I commend them for the work they are doing and asked the Select board if we have a Fire Chief.

Jeff Neipp- No, Brian Pelletier is the Officer in Charge.

Brian- Under the State Fire Marshall I am considered the Chief.

Ginger Robinson- How soon could we get this up and running?

Sara Seinberg-Can the select board move this under the Fire Department?

Erica- Both Police and Fire departments will be toned out and should respond for now to all medical calls.

Public Comments

Ginger Robinson-Has the selectboard read my email regarding the Conflict of Interest questions the Finance Committee has on several issues? It will take three select board members to decide on how to answer these questions back to the Finance Committee.

Dave Curtis-What about the town property that is still on Dan's property? When will we get that back? I want to make sure it is on future agendas.

Municipal Assistant update-Michele reminded the select board she was on vacation from November 8-12. She will be reading emails and will forward important ones. There have been no resumes from the Brattleboro Reformer ad so far. Only 2 survey quotes for East Hill Road grant.

Motion: Bill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Erica seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso