

**Town of Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Remote Meeting January 13, 2022**

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held remotely using the Leyden Go To Meeting account at 6:30 pm, on January 13, 2022.

Present: Erica Jensen, Selectboard, Elizabeth Kidder, Chair
Barbara Wallace, Jack Golden, Emily Yazwinski, Anders Ferguson, Michael Morgan

Audience: Beth Kuzdeba, Colleen Caffrey, Ginger Robinson, Chris Larabee, Dave Vreeland, Merry Lien, Sara Seinberg, David Pomerantz, Michelle Giarusso

UMass Collin Center: Michael Edwards and Stephen Foley

Absent: Marcia Miller, Candance Hope

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Review of the minutes of Jan 5, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2022 was made by Barbara Wallace, and seconded by Jack Golden

VOTE:

Jack Golden: Yes
Emily Yazwinski: Yes
Anders Ferguson: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes
Michael Morgan: Yes
Liz Kidder: Yes

Review correspondence –

Email from Jeff Neipp

- Committee received letter from Jeff Neipp appreciating Committee's work and also suggesting that in addition to potential Bernardston Police agreement that a "Plan B" also be developed. All of us need to inform the Townspeople and build consensus.

FRCOG: Tracy Rogers

- Current Study launching "5 options/models for policing, particularly small towns"
- FRCOG can act as a fiscal sponsor for an Efficiency & Regionalization Grant
- Leyden can benefit from being part of a FRCOG Grant and apply for their own grant.

Efficiency and Regionalization Grant

- Grants up to \$100K for a single town and up to \$200K to help a town or town(s) study and hopefully implement new models of inter-town cooperation in all areas of "Public Safety". Capital facility improvements can be included in the grants.

Municipal Vulnerability Meeting for Leyden

- 1st meeting Tuesday 1/18, 4-5:30 Zoom

Impact of Police Reform. Michele and others

- Throughout the meeting there was recurring discussion and analysis of the impact of new major Police Reform on small towns. To date most all sources with expertise are telling us that Leyden and other small towns will see major changes to policing with these changes.

Coordinative Roles with all the Safety Departments. Liz proposed that each Committee member coordinate with one area. Committee agreed with the following assignments:

- Police: Jack & Emily
- Emergency Mgmt.: Barbara
- EMS: Michael
- Fire: Anders
- BOH: Marcia
- Grantwriter and Chair: Liz
- Note taker: Candace
- Broadband/Communication: Jack

Collins Center for Public Management – Michael Edwards and Stephen Foley joined the meeting remotely. Collins Center provides all types of planning and consulting to MA municipalities. Well known around Franklin County and by Leyden's attorney, Donna MacNicols. Collins Center has been the consultant on the Leverett/Wendell Inter Municipal Agreement for police services.

Michael Edwards is the lead planner with a strong financial and operations history. Stephen Foley has a remarkable career in all aspects of public safety. He has worked at the local, regional, state and federal levels. He lives in the Pioneer Valley and has visited every town in Massachusetts.

Efficiency & Regionalization Grant

- Town of Leyden has a deadline for submitting Grant of 2/10/22
- Reviewed the strategy of taking a "Whole-Safety" perspective/analysis while beginning with Police. With this framework then 1) understand and strengthen current police department while preparing for a likely agreement with another town. Use this perspective for other Safety-Departments.
- Collins Center (CC) can play the key consulting role, if Leyden wishes. Coordinating with the Advisory Committee with final approval by the Selectboard
- Unanimous consensus of the Advisory Committee was to proceed with this general framework; understanding that many critical matters are not yet clear and the plan will evolve
- Mike: Let's get a full list of ALL other towns Leyden works with in one way or another.

Questions/Comments

- Can CC help us educate Leyden citizens on our "Best" recommendations? Absolutely. But CC is neither a marketing or sales firm
- Police really needs to be core and starting place for Leyden's study
- Erica: "What is the benefit for larger police departments to "merge" with small towns. Mike Edwards went thru a compelling 10-point list, that included economy of support for full-time police officers, ability to comply for efficiently with state regulation, having a substation can help during a MEMA level emergency, having a fueling station in a neighboring town for their equipment.
- Could we go across a state border to share services such as Guilford VT?
- Can Collins access/contact other potential towns? Mike: yes we can, and do this currently. We need direction from Selectboard and this Committee
- At what point(s), and how is it best, for Committee to really engage with Selectboard on what we are learning and directions emerging. Seems like there should be a plan and not ad hoc
- Erica/Police: Currently 4 officers. Charles Brooks about F/T, Mike Aiken about 10 hrs/week. 2 PT officers who do one shift per week each

New Steps:

- Liz will do a **working draft** grant proposal before next meeting on the 19th
- Committee wishes to meet formally with Selectboard during either our next meeting or a separate SB meeting before February 1st
- Collins will be involved as needed in the final grant.
- Liz will also draft a brief update for Leyden Life
- It was unanimous consensus of the Advisory Committee to pursue this grant proposal development process.

Public Comments and other business not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting. – no public comments

Schedule Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 19th at 6:00 pm

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Emily and seconded by Michael

Vote:

Jack Golden: Yes
Emily Yazwinski: Yes
Anders Ferguson: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes
Michael Morgan: Yes
Liz Kidder: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Anders Ferguson