

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Hall
Regular Session
February 14, 2022
6:00pm

Select Board Members Present: Bill Glabach, Erica Jensen

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Liz Kidder, Beth Kuzdeba, John Higgins, Michele Higgins, Emily Yazwinski, Jack Golden, Sara Seiberg, Ginger Robinson, Erik Johnson, Vanessa Russell, Gary Russell, Anders Ferguson, Bradley Baker, Colleen Caffrey, Nik Adamski, Anne Zavaruha, Mary Glabach, Trish Saline, David Curtis, Glenn Caffrey, Barbara Wallace

Selectboard signed FY 22 warrants and Animal Control Officer MOU, Mass Cultural Council Contract, letter to the Town of Greenfield on their tax assessment increase and the Powers Equipment proposal for a plan for generators for the town office building and the town hall, fire dept and highway buildings.

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:28pm. First order of business is the reorganization of the board.

Motion: Erica moved to nominate Bill as chair. Bill accepted. Unanimous vote. Bill stated they will stay as a two-member board until June when the annual election is held.

Town Caucus date-Bill and Erica agreed on April 4th at 6pm at Town Hall for the nonpartisan Town Caucus. Bill stated there will be a 3yr and 2yr. term for Selectboard.

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funding – the FRCOG sent out the project request forms to all the towns at the end of December and expected them back by January 28. Both Erica and Bill have read over the projects offered and rated on their own. They discussed their suggested ratings.

Motion: Erica moved project #1 Shared Services for police, fire, ambulance, EMS, EMD #2 Rural Policy Planning, #3 Roadway Conditions study and #4 Senior services. Unanimous.

Return of military equipment and town owned property-Erica spoke to Col. Margaret White today. She said things are still moving along. Ginger Robinson asked about the town owned equipment. Did the selectboard look at the inventory list she sent? Nik Adamski questioned how many Humvees we have on Dan's property. Are there 2 or 3?

Dave Curtis asked where the dump truck is the town owns? Bill replied the tree warden was using the truck to pick up wood. Bill said he will ask Bill Brooks where it is. Dave Curtis stated if it cannot be found in 24 to 48 hours you have to call the state police to report it stolen. Dave continued this other equipment Erica received an email on what is it? Erica replied it is a list of surplus equipment Dan acquired that must be returned to the Law Enforcement Support Office, LESO program. Both humvees are on Dan's property. Dave asked how is this being communicated to Dan? Ginger stated LESO will get their equipment, but I want to know where is all this other equipment? Dave Curtis stated this is important. This is completely embarrassing for this town. I hope we can get this equipment soon. Nik Adamski stated we all take the state ethics course and exam, and the fire department is told they cannot take any town owned equipment home with them. How has this happened? Ann Zavaruha stated she called Bill Brooks and he has the dump truck parked on the Brooks property where other town equipment is stored. She asked where all the 15 generators the town got? Do we know where they are? The Leyden taxpayers want to know where their equipment is? Dan Galvis is a private citizen, he still has town equipment on his private property, why is he held to a different standard than others in this town? It has got to stop. We need our equipment back. Trish Saline wants the list of the

equipment as public record to everyone. Bill replied he will have to sit down with Dan to discuss. Barbara Wallace stated she was one of the homes to receive a generator as a warming house. Since Dan resigned there is no one in town who knows how to fix the generators. She said she thought we were putting these generators in homes to be a warming house in case of a disaster. I don't think anyone who has one of these were ill intended. But if we do not have a record of where they are from this day forward, we need to be ethical. Sara Seinberg stated I respectfully disagree with Barbara. Can the selectboard put something in writing to Dan asking for all the town owned equipment back? This is worth over \$1.5ml. Bill said the select board will discuss it.

Public Safety Advisory Committee and grant-Liz kidder stated they met with the selectboard in Bernardston and the select board was very supportive of the grant. Bernardston wrote a letter of support to apply for the Efficiency and Regionalization grant. The grant is asking for \$187,000 for a feasibility study for shared police, fire, ambulance, EMS. Northfield is also applying for shared EMS and ambulance services for the northern towns. Ann Zavauha asked where Colrain is in all this? Liz replied she thinks Colrain would be a part of the Northfield grant. She explained part of her subcommittee's work is to gather information so each member is responsible for various issues. As for the interim agreement with Bernardston for police, the ball is in Bernardston's court as to next steps.

Municipal Assistant Update- there has been a complaint about mold in the town office building basement and Michele is wondering if we should have a company come in and test.

Citizen's Concerns- Barbara Wallace said she was the one that suggested testing before it gets hot again, we do not know if it is aspergillus spores. She also suggested we get mosquito dunks throughout the town to put in ponds and have volunteers put them in. Beth has information on where to purchase. Beth would like us to store masks etc. upstairs and in plastic containers rather than down in the basement. You can email the BOH for any mosquito issues. The dunks Barbara is referring to work well but there needs to be a policy on when to use. The Mosquito control district since newly formed is trying to get organized and we still need to come up with a plan to the state to say what we will do if there is an outbreak of disease so the state will not aerial spray. She also reminded people about ticks, we already have a positive case of Lyme disease in Leyden. Ann Zavaruha asked if there is a state mandate to spray what can we do? Beth replied you can get an exemption but you have to have a written plan.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso