

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
May 8, 2023
6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, John Higgins, Liz Kidder, Nik Adamski, Beth Kuzdeba, Tom Rappensperger, Martha Hopewell, Susan Bobe, Robbie Milner and Emily Yazwinski-remote

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm and announced the meeting was being recorded.

The Select Board signed the warrant. Correspondence file read.

DISCUSSION

Interview Fire Chief position-Nik Adamski

The board reviewed Nik's resume. Bill stated Nik is the only candidate who applied for the position, he has been on the Leyden Fire Department for a long time. Bill asked why he wanted to be fire chief. Nik replied he is excited to work with the Select Board and continue to recruit fire staff. He hopes to train with the Colrain and Bernardston fire depts. Glenn noted the Select Board's plan is to have this a one-year contract. The job description is expansive, have you seen it? You will be responsible for hiring fire personnel. Nik replied, my computer skills are weak. I have built a relationship with another resident to help out with administrative functions. I understand he may be willing to join the fire dept. He was on another fire dept. Nik went on to say he is not a mechanic and would send the trucks out for repair, he will receive estimates in advance and present to the Select Board. He continued that he is open to sharing services with another town. Katherine reiterated what Glenn has already stressed that the job description is very extensive, but we can allow shared responsibilities. She thanked Nik for stepping up to be willing to become our fire chief. Glenn asked what Nik would do to answer residents' calls for inspections or general inquiries. Nik replied he plans on checking emails and phone messages on a regular basis and will respond in a timely way. He stated he will also communicate with surrounding towns to let them know when he is not available.

Motion: Glenn moved to appoint Nik as Fire Chief pending signing a one-year contract. Katherine seconded. Roll call vote: Bill-yes, Glenn-yes, Katherine-yes.

Review Fire Chief contract

Katherine liked the additions Glenn added to the contract since town counsel last looked at it.

Motion: Glenn moved to accept the contract as written after town counsel has reviewed it saying it is ready to be signed by both parties.

Approve purchase of remote meeting technologies to go with EMPG grant funded computer and tv. Suggested items include a cart, two zoom licenses, other required software and set up.

Glenn stated zoom licenses would cost around \$280 for two.

Motion: Glenn moved to purchase a tv mount and 2 zoom licenses from the EMPG grant. Katherine seconded. Bill-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes.

Review current list of town vendor accounts and decide on a list previously sent from Recreation Committee chair, including what the town will support.

Glenn reported he called several vendors from the list previously given by John Higgins. Some vendors will set up accounts, others will not. Katherine would like a preferred vendor list for all departments. Glenn spoke to Amazon Business Prime, and they would set up a line of credit. Glenn will recall Amazon and set up an account as well as a line of Credit. Susan mentioned this is the preferred way to do town business, municipal accounting is very different, and we must follow strict guidelines to prevent fraud and abuse as well as follow the laws.

Decision to join the FRCOG Digital Equity Program

Motion: Katherine moved to join the FRCOG Digital Equity program. Glenn seconded. G-Yes, Katherine-yes, Bill-yes.

Donation Policy

Motion: Glenn moved to approve the new donation policy. Katherine seconded. Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes, Bill-yes.

Municipal Assistant update

Michele asked the board to sign the renewal of general insurance. Bill signed. Michele wrote to the state and asked for an extension for the electric car charging stations and received the extension until December 31, 2023. Michele has been asked what the plans are for Memorial Day. Bill replied the plan is to place flags on graves on Sunday May 28 from 2p-4p and he would like to do Memorial Day ceremony at 9am here in conjunction with the Historical Commission coffee hour. The elevator repair quote needs to be signed and approved for \$3100 to diagnose.

Motion: Glenn moved to approve the elevator repair. Katherine seconded. Bill-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes.

The Fire Association has filled out an application and gave a check for Mother's Day pancake breakfast. The water testing has not come back yet. Michele saw Senator Jo Comerford and Natalie Blais earlier today. She discussed Jo Leyden's situation in purchasing a Fire vehicle. They discussed Jo putting in this year's supplemental budget an earmark for Leyden for \$100,000. Michele stressed the importance of this and how Leyden would be so appreciative. Michele has received a one-day liquor license application for May 21st from Pioneer Valley Brewery. She is just waiting for their certificate of liability insurance. Tom will be sharing more on the race.

Public Comment

John Higgins noted there will be an open house of the pavilion and maybe a bonfire after on June 11. More info will be in Leyden Life. Katherine mentioned the Mass In Motion

grant people met and they have to spend the \$4,000 grant by June 30th. Committee members present would like to redo the Leyden Fact Book with more information in it geared towards seniors. They will be posting a grant-funded position to write up and design the booklet.

Tom Raffensperger shared the printed plan with maps for the Leyden Road race on May 21st. He has been in touch with the police department. He also shared the road closures.

Motion: Glenn moved the approval of liquor license and road closure as presented by Tom for the race. Katherine abstained, Bill-yes, Glenn-yes.

Motion: Glenn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Bill seconded. Katherine-yes, Bill-yes, Glenn-yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant