

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
October 24, 2022
6:00pm

Select Board Members Present: Bill Glabach, Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Erica Jensen, Brian Pelletier, Liz Kidder, Nik Adamski, Mary Glabach, Emily Yazwinski, Ginger Robinson, Sara Seinberg, Beth Kuzdeba, Jenny Felske, Anders Ferguson, Martha Hopewell, Bob Penfield

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Select Board read correspondence file and reviewed FY 23 warrants. Announcement from chair that the meeting was being recorded.

Motion: Katherine moved the approval of a FY22 Needham Electric bill of \$60.33 and the FY23 warrant presented. Glenn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion: October 11 meeting minutes moved by Glenn with amendment of adding reporter's name. Katherine seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion: October 17 meeting minutes moved by Glenn. Seconded by Katherine. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Disposition of town property policy:

Reviewed FRCOG policy. Glenn read from Mass.Gov surplus equipment policy and said the state guidelines are more in line with the board would like to do. Bill noted that there might be a policy from the past but cannot be found. Need an official declaration that the property is surplus but also need a policy. Property of little value should be offered to citizens in some process that is fair and well communicated. Use Munici-bid for property of value. Michele noted that networking with other towns is an effective way to get equipment or sell equipment. Ginger has a copy of a Leyden policy and will send to Glenn who will draft based on all these documents and suggestions.

Appointment: Glenn made a motion to appoint 3 members to Solar Energy Planning Committee: Sarah Bartholomew, Emily Yazwinski, and Beth Kuzdeba with Glenn as the liaison. Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

REPORT

Public Safety Advisory Committee:

Liz Kidder presented a draft outline for the Leyden Fire Department. Selectboard had received in advance in writing. She has consulted with Stephen Foley.

When there is a fire call, Shelburne Dispatch (B-2) tones out the Leyden Fire Dept. The Leyden Fire Dept. then responds and when they get to the site then decides whether mutual aid support is needed and notifies B-2. Stephen has talked to other Fire Chiefs that support Leyden through mutual-aid and they have indicated that they would prefer being toned out at the same time as the Leyden Fire Dept. This will allow them to get to

a fire site more quickly. If Leyden Fire gets to a site and sees that mutual aid is not needed, they can notify B-2 and mutual aid could be cancelled. Those chiefs have said that they would rather be sent home if it is determined they are not needed, then arrive later to a more seriously involved fire situation. Stephen Foley, Collins Center consultant, recommends that all towns in mutual aid network be called at the same time as Leyden's Fire Department is notified. They are also exploring options with other towns around us on administrative and clerical needs.

Emergency services also covered by mutual aid assistance. Volunteers would need training for all emergency services – 20 to 30 is the number that Brian Pelletier recommended would be needed to fully cover emergencies since everyone would not be available at the same time. With that number available, possibly 5 would be able to respond. There is a need for an EMS coordinator.

Plan presented could be a model of what a small-town fire and emergency program could be. SB is asked what we would like our fire department to be now and in the future. Needs working sessions with fire department, EMD, Finance Committee, and SB. Longer term plan should address what is required by State law.

There are immediate needs for safety and efficiency of the fire department and SB can prioritize these needs. Brian asked to work with Steve to come up with specific recommendations on the equipment needed or disposed of with a timeline. Erica Jensen volunteered to help expediate.

Immediate needs:

- Current Leyden tanker is not currently up to date with inspections which is a liability issue. Research services that will come to town to do the inspections of all vehicles including Highway. Glenn expressed strongly that this get done this week.
- Up to six weeks to get air packs and get them tested, inspected, and certified.
- Need turn out gear
- Get medical equipment for Tahoe ready to go. First responders have to complete paperwork to be "town employees" in order to drive Tahoe
- Property disposal needed to make room in the building. Sara and Ginger volunteered to help with the disposal – junk, auction or individual bids.
- Get everything that needs to be inspected brought up to date and complete inspections.

Preferably to get these immediate needs addressed or begun to be addressed in the next two weeks.

Municipal Assistant Update:

\$225,000 MassWorks grant for 10 mile bridge has been received. Michele suggests we keep some Chapter 90 money aside in case costs go up in the meantime to complete this job. Project to be completed by June 30, 2026.

Leyden Hazard Mitigation Plan accepted by FEMA. We can now apply for FEMA grants.

Election needs:

- Constables for November 8th election. **Motion:** Glenn moved that Michele arrange for constables for election to ensure constant presence. Katherine seconded. Approved unanimously.
- Police officer needs to accompany the ballots from Town Hall to town offices.
- Wardens, clerks, inspectors, and counters all identified and filled by Town Clerk.
- A form of identification may be required – Town Clerk says that is required but citizens questioned if this was correct. According to Secretary of State website, one must state address and name, may be required identification under some circumstances. This needs to be clarified and communicated properly.
- Observers are allowed but cannot interact with others – can hear the person voting stating who they are and their address.

East Hill Road project is coming along. Stone wall is done, looking to get whatever we can done by end of November. Work to start up again in April. Project is right on time. Everything is coming in on estimate or below.

Recreation Committee: Sue Howarth resigned. Bill moved to accept resignation and thank her for service. Glenn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Police Services: We have not paid Bernardston monthly for police services. Nothing was set up automatically to do. Michele spoke to Bernardston town administrator, and they will ask the police department to send invoices quarterly.

OTHER BUSINESS

Flu and Covid booster shots will be available during November 8th election.

Bob Penfield: Reported that Hunt Hill Road maintenance work has been done by him but did not ask the Highway Department. He stated when Mr. Neipp was on the board, he said it was ok to put stone on the road. He came to the Select Board before he bought the property.

Glenn noted that the full Selectboard needs to give approval to put or alter anything on town roads. Stone should not be dropped on the road. Damage has been done on the road because of equipment used to go down the road.

Bob Penfield is asking permission to maintain the road as needed for his use but is not interested in maintaining the whole road, thinks the town of Leyden should fix the road for fire access.

Glenn stated that Leyden doesn't have a policy about road work on non-maintained roads. The culvert covered by stones will have to be removed before winter according to Highway Superintendent.

Bob Penfield agreed to remove the stones and not do anymore work.

Motion: Katherine moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Michele Giarusso

Municipal Assistant