

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

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held in the Leyden Municipal Office Building at 6:00 pm, on March 2, 2022.

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

**Absent:**, Michael Morgan

**Audience:**

Ginger Robinson, Beth Kuzdeba, Erica Jensen, Bill Glabach, Mary Byrne, Michelle Higgins

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.  
Review of the minutes of February 2, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2022 was made by Anders Ferguson and seconded by Emily Yazwinski.

**VOTE:**

Jack Golden: Yes  
Emily Yazwinski: Yes  
Anders Ferguson: Yes  
Marcia Miller: Yes  
Liz Kidder: Yes  
Candace Hope: Yes

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**Review of correspondence -**

- Review of EMS Call Sheet received from Brian Pelletier
- Liz sent a message about Shelburne meeting minutes, they have an EMD committee that meets regularly. A recent conversation discussed the possibility of rolling blackouts occurring, and their committee has developed a plan for dealing with this. Our town should also be aware of concerns of this nature.

**Police: Interim MOA for Police Services with Bernardston**

- Liz met with Chief Palmeri, he's been very cooperative. Our latest working draft incorporates feedback from Chief Palmeri and Liz Kidder.
- Committee reviewed the draft agreement and outline of the proposed budget (to be attached). Proposal is in alignment with the amount Leyden currently spends. Brief discussion of monthly hours Leyden is currently using (136 hours from January) compared to what is being offered by Bernardston in the proposed budget (appx 600 hours).
- Bill thinks April 1st is too quick, May 1st or July 1st would be more realistic. Erica agrees May 1st would be a good target date, it would give us time (60 days) to arrange the

transition. Committee is in agreement about May 1st being a reasonable proposed start date.

- Discussion of Expenditure Ledger from Finance Committee: We have money allocated for the different services (misc. expenditures, chief salary, etc.) from our '22 annual budget that can be reallocated to cover the expenses until a new budget is approved. When we budget for FY23, we can budget for the interim agreement.
- Liz clarified that the interim agreement is based on work by the Collins Center (from the Wendell agreement) and was reviewed by Donna MacNicols.
- Brief discussion of capital investments.
- Brief discussion of Palmeri's request to auction off the current police fleet, with resources being allocated for maintaining Bernardston's fleet. Committee suggests outlining specific numbers to this proposal; part of the funds can go toward maintenance during the interim agreement, with the balance going toward purchasing a new cruiser next year.
- Liz will make the requested edits and send a new draft to the board and Chief Palmeri.

### **Efficiency and Regionalization Grant- Public Safety Feasibility**

- State Division of Local Services (Sean Cronin and Frank Gervasio) asked for a conference call with both towns.
- Liz provided an overview of what was discussed on the conference call:
  - Q: How committed are we to the project? *We are very committed.*
  - Our application is strong, it seems like they want to award it to us.
  - We can't buy the cruiser until the final contract is in place.
  - It's important for us to get an interim agreement in place to demonstrate our commitment to working with Bernardston. We should also take care of some updates before the grant work begins (assuming it does).

### **Fire/EMS: Stephen Foley, Collins Center, met with Brian Pelletier, Anders and Liz at the Leyden Fire Station.**

Recap of meeting from Anders:

- Reviewed equipment, size of the force, annual budget
- Stephen offered suggestions for things they can address immediately
- Discussed the EMD position in town.
- EMS / EMTs should report to the fire chief, not the police chief, which is not how Leyden has functioned under the former police chief. This is what we really need. We have no contract for ambulance service.
- Northfield is putting together a regionalization grant for ambulance service. We specified we'd like to cooperate with them on this project.

### **EMD: draft Local Emergency Management Plan**

- Liz is reviewing the EMD plan and compiling notes about her suggested updates, largely related to lack of specificity.
- Barbara, EMD rep on the committee, is reviewing the plan and compiling her feedback as well.

### **Board of Health and Public Safety responsibilities**

- The Board of Health is responsible for a lot that relates to Public Safety—such as uninhabited buildings (police issue, fire issue).
  - Beth gave a brief overview of the Neighborhood Renewal program, NEMA, EOC. Homeland Security is asking Boards of Health to participate in training programs: HHAN, WARSAC. State is working on developing standards for drinking water.
  - There is a breakdown in communication between the Board of Health, Fire, EMD, Police. Our committee needs to help build a bridge for communication between these departments.
- **Priorities and Next Steps:**
- Liz is working on follow-through on the grant and finalizing the interim agreement with Bernardston.
  - Anders will be away from March 20 - May 15. Candace will sit on the committee in his absence.
  - A member of the community asked about an opportunity for public input, Emily and Jack will be working on it, though it makes sense to wait until Collins Center is on board to facilitate. We can distribute the committee email address so people are able to offer input.
- **Next meeting: March 16th, at 6pm. In person at the town office.**

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Emily Yazwinski and seconded by Barbara Wallace.

Vote:

Jack Golden: Yes

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Anders Ferguson: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Marcia Miller: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Candace Hope

**List of documents:**

EMS Call Sheet

6th Draft of Interim MOA agreement with Bernardston

Shared Police Services Fees

EMD Inventory Check from January 11, 2022

EMD Emergency Plan