

Town of Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting October 18, 2022

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held at the Town Hall at 6:30pm, on October 18, 2022.

Present: Elizabeth Kidder, Chair, Barbara Wallace, Emily Yazwinski, Marica Miller, Devorah Vester, Candace Hope (alternate).

Absent: Anders Ferguson, Michael Morgan

Audience: Michelle Higgins, Glenn Caffery, Nick Adamski, Ken Medvetz, Ginger Robinson, Sara Seinberg, Beth Kuzdeba

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

A motion to approve the minutes of September 20th was made by Marcia Miller and seconded by Emily Yazwinski.

Vote:

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

Devorah Vester: Yes

Marica Miller: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes

Police Task Force updates

We're three months into the agreement and Chief Palmeri has been tracking the hours—we've been under budget each month. The Task Force supports a straightforward fee-for-service structure, it's the most simple solution. Michael Edwards is going to work with the Bernardston finance committee to make sure we're clear on the expenses, ensuring the overhead & admin rate is accurate. The current agreement doesn't account for overtime, so we may need to look at the possibility of paying for overtime (as needed) in the long-term agreement.

Gill has inquired about the possibility of combining with Bernardston as well; their police chief is retiring in a couple of years. The Bernardston representatives on the Task Force were emphatic about Leyden being involved in the conversation about a possible partnership with Gill. They will need to add police officers if Gill joins.

Leyden and Bernardston have both secured attorneys to help us work through the long-term agreement. We estimate there will be two more meetings to finalize the agreement, we will aim to have a public information session for Q&A toward the end of January.

If the agreement moves forward, we'll need to make decisions about what we will do for renovations and improvements to the police substation in Leyden.

Overall, it's going very well and Bernardston is being very kind to us. The committee reviewed the material sent by Chief Palmeri to be included in the November issue of LeydenLife.

Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services updates

Liz distributed copies of a draft overview of the current situation with the Leyden fire department and a list of suggestions for the fire department going forward. She will be presenting this information to the Select Board at their next meeting.

Our fire department has been unsupported for many years, now we're playing catch up. The committee and Stephen Foley have surveyed the state of things at the firehouse, and the provided outline is a summary of steps required for our department to be in compliance with state regulations.

We've had the Tahoe looked at, it's going to cost about \$6,000 to make it functional again. This would be a worthwhile investment if we can turn it into an EMS first-responder vehicle.

We're exploring options for how to pay for the quick response vehicles we would like to purchase. This included a lengthy discussion about grants—how to find them, how to apply, etc. We also need room for them in the Fire Department garage, we may need to add a room to the garage for the firefighters PPE.

EMS is back under the Fire Department (rather than under Police). We need to figure out training and support for our EMS/First Responder volunteers. One recommendation is to develop a relationship with another town for EMS. Stephen Foley is talking to neighboring towns. When we select a town for ambulance partnership, we can collaborate with the selected town to help train our local EMS volunteers.

We learned AMR is not contracted to Greenfield, the contract is with Baystate Medical Center.

RAVE Alert System

We will form a committee with representatives from Public Safety, Selectboard, Board of Health, and Council on Aging. In two weeks the Selectboard will have a meeting to review their to-do list and prioritize what to tackle next. Glenn will prioritize putting together a subcommittee to work on the RAVE Alert System.

Communication – Nov. 7th Public Safety Public Information Meeting

We won't have the Collins Center presenting for this session, the committee will offer the community an update on our progress. Steven Foley will attend. Chief Palmeri will give updates about what's happening with the Police.

Review of draft announcement will be published in the upcoming Leyden Life, feedback or input should be sent to Liz by Wednesday, 10/19.

Public Comments and other business not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Schedule Next Meeting

Public Safety Presentation: Monday, November 7th, public meeting at 7pm
Public Safety Meeting: Tuesday, November 29th at Town Office, 6:30pm.

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

Vote:

Emily Yazwinski: Yes
Barbara Wallace: Yes
Liz Kidder: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes
Marica Miller: Yes
Devorah Vester: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Candace Hope

List of Documents:

Draft public Safety Overview of Leyden Fire Department
Police Leyden Life article for November
November Public Information Meeting slyer