

**Town of Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Remote Meeting February 2, 2022**

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held remotely using the Leyden GoToMeeting account at 6:00 pm, on February 2, 2022.

Present: Elizabeth Kidder (Chair), Marcia Miller, Jack Golden, Emily Yazwinski, Anders Ferguso, Barbara Wallace, Candace Hope (Alternate)

Audience:

Beth Kuzdeba, Michelle Higgins, Chris Larabee, Sara Seinberg, Bill Glabach, James & Christine Brodeur, Erica Jensen, David Pomerantz, Brian Pelletier, Ann Zaveruha

Absent: Michael Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Review of the minutes of Jan 19, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of Jan 19, 2022 was made by Emily Yazwinski and seconded by Marcia Miller

VOTE:

Jack Golden: Yes

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Anders Ferguson: Yes

Marcia Miller: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes

Review of correspondence -

- Email from Cliff Carlson: Expressed an interest in ongoing police presence on the main roads. He says it's worked well for 20 years, and he'd like it to continue.
- Email from Sara Seinberg was also reviewed, expressing gratitude for the work of the committee, and calling for a holistic approach to how we think about public safety in order to address and meet the needs of our community.
- Reviewed email from Candace Hope, with additional suggestions for the Collins Center Scope of Services.
- Discussion of the webinar reviewing Police Reform Act. There is also a PDF summary

Efficiency and Regionalization Grant, Public Safety Feasibility

- Last week there was a site visit with Collins Center: town office, town hall, fire department. They were looking at our town facilities, seeing where improvements should be made.
- Discussion of meeting with Bernardston. Their review of our process was well-received. We should have a response from them tomorrow. Positive reaction to the idea of an interim agreement, with the idea of a long term agreement down the road (after the feasibility study) also seeming agreeable.
- When it comes to Fire Services, it's more complicated because East Leyden tones Bernardston and West Leyden tones Colrain. Feasibility study will need to extend into other towns to adequately cover fire and medical coverage.
- EMD is the last area that will be assessed by the feasibility study. We will work closely with Bernardston for a coordinated emergency response if we move forward with regionalization.

Status of Police, Fire, EMS and EMD in Leyden

- **POLICE:** Emily and Jack are working on contacting local police for input.
Jack: They've developed a list of questions for Mike Aiken. They're working on setting up an appointment with Mike during his office hours, it should take place in the next 1-2 weeks.
Candace asked if the committee can review the list of questions for the police department.
Erica: Received Feb. Patrol schedule. Office hours are in motion. Funds received for FID licenses. Things are moving along.
- **FIRE / Brian:** working on scheduling a meeting with Steven to assess the equipment. We currently have 3 EMTs & 2 first responders. There are 8 more first responders who have gone through training, waiting for paperwork to go through.
Anders: Will be sitting down with Brian in the coming days (with Michael Morgan, liaison to EMS).
- **EMS / Ann:** Ann has been on hiatus for two months and is just getting back up to speed. Applications are in, waiting for CORI checks to clear. A few people are set up with phones, still working on getting everyone else set up to receive calls.
- **EMD / Barbara:** Dan is still saying it will cost \$100/hr to have a conversation. Barbara is going to seek other resources. Steven Foley might be useful.
Anders: Question about stipend for EMD.
Ann: Questions about the \$100/hr consulting fee: it's a conflict of interest for a paid employee of the town to be paid by the town for additional services. This conflict of interest law may also apply to Gilda for consulting services.
- **Erica:** Special town meeting has been canceled.

Priorities and next steps

- Liz is working on getting the grant proposal submitted by the Feb. 10 deadline
- Our liaisons all have work to do.
- Proposal to skip next meeting, Liaisons will send updates from their conversations via email and we'll regroup in early March to discuss the updates.

- Emily thinks it's a good idea to have a public forum sooner than later, so we can begin taking input. Suggested we have a meeting that's open to public questions and comments.
- Jack and Emily will work together to develop an agenda for public comments, with the idea of having a public forum for our meeting on March 16th.

Public Comments

- **Christine:** Might be more productive to focus on a specific aspect of public safety, rather than opening the conversation to ALL elements of public safety.
- **Jack:** thinking about going door to door to hold conversations with people in town, asking what they have to say about public safety.
 - Sara Seinberg said she'd help.
 - Barbara also thinks it's a good idea.
 - Marcia doesn't have time to do very many conversations.
 - Barbara suggested small group conversations.
 - Everyone agrees this should wait until it's warmer so we can all meet outside.

Chris Larabee to Everyone: If you're having a public forum, please let me know a week or so ahead of time and I can put a preview together in the paper so people know it's happening

Next meeting: March 2nd, at 6pm.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marcia Miller and seconded by Barbara Wallace.

Vote:

Jack Golden: Yes

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Anders Ferguson: (signed off early)

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Marcia Miller: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Candace Hope

List of documents:

Overview of Police Reform Act PDF