

Leyden Finance Committee Minutes
February 8, 2023
Town Offices
5:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:07pm.

Present: Ginger Robinson, Nate Messer, Erica Jensen, Paul Hake from the Finance Committee. In addition, William Glabach, Glenn Caffery and Katherine DiMatteo from the Selectboard were along with Liz Kidder from Public Safety, Don Sadowsky from the Conservation Committee and John Higgins from the Recreation Committee.

Ginger and Nate reviewed minutes from previous meeting on October 25, 2022. Both Nate and Ginger agreed that the meeting details were correct, and the meeting minutes will be submitted as-written. Due to only 2 members of the Finance Committee being present that had been at the October meeting, a formal approval on the meeting minutes could not take place.

There were informal introductions for Erica Jensen and Paul Hake who are new members of the Finance Committee. In addition, Ginger gave an explanation on the history of the Broadband Enterprise Account along with other background for both Paul and Erica.

The Finance Committee had a brief discussion with the Selectboard about MLP and how much debt the MLP can take on the broadband debt. Then the \$60,000 appropriation to be discussed at the Town Meeting could potentially be used for town safety.

At 5:30, Liz Kidder of the Public Safety Committee gave an update from the recent Police Task Force meetings. The updates included that Leyden is looking to get 20 hours a week of in-town police coverage and that they're currently working on the detailed breakdown of the costs for Leyden for the police work. Erica inquired about the breakdown of costs for the \$60,388.64 spent to-date on the police expenses and Liz agreed to provide an itemized breakdown. Liz raised that the Public Safety Committee is looking to purchase a new Brush Truck as the one the town currently has is not fully functioning. The Public Safety Committee would be meeting to finalize these costs for this purchase on Feb 15th.

Liz noted that they would be looking to purchase a new cruiser and if they can get budget approval and order by end of March, they could get the cruiser by June or July. The Finance Committee is expected to receive additional budget details next week that include funds for a cruiser. The Public Safety Committee is also seeking grant funding for solar powered radar signs. 6 would cost \$22,000 and they are looking to place 3 of these in Leyden.

And finally, Liz discussed the possibility of hiring a Public Safety Clerk for next year and the reasoning for this role.

The Finance Committee agreed to meet on February 15th to have a vote about once we have the updated costs for the new equipment requested by the Public Safety Committee.

Don Sadowsky presented next from the Conservation Committee. Doug explained that they're looking for funding to determine what invasive species we have in Leyden, where they are, and what are some of the possible control measures. Ginger noted that while we don't have money on our budget for Conservation Committee, Ginger mentioned that this would be well suited for use of free cash considering the budget is only \$2,621.52. Bill recommended taking it out of free cash as well

and leaving room with setting \$3,000 for this task. Ginger noted that this will be voted on later and Doug noted that this first phase would likely start in late summer or early fall.

John gave a quick background on Rec Committee and what is currently in the revolving fund. He noted that we have not generated a revenue since 2020 and that the current balance is around \$1,800. John is seeking \$4,000 for funding for the Rec Committee for programs and equipment in town. He noted the pavilion should be done in May; electrical is the last major thing that needs completing. John would like to use \$4,000 for sports equipment (volleyball, soccer, etc.). Ginger suggested raising the rental rate from \$75 now that the pavilion is in nicer shape. John is requesting the \$4,000 be put in as an annual budget for the Rec Department.

7:34 motion to adjourn from ginger and seconded by Erica. All approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 15th, 2023.