

Leyden Select Board and Finance Committee Minutes
Leyden Town Offices
Regular Session Minutes
November 22, 2021
6:00pm

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

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Ginger Robinson, Barbara Wallace, Liz Kidder, Beth Kuzdeba, Carol Kuzdeba, Emily Yazwinski, Sara Seinberg, Tom Raffensburger, Gilda Galvis, David Brooks

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Motion: Bill moved to accept Bob Anson's resignation from the Municipal Light Plant with regret. Unanimous.

Motion: Bill moved to appoint Cornelia Reid to the Leyden Cultural Council. Erica seconded. Unanimous.

Motion: Erica moved to appoint Michael Aiken to Lieutenant and Officer in Charge of the Leyden Police Department. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Highway Laborer position- Jeff stated there were no further applicants for the Highway Laborer's position and he spoke with highway crew. In light of new developments in that department that position would be on hold for the time being. David Brooks handed Jeff an envelope. Jeff read that Dave would be retiring on February 28, 2022. His last day of work would be December 31, 2021. He would be taking accumulated vacation time from December to February. There was much discussion on advertising for a Highway Superintendent and Highway Foreman, where to advertise and for how long. Jeff and Dave want to advertise both positions in the Greenfield Recorder. Erica stated she would set up advertising to be done on Indeed and members of the audience suggested Craigs List and Facebook. Jeff stated Michele can advertise in the Recorder until December 13. At that time the advertising will close and interviewing of applicants will be on December 20, 2021. Erica asked if we are not hiring a laborer how will the highway be able to plow and sand this winter. Dave replied, the highway department is all set for the winter they have Eric plowing and sanding.

Board of Health Updates- Beth presented a contract for the animal control officer. She stated Leyden needs a trained person to deal with rabid animals, bats etc. There is no one in town now who is trained to respond with Dan gone. Jeff suggested that Michele find out how much money is in the animal control revolving account.

Beth would like to work with the Food pantry and have a pop-up pantry once per month in Leyden like other towns do. She would have forms available for any resident in Leyden to put what they would like to receive, and she would place the order with the food pantry. She hopes to have volunteers distribute the bags. She thinks there are families in town who would utilize this service but too proud to ask for assistance.

Compensation Plan passed over until Jeff has time to contact Don Jacobs, Consultant.

Answer to Finance Committee on written determination to former employee -Jeff spoke to Town Counsel, she advised if something has gone to the State Ethics Board then the town cannot answer any questions. Jeff stated no one can produce any written determination on Gilda and Dan's behalf. Erica stated to move forward the Select board cannot keep signing and keep paying Dan for work he did not do. Jeff stated it would be improper to pay \$2607 to Dan to close out the Vt. Yankee Grant. More information is needed. Susan Bobe suggested we need to see the

paperwork on this grant. There is a spiral of mistrust in the town right now. There must be more transparency from town officials. Beth Kuzdeba asked Bill and Jeff to call State Ethics for themselves. Jack Golden stated he is very frustrated with how Bill and Jeff were treating the situation as not a real issue. I worry this will not end looking good for the town. Liz Kidder asked if Town Counsel knows that the person is still an employee of the town. I think she would advise differently. Tom Raffensburger stated he thinks the select board needs to ask for training to solve some of these issues. Emily Yazwinski suggested that the grant be looked into and have all information for the next meeting. Jeff suggested he will get more information. No action taken on payment.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso