Town of Leyden 2023 Annual Town Report

Town of Leyden 7 Brattleboro RD Leyden, MA 01301

www.townofleyden.com 417-774-4111

Leyden Massachusetts

Established March 12, 1784 Incorporated February 22, 1809 Population 743

United States Senators

Elizabeth A. Warren Edward J. Markey

Representative in Congress

James P. McGovern

Governor

Maura Healey

Lieutenant Governor

Kim Driscoll

State Senator

Joanne Comerford

Representative in General Court

Natalie M. Blais

Executive Committee Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Kevin Fox, Chair – Council Appointee Jay DiPucchio, Vice-Chair – Regionally Elected Emily Johnson – Franklin Regional Planning Board Appointee Jane Peirce – Regionally Elected Vacant (To be filled April 2024) – Council Appointee

Front and back cover photos submitted by Tabitha Howard

Introduction

Welcome to the Town of Leyden's Annual Report. In this report you will find information on Leyden's municipal government, social and cultural activities, our regional schools, and county organizations that support the wellbeing and vitality of our town and its citizens.

Massachusetts requires that towns make available an annual town report before the annual town meeting. The following reports are those that are required to be included: Select Board for the annual or preceding fiscal year, School Committee, Accountant for the preceding fiscal year, and Treasurer for the preceding fiscal year. All other reports of town officials, boards, commissions, councils, and other information regarding individuals and town or county activities is decided by vote or by-law or as the Select Board considers expedient. The contents of this Annual Report continues what has been common practice in Leyden for many years and set by the Select Board to include reports beyond those legally required. However it is not a comprehensive report because it is voluntary for the other boards, commissions, councils, and organizations to submit. The 2023 Annual Town Report, though, is useful in providing a recap of town decisions and activities and is an interesting look back.

As a result of the legal requirements and the precedence set for the contents of Leyden's Annual Town Report, the time period of the reports is not consistent. The Select Board, Accountant, and Treasurer reports, the Appointed Officials list, Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meetings minutes, and Franklin County Regional Housing and Development Authority report are for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The Franklin County Technical School report is for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The remaining reports are for the calendar year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. To make it as easy and clear as possible to understand, the time period for each report appears at the beginning of the report.

Since the legally required reports are fiscal year reports, the Select Board is considering proposing to include a Warrant article at the June 3, 2024 Annual Town Meeting that the Leyden Annual Town Report be changed to a fiscal year report. With such a change, the Annual Town Report would improve the consistency of the reporting, its contents would provide more recent information and it could be available well in advance of the Annual Town Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the governance, maintenance, educational, safety, and social activities of Leyden, and to those who submitted the reports and the photographs for this report. Our tiny town is unique not only because of its rural beauty and character but also because of all the residents who choose to live here as friends and neighbors.

Dedication

In recognition of unwavering dedication, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our community, we proudly dedicate this Annual Town Report to the members of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee:

Elizabeth Kidder, Chair Anders Ferguson Jack Golden Marcia Miller Emily Yazwinski Barbara Wallace (Alternate) Candace Hope

During a time of profound challenges, you envisioned a brighter future for our town, remained hopeful and decisive when obstacles might have seemed insurmountable, and ultimately led efforts to rebuild and enhance our public safety services. You rallied expertise, engaged citizens, and forged partnerships with town and neighboring town official and state representatives. Through collaboration and earnest dialogue, you exemplified the power of teamwork.

Your accomplishments during the past two years are significant: Leyden has signed an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) for Police Services with Bernardston, signed a contract for Ambulance Services with the Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association, seen our Fire Department rebuilt, worked with the State Legislature to procure funds towards a new quick attack fire vehicle, signed a contract for emergency medical first responder training with Community 911, and under the guidance of our Co-EMDs. David Pomerantz and Erica Jensen, seen the update of our Emergency Management Plan and the rebuilding of an emergency management committee.

You have set a shining example for small town governments, demonstrating what is possible when a community comes together with a shared purpose.

As we reflect on the progress made and your remarkable achievements, we extend our deepest gratitude for your tireless advocacy and unwavering dedication to the safety of our beloved Town of Leyden.

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The 2023 Leyden Town Report was compiled, designed, and formatted by Janell Howard

General Government

Select Board Town Coordinator Elected Town Officials Appointed Town Officials

Select Board

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Hard to believe that a year has gone by since Katherine and Glenn were elected as Select Board members, and that the board now includes Erica Jensen who was elected for a three-year term in June 2023. Her past experience on the Select Board, and as Co-Emergency Management Director and member of the Finance Committee, prepared her to jump right in. Welcome Erica!

Key accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

The one-year agreement (July 2022 to June 2023) with Bernardston to provide police services to the town proved to be a successful and economical approach for Leyden and has received positive support from many citizens. A three-year Intermunicipal Agreement was signed between Leyden and Bernardston for the continued services of the Bernardston Police Department. Kudos to the task force and Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee who drafted and negotiated the Intermunicipal Agreement for this accomplishment. As required under the agreement, a new Police Advisory Committee was formed with representatives from Bernardston and Leyden Select Boards, Finance Committees, and citizens.

At the Annual Town Meeting in June, a Stretch Energy Code was accepted as a town General Bylaw. Also, a new Zoning Bylaw, Solar Photovoltaic Installations, was also approved. Thanks to the Planning Board and Solar Planning Committee for the extensive work to write a bylaw that does not limit commercial solar projects but protects the rural character and beauty of the town.

Leyden's participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program that had lapsed since 2006 was renewed. Through this program money is available to fund low interest loans to eligible homes/individuals for septic systems, wells, water heaters, roofs, heating systems, lead paint removal for houses built prior to 1978. The Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCHRA) handles the applications and does a site visit and analysis, designs the project, and does the bidding work required for contractors. The loan is a deferred payment loan that is recorded against the property.

A series of policies were approved to ensure clarity and consistency about processes and procedures. The following policies can be found on our website under Resources-Policies: Surplus Property Disposition Policy and Surplus Property Form, Town Hall and Town Common Rental, Password Security Policy, Cash Control Procedures, and In-Kind Donation Form.

Grants and additional funding:

In addition to the grants received and reported by the Town Coordinator in this Annual Report, Leyden signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to participate in the Commonwealth's Mass in Motion movement. This movement includes creating Age-Friendly communities through activities, events, and policies. A working group under the Select Board was formed to identify challenges for older adults and discuss opportunities to enable all to access buildings and services in Leyden. With the FRCOG grant of \$4,200, the Leyden Fact Book, a resource of town government services, was updated and a list of local and regional services for older

adults and caregivers was added, reprinted, and sent to all citizens. Additional funding from FRCOG will support continued work in FY24.

Initiated by the Select Board, a proposal was submitted to MassTrails Grants program for a walking trail in the woodland owned by the town adjacent to Avery Field. The proposal included an accessible as well as a hiking trail with a StoryWalk® component for children. Although supported by the Library, Recreation Committee, and many citizens, it was not awarded in the competitive grant process. If the town is to pursue a future MassTrails grant, additional preliminary work, and design, as well as additional community engagement will be necessary.

Important issues:

The Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) now consists of three towns: Bernardston, Northfield, and Leyden after the town of Warwick withdrew and created their own school district. The school budgets, both PVRSD, Franklin County Technical School, and capital costs for Bernardston Elementary School, represent almost half of the town's total budget with little expectation that the budgets for the schools will decrease under the current structure. A Six-town Regional Planning Board was formed prior to 2020 and has worked to evaluate the possibility of joining the PVRSD with the Gill-Montague School District, the costs of such a merger and any benefits to the towns and the students. The burden of increased school budgets, old facilities that need improvements, and declining enrollment are of great concern. How can the town afford to educate our students adequately while providing the highway, public safety, governance, social and cultural services that our citizens deserve? We will work with our School Committee, Finance Committee, and our neighboring town officials to present the best options. We have and will continue to speak with our State Representative, Natalie Blais and Senator Jo Comerford, who have been extremely engaged with our tiny town and most helpful in advocating for more support from the Commonwealth for our rural schools and communities.

Plans for FY24:

The Select Board plans to hire an administrative assistant to support the public safety departments and committees in town, as well as projects and tasks assigned by the Select Board. This additional position was in the budget approved at the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Thank you for recognizing that the complexities of municipal government exceed the capacity of the one paid administrative staff we have had during the past years.

We are thankful to the Town of Northfield for sharing their Assistant Town Clerk, Amanda Lynch, with Leyden as an interim solution to fill our Town Clerk position. Amanda brought needed knowledge, organization, and management of this critical position. With Amanda's plan to give full attention to Northfield, a broad search will be conducted to appoint a more permanent Town Clerk for FY24.

At the Annual Town Meeting one article was passed over: regarding whether a portion of Hunt Hill Road would be a statutory private way. However, the meeting did approve abandoning and discontinuing a specific portion of Hunt Hill Road that is the steepest, most vulnerable part of the road. The Select Board will continue, under the guidance of our legal counsel, to discuss the remaining unmaintained portion of

Hunt Hill Road with the goal of arriving at a mutually beneficial agreement that would relieve the town of bringing the road up to required specifications (a costly proposition), meet environmental protection requirements, and also give the landowners access to their property.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan completed in 2010 is due for an update and revisions. Working with the town boards, committees, councils, departments, and interested citizens, an Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee will be formed to solicit opinions and engage active participation in plan that will set guidance for decision-making into the future. Committee formation is expected by June 2024, and it is anticipated that the committee will work with the FRCOG to complete their assignment. Our intention is that this plan will not be a dust-collector on the shelf but will contain action steps to be taken to implement the plan over a five-year period.

In FY 24, we will continue to work on policies that will help the functioning of Town government and operations to function efficiently with transparency and equity, and to reduce confusion.

Thanks:

Volunteers who gave so much of their time and personal energy to keep our town running, chose to resign during this year. Brian Pellitier, our Fire Chief and longtime volunteer firefighter who also lead the Leyden Firemen's Association resigned his position, which was accepted with regret and appreciation for his service. After an open search, Nik Adamski was appointed Fire Chief with a one-year contract beginning in May 2023 and took on the duty of reviving the Fire Department and upgrading equipment.

It was also with appreciation and regret that the resignation of all the members of the Leyden Council on Aging was accepted in January 2023. The task to replace these dedicated women was not an easy one, however by June the Council had a new roster of six members to build on the past accomplishments.

Thanks to all who served with commitment and passion, and those who stepped up to carry on the work.

A fond farewell to Bill Glabach who served many years (24!) on the Select Board and numerous other committees and who, after threatening to retire many times, finally made his move to a man of leisure.

THANK YOU, Bill, for your long, dedicated service to the town!

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Caffery, Chair

Members:

- Glenn Caffery, Chair
- Katherine DiMatteo
- Erica Jensen



Photo submitted by Karin Parks

Town Coordinator

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and works in progress:

Project management of many grants was completed in the calendar year 2023.

- East Hill Road-this grant was received in 2022, the second part was completed in June 2023. The work was completed early and under budget by about \$175,000.
- Efficiency and Regionalization grant for Public Safety completed.
- Installation of two electric vehicle stations totaling four chargers at two different sites- Town Office Building and Town Hall completed.
- Opioid settlement funds-ongoing applications for Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart National Opioid Settlements
- MIIA risk management grant for the Fire Department
- MEMA grant for our Emergency Management department
- Council on Aging grant
- Cultural Council grant
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) ongoing projects and use of funds





Welcomed and trained a new Administrative Assistant for several town departments and committees.

Coordinated the move of the Police Department and Town Clerk's office and created new office space in the former Police Station.

Coordinated a new preschool play group program (hosted by PVRSD staff) in the Town Office building for families each week.

Projects in Progress:

- Leyden received a state grant from the MA Administration and Finance for \$100,000 as part of the Governor's supplemental budget earmarked for a fire vehicle/equipment.
- Submitted application to become a Green Community. This status will give us the opportunity to apply for grants for possible improvements to town buildings like insulation, windows, doors, and possible solar array to cover costs for town building utilities.
- Working with Building Needs Study Committee to coordinate vendors and implement suggestions for improvement working with the custodian to order supplies and manage projects as needed.

Budget expenditures:

Expense account is used for continuing education and conferences. The money was spent on the following:

- Attended the annual Municipal Management Association (MMA) Conference in Boston for 2 days in January 23.
- Attended the MMA local breakfast in Greenfield.
- Attended several meetings of the Small Town Administrators Members (STAM) two education meetings in the spring and fall.
- Attended Department of Local Services (DLS) annual meeting.
- Completed several education webinars through MMA and Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA).

Grants and additional funding received:

- East Hill Road Grant- Received \$675,000 over 2 years. Work completed at approximately \$500,000.
- Opioid funds-ongoing very small amounts coming in regularly. This money was voted at our Annual Town meeting to go into a special fund to be used for educational opportunities to combat the opioid epidemic.
- The town received another \$58,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
- Community Compact grant for financial policies-Department of Local Services (DLS) will be working with the town in the spring of 2024.
- 10-mile bridge project. Applied and received \$225,000 to remove and replace membrane of the bridge, chip and patch the deck as needed, rehabilitate the deck joints by replacing the seals & patching the concrete headers. Work will begin in 2024.
- Received \$100,000 earmark from the FY24 state supplemental budget for fire vehicle/equipment.

Some of you may have noticed my new title is Town Coordinator changed from Municipal Assistant. The title and job description were changed by the Select Board to reflect the job I do. In 2021 when the Department of Local Services (DLS) conducted a financial review of the town, they wrote in the Financial Management final report that Leyden's upcoming job description project presents the opportunity for the

Select Board to reexamine the Municipal Assistant position. Its job description was last revised some number of years before the current officeholders were appointed. By the listed responsibilities, as well as the activities currently being performed, the role involves about 50 percent secretarial duties and 50 percent higher-level tasks, such as coordinating the annual budget process, pursuing, and managing grants, and acting as the town's chief procurement officer and information technology coordinator. No other Massachusetts community has a Municipal Assistant job title, which was likely chosen to indicate a rank above a secretary but below Town Administrator. In one sense titles are only semantical; what matters are the actual duties associated with the job.

Plans for the coming year:

Continue securing and managing as many grants as possible.

Complete the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) course on procurement and become certified as a procurement officer. This is highly recommended by the OIG for all municipalities.

Thanks:

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Select Board for recognizing the work I do on a daily basis and following through on changing my job title and job description. Maybe now when I attend state and local meetings no one will ask me what does a Municipal Assistant do?

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Giarusso Town Coordinator





Photos submitted by Michele Giarusso

Elected Town Officials

The following were the elected officials as of July 1, 2023. All serve terms of three years unless otherwise noted.

Board of Assessors

Kenneth Spatcher	.2024
John Rodgers	.2025
Robert DePalma	.2026

Board of Health

Marcia Miller	.2024
Elizabeth Kuzdeba	.2025
Jerry Lund	.2026

Constable

Philip Juliani	.2024
Vanessa Russell	.2025
Gary Russell	.2026

Library Trustees

Richard DiMatteo	.2024
Carolyn Asbury	.2025
Tom Raffensperger	.2026

Planning Board (5 Years)

David Curtis	.2024
James Brodeur	.2025
Emily Yazwinski	.2026
Elizabeth Kidder*	.2027
Sarah Bartholomew	.2028

Moderator (1 Year)

Select Board

Glenn Caffery	.2024
Katherine DiMatteo	.2025
Erica Jensen	.2026

Tree Warden (1 Year)

William Brooks......2024

*Appointed to fill a vacancy until the 2024 Annual Town Election

Appointed Town Officials

FY2023 Select Board Appointments

Appointments are for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. Terms are for one year and expire as of June 30, 2023, unless otherwise noted. This list will be updated from time to time if resignations or appointments are made throughout the year.

Accountant – 3 year term

Angelica Desroches	2023

Animal Control Officer

Sheriff's Department (under contract for 3 years)2025

Agricultural Commission – 3 year term

Warren Facey, Jr.	2023
Tom Ashley	2023
William Glabach	2023
Lynette Snedeker	2024
Carol Kuzdeba	2024
Beth Kuzdeba	2024

Building Needs Study Committee

David Vreeland	2023
David Pomerantz	2023
Richard Parks	2023
Ken Medvetz	2023

Conservation Commission -- 3 year term

Richard DiMatteo, Chair	2026
Donald Sadowsky	2025
Karen O'Neil	2023
Michael Morgan	2024
Evan Abramson	2024

Council On Aging -- 3 year term

Gilda Galvis	2023 Resigned 01/2023
Susan Howarth	2023 Resigned 10/2022
Linda Baker	2023 Resigned 01/2023
Kathy Fritz	2023 Resigned 01/2023
Michele Higgins	2023 Resigned 01/2023
Robbie Milner	2023 Resigned 01/2023
Andrea Zimmerman	2023 Resigned 01/2023

Amy St. Clair	2026
Chris Maguire	2025
Anne Garvey	2025
Meredith Lein	2025
Nan Rolstad	2024

Cultural Council – 3 year term

2025
2025
2023
2024
2025
2026

Deputy Collector

Arthur Jones	2023
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East Hill Cemetery Commission – 3 Year Term

Lynette Snedeker, Vice Chair	2023
Deborah Bernard, Clerk/Treasurer	2023
Andy Baker	2025
Marylou Barton	2025
Sid Herron	2025
Rob Snedeker	2025

Emergency Management Director

Erica Jensen Co-Director	2023
David Pomerantz Co-Director	2023

Emergency Management Public Information Officer

Sara Seinberg	2023
Fire Department	
Brian Pelletier Fire Chief Nikolas Adamski	2023 Resigned 02/6/23 2023 Fire Chief 03/2023
Franklin Regional Council of Governments Me	mber
Michele Giarusso	2023

Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) Representative

David Pomerantz	2023
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Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Member

Glenn Caffrey	2023
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Franklin Regional Planning Board Representatives

Select Board Representative:	
Katherine DiMatteo	2023
Planning Board Representative:	
James Brodeur	2023

Franklin Regional Transit Authority Member

William Glabach	2023
Alternate Municipal Assistant	

Historical Commission – 3 year term

Linda Allis	2024
Holly Spatcher	2024
Nannette Rolstad	2025
Amy St. Clair	2025
Vanessa Russell	2025

Honorary Members – Historical Commission

Warren Facey, Jr.

Inspector of Barns & Animals

Sean Berthiume	2023

Inspector of Buildings

Franklin Regional Council of Gov'ts Inspection Program	
(FRCOGIP)	2023
Local Inspector of Buildings	
Alternate Inspector of Buildings	
Inspector of Plumbing/Gas	
Inspector of Wiring	

Municipal Light Plant

Jack Golden, Manager	2025
Select Board serves as the MLP Board	

Open Space and Recreation Committee- 3 year term

William Glabach	2024
Richard DiMatteo	2024
Robert DePalma	2025

Donald Clark	2024
Planning Board Alternate	
Sarah Bartholomew	2023
Police Department	
Bernardston Chief James Palmieri and Officers	all Bernardston Police 2023
Poll Workers	
Marie Lovley Joyce Muka Kathleen Fritz John Higgins Michele Higgins	2023 2023 2022 2023 2023
Recreation Committee Appointments	
Brian Pelletier Susan Howarth John Higgins, Chair Karin Parks Ella Muka Abbi Pratt	2023 2023Resigned 10/2022 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023
Registrar of Voters	
Al Woodhall Pamela Brown Martha Hopewell	2023 2024 2025
Tax Collector – 3 year term	
Roxanne Zimmerman	2024
Town Clerk (temporary)	
Amanda Lynch Dan Campbell	2023 2023
Town Counsel	
Donna McNicol	2023
Treasurer – 3 year term	
Susan Bobe	2023

Veterans' Agent	
Tim Niejadlik	2023
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' District Repre	sentative
Erik Johnson	2023
Wells Trust Representative – 5 year term	
Lois W. Feldman	2025
Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Mass. R	Representative – 3 year term
Paul O'Neil	2023
Zoning Board of Appeals – 3 year term	
Jim Brodeur	2023
Andrew Baker	2023
John Higgins	2024
Cecelia Tusinski	2025
ADVISORY COMMITTEES For FY23	
Solar Advisory Committee	
Glenn Caffery (SB Rep)	2023
Sarah Bartholomew	2023
Emiily Yazwinski	2023
Elizabeth Kuzdeba	2023
FY2022 MODERATOR'S APPOINTMENTS	
Finance Committee – 3 year term	
	2022

Michele Higgins	2023
Ginger Robinson, Chair	2023
Thomas Raffensberger	2024Resigned
Nate Messer	2023
Joyce Muka	2024Resigned
Paul Hake	2026
Erica Jensen	2026

Franklin County Technical School Committee – 3 year term

Gerald Levine	2023
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Planning Committee for PVRSD-5 year term

Representatives from School Committee:	
Michele Giarusso	2026
Karen O'Neil	2026

Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

Elizabeth Kidder	2023
Anders Ferguson	2023
Jack Golden	2023
Marcia Miller	2023
Emily Yazwinski	2023
Barbara Wallace	2023
(Alternate) Candace Hope	2023



Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Town Records

Town Clerk Annual Town Meeting Warrant Special Town Meeting Minutes Special Town Meeting Warrant

Town Clerk

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Disclaimer: While Paul has tried to piece together as much information as possible, coming in 80% of the way through the year and immediately transitioning office spaces, followed by a high level of activity in early 2024 has resulted in a lack of time to be able to adequately go through and organize old files. Paul's hope is that the Town Clerk 2024 annual report will be much more thorough and complete.

Staffing:

Amanda Lynch served as clerk for most of 2023, ultimately submitting her resignation in the Fall. Thank you to Amanda for your time in Leyden and for leaving me in a good position to begin my tenure here.

After interviewing multiple candidates I was selected for the position in mid-October. While I am new to Leyden, I have served as town clerk in Rowe for four years, and over the past 16 years have served in various capacities in town government such as on the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, etc. I currently work full-time as the Town Administrator in Ashfield.

Office Updates and 2024 Goals:

Beginning almost immediately the dog license process was digitized- all licenses are now forms generated on the computer, and all vaccination records have been scanned into the computer with originals returned to their owners when applying for a license. Not only does this make for a complete database, it also lessens the amount of paperwork needed in the office. While 2024 will be busy in terms of elections (four to be held this year!) and learning new state software (new voter registration system and death record program), my hope is to have some time to digitize records and improve long-term record archiving. Currently vital records from the last 40 years all sit in file folders- my goal is to scan and catalogue these for easier retrieval and preservation.

Appreciation:

Thank you to the Select Board for giving me the opportunity to serve as town clerk. Thanks to Michele Giarusso who has been so helpful in navigating the details of Leyden town government. Much appreciation to Janell Howard for her assistance with time/labor-intensive tasks that have allowed me to focus on other business of the office.

Thanks to election workers Marie Lovley, Joyce Muka, Michèle Higgins, Kathy Fritz, and Stephen Richter; Constables Gary Russell, Vanessa Russell, and Phil Juliani; and Registrars Pam Brown, Martha Hopewell, and Al Woodhull. Elections couldn't have occurred without these people!

But mostly, thanks to everyone in Leyden. This community has proven itself to be a very friendly and welcoming group, and it's been a privilege to serve here these last few months.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul McLatchy III

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Leyden

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting

Warrant

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

6:00 PM

MEETING STARTED AT 6:00 PM

To a Constable in the Town of Leyden, in the County of Franklin, **GREETINGS**:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the LEYDEN TOWN HALL on 16 West Leyden Road, on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1-

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums in accordance with the proposed budget to defray the operating expenses of the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or take any action related thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer from available funds, a sum or sums in accordance with the proposed budget to defray the operating expenses of the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024

ELWIN BARTON MADE MOTION TO AMEND MOTION TO AMEND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANT SALARY FROM \$60,060 TO \$57,200 MOTION TO AMEND MOTION FAILED.

GINGER ROBINSON MADE MOTION TO AMEND MOTION TO MOVE \$6,300 FROM BUILDING UTILITES TO HIGHWAY EXPENSE MOTION TO AMEND MOTION PASSED.

MOTION BY: GINGER ROBINSON

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 2-

To see if the Town will vote to set the stipend compensation for all elected officials of the town (Select board, Town Clerk, Moderator and Constable (or whatever elected officials receive compensation from

the Town) as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, section 108 to be made effective from July 1, 2023, as contained in the budget or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to set the stipend compensation for all elected officials of the town (Select board, Town Clerk, Moderator and Constable (or whatever elected officials receive compensation from the Town) as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, section 108 to be made effective from July 1, 2023, as contained in the budget

MOTION BY:	GINGER ROBIN	SON
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 3-

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2024 as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2024 as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIM	1ATTEO
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 4-

To see if the Town will vote to authorize all Town departments, boards, and committees to apply for any new state or federal grants and authorize the Select Board to accept and expend such grants. Any grant requiring matching funds will be subject to a Town Meeting appropriation.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to authorize all Town departments, boards, and committees to apply for any new state or federal grants and authorize the Select Board to accept and expend such grants. Any grant requiring matching funds will be subject to a Town Meeting appropriation.

MOTION BY: ERICA JENSEN

VOTE REQUIRED:

MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 5-

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Library Incentive Grant, Municipal Equalization Grant, and the Non-Resident Circulation Grant (state aid award) and to transfer those sums to the Robertson Memorial Library account for expenditures or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to accept the Library Incentive Grant, Municipal Equalization Grant, and the Non-Resident Circulation Grant (state aid award) and to transfer those sums to the Robertson Memorial Library account for expenditures

MOTION BY:	TOM LUCK

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 6-

To see if the Town will vote to accept any sum of money that may be granted by the Quintus Allen Trust Fund, and to appropriate such funds for equipment, activities and supplies for the benefit of Leyden children, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Quintus Allen was an original trustee of the Greenfield Savings Bank.

Upon his death in 1884, he established a trust fund to be used for

education-related expenses in Colrain, Gill, Leyden, and Shelburne.

The interest earned by the Trust is distributed to those towns each year.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to accept any sum of money that may be granted by the Quintus Allen Trust Fund, and to appropriate such funds for equipment, activities and supplies for the benefit of Leyden children

MOTION BY:	TOM LUCK	
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 7-

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum of money that may be available under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws and authorize the Select Board to enter into

a contract with the Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement of said amount or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to accept and expend any sum of money that may be available under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws and authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement of said amount

MOTION BY:	ERICA JENSEN	
VOTE REQUIRED:	TWO-THIRDS-VOTE	PASSED

ARTICLE 8-

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,000 to the Assessors Reevaluation account, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

ARTICLE 9-

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,000 to the Audit Fund, to be administered by the Select Board for town audits or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,000 to the Audit Fund, to be administered by the Select Board for town audits

MOTION BY: KATHERINE DIMATTEO

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 10-

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$1,500 to the Land Acquisition account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$\$1,500 to the Land Acquisition account

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DI	MATTEO
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED UNANIMOUS

General By-laws Amendment to Establish and Authorize Revolving Funds

ARTICLE 11-

To see if the Town will vote to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Leyden by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain Town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. <u>Purpose</u>. This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by Town departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2.

2. <u>Expenditure Limitations</u>. An authorized department or agency head, board, committee, or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

- A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers.)
- B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
- C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this by-law or Town Meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the Selectboard and Finance Committee.

3. <u>Interest</u>. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by- law shall be credited to the general fund.

4. <u>Procedures and Reports.</u> Except as provided in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of Town monies and the expenditure and payment of Town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The Town Accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure. In the regular report the Town Accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.

5. <u>Authorized Revolving Funds</u>. The Table establishes:

- A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a Town department, board, committee, agency or officer.
- B. The department or agency head, board, committee, or officer authorized to spend from each fund.
- C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.
- D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.
- E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.
- F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and
- G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

Fund	Revenue Source	Authority to Spend Fund	Use of Fund	Spending Limit	Disposition of FY23 Fund Balance	Restrictions/ Comments
Recreation Committee Revolving Account	Fees Collected for Recreation Committee Events	Recreation Committee	Recreation Committee Expenses	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$1022	
Animal Control Officer Revolving Account	Fees Collected for citations, licenses and registration	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control Expenses	\$5,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$115	
Fire Safety Inspections Revolving Account	Fees Collected for Safety Inspections by the Fire Department	Fire Chief or Designee	Pay for the Safety Inspection Services	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$-70	
Planning Board Revolving Account	Fees collected from applications requiring public	Planning Board	Planning Board advertising expenses	\$3,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$946	

	hearings, copies of bylaws					
Agricultural Commission Revolving Account	for fines or	Commission	Agricultural Commission expenses		Balance Available for Expenditure \$929	
East Hill Cemetery Commission Revolving Account	for burial plots		East Hill Cemetery Expenses	\$5,000	Balance Available for Expenditure	
ZBA Revolving Account	Fees collected from applications requiring		ZBA Advertising expenses	\$1,000	Balance Available for Expenditure	

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Leyden by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain Town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2

MOTION BY: ERICA JENSEN

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 12-

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$3,884.00 for capital expenses for Bernardston Elementary School or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,884.00 for capital expenses for Bernardston Elementary School

MOTION BY: ERICA JENSEN

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 13-

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$4,000 for the Recreation Committee or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the Recreation Committee

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIMATTEO

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 14-

To see if the Town will agree to change the name from Selectmen to Select Board or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

To amend the Town's general bylaws as follows:

Change the name of the Board of Selectmen to the "Select Board," and to amend each of the Town's General bylaws to substitute the term "Select Board" for the term "Board of Selectmen;" to substitute the word "Select Board member(s)" for the word "Selectmen"; and to substitute the word "Select Board member(s)" for the word "Selectman"; and further affirm that upon the effective date of such amendment, the term "Board of Selectmen" shall be taken to mean "Select Board" and the term "Selectmen" shall be taken to mean "Select Board member(s)" and the term "Selectman" shall be taken to mean "Select Board member(s)" for the purposes of all laws, regulations, contracts, agreements or other documents that refer to or are applicable to the Town of Leyden and further to authorize the Town Clerk to make any non-substantive, ministerial revisions to ensure that gender and numerical issues in related text are revised properly to reflect such change in title; or take any action related thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to agree to change the name from Selectmen to Select Board

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIMATTEO

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 15-

To see if the town will vote to repeal any bylaw adopting the Annual Town Meeting date for the 3rd Monday in June and to adopt a new bylaw: the Annual Town meeting for the Town of Leyden shall be held on the 1st Monday in June or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to repeal any bylaw adopting the Annual Town Meeting date for the 3rd Monday in June and to adopt a new bylaw: the Annual Town meeting for the Town of Leyden shall be held on the 1st Monday in June

MOTION BY:	ERICA JENSEN	
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 16-

To see if the Town will vote to repeal any bylaw that set the voting of local officials on the last Monday in June and to adopt a new bylaw: the Annual Town Election for the Town of Leyden shall be held on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in June from 12 pm to 8 pm or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to repeal any bylaw that set the voting of local officials on the last Monday in June and to adopt a new bylaw: the Annual Town Election for the Town of Leyden shall be held on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in June from 12 pm to 8 pm

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIMATTEO

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 17-

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint up to three constables according to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 91A, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint up to three constables according to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 91A

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIMATTEO

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED MAJORITY

ARTICLE 18-

To see if the Town will vote to abandon and discontinue a portion of Hunt Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning 943' from the intersection of Hunt Hill Road and East Hill Road, then running westerly a distance of 3,582' to the intersection with Brattleboro Road.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to abandon and discontinue a portion of Hunt Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning 943' from the intersection of Hunt Hill Road and East Hill Road, then running westerly a distance of 3,582' to the intersection with Brattleboro Road.

GLENN CAFFERY MADE MOTION TO AMEND MOTION TO "Town will vote to abandon and discontinue a portion of Hunt Hill Rd AKA Hunt Road more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning at a point marked by a 7/8" iron pipe approximately 1726' from the intersection of Hunt Hill Road also known as Hunt Road and East Hill Road, then running westerly a distance of approximately 2,799' to the intersection with Brattleboro Road" MOTION TO AMEND MOTION PASSED

MOTION BY:	GLENN CAFFER	1
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED MAJORITY, TWO OBSTAINED

ARTICLE 19-

To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of a statutory private way of a portion of Hunt Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning 943' from the intersection of Hunt Hill Road and East Hill Road, then running westerly a distance of 3,582' to the intersection with Brattleboro Road.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town pass over Article 19

MOTION BY: GLENN CAFFERY

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED MAJORITY, SIX OBSTAINED

ARTICLE 20-

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept by gift, deed, or take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire 30 acres more or less of land on Hunt Hill Road, Map 2.0 Lot 37, or take any action hereto.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to accept by gift, deed, or take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire 30 acres more or less of land on Hunt Hill Road, Map 2.0 Lot 37

GLENN CAFFERY MADE MOTION TO AMEND MOTION TO "the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to accept by gift, deed, or take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire A FULL OR PARTIAL INTEREST IN 30 acres more or less of land on Hunt Hill Road, Map 2.0 Lot 37" MOTION TO AMEND MOTION PASSED

MOTION BY:	GLENN CAFFERY	
VOTE REQUIRED:	TWO-THIRDS-VOTE	-PASSED

ARTICLE 21-

To see if the Town will vote to move \$125,000 from the Broadband/Enterprise Special Purpose Stabilization account to pay down broadband debt, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MODERATOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST ARTICLE 21 EMILY YAZWINSKI NOMINATED TEMPORARY MODERATOR FOR ARTICLE 21

MOTION: I move the Town vote to move \$125,000 from the Broadband/Enterprise Special Purpose Stabilization account to pay down broadband debt

MOTION BY: ERICA JENSEN

VOTE REQUIRED: TWO-THIRDS-VOTE -PASSED

ARTICLE 22-

To see if the Town will vote to recommend that the following sums be appropriated to operate the Leyden Broadband Enterprise Fund:

MLP Budget

Expenses	\$135,060.00	
Administration	50,000.00	
ISP	<u>\$133,880.00</u>	
Total Expense	\$318,940.00	
Revenue		
Internet and phone	<u>\$318,940.00</u>	
Total Revenues	\$318,940.00	
SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD		
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL		
FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL		
<i>MOTION:</i> I move the Town vote to recommend that the following sums be appropriated to operate the Leyden Broadband Enterprise Fund:		
MOTION BY:	ERICA JENSEN	

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 23-

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements in FY23 resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any other action related thereto.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or

regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements in FY23 resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIMATTEC)
VOTE REQUIRED:	TWO-THIRDS-VOTE	-PASSED

ARTICLE 24-

To see if the Town will vote to accept the report of the Town Officers for the year 2022 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to accept the report of the Town Officers for the year 2022

MOTION BY:	KATHERINE DIMATTEO
	KAI HENINE DIIVIALLEU

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

TOWN MEETING END AT 8:08 PM.

Hereof, fail not, and make do return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 12th day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

William Glabach, Chair

Leyden Select Board

Katherine DiMatteo

Leyden Select Board

Glenn Caffery

Leyden Select Board

I hereby attest that I posted said warrant at least seven days before said meeting.

Constable, Town of Leyden

Date

Special Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Leyden

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Town Meeting

Warrant

Monday, March 20, 2023

6:00 PM

To a Constable in the Town of Leyden, in the County of Franklin, GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the LEYDEN TOWN HALL on 16 West Leyden Road, Leyden, MA, then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2650.00 from Free Cash to the Conservation Commission knotweed project or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

Motion made by: Evan Abramson, Second by Ginger Robinson.

VOTE PASSED 55 TO 1

ARTICLE 2-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$100,000.00 from Free Cash to the Fire Department/EMS Development account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION MADE BY GINGER ROBINSON SECOND BY MICHELE GIARUSSO

VOTE PASSED 45 TO 11

ARTICLE 3-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Fire Department Stabilization account to

Fire Department/EMS Development account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Requires 2/3 vote

MOTION MADE BY EVAN ABRAMSON SECOND BY GINGER ROBINSON.

VOTE PASSED 43 TO 12, OVER 2/3 MAJORITY

ARTICLE 4-

To see if the Town will vote to abandon and discontinue a portion of Hunt Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning 943' from the intersection of Hunt Hill Road and East Hill Road, then running westerly a distance of 3,582' to the intersection with Brattleboro Road.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 4 MADE BY GLENN CAFFREY SECOND BY MICHELE GIARUSSO

PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 5-

To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of a private way of a portion of Hunt Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning 943' from the intersection of Hunt Hill Road and East Hill Road, then running westerly a distance of 3,582' to the intersection with Brattleboro Road.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 4 MADE BY GLENN CAFFREY SECOND BY MICHELE GIARUSSO

PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 6-

To see if the Town will vote to abandon and discontinue a portion of East Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning at a point on East Hill Road 200' south from the intersection of East Hill Road and Simon Keets Road, then running southerly a distance of 1,470' to a point on East Hill Road.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

ARTICLE 6 AMMENDED BY GLENN CAFFREY AMENDED TO SAY "TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO ABANDON AND DISCONTINUE A PORTION OF EAST HILL ROAD MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: RUNNING A WIDTH OF 2 RODS AND BEGINNING AT A POINT ON EAST HILL 200' SOUTH FROM THE INTERSECTION OF EAST HILL ROAD AND SIMON KEETS ROAD, THEN RUNNING SOUTHERLY A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1303' TO A POINT ON EAST HILL ROAD, MARKED BY A REBAR IRON PIN AT A 33" MAPLE.

VOTE PASSED 37 TO 12 ONE OBSTAIN

ARTICLE 7-

To see if the Town will vote to accept the layout of a private way of a portion of East Hill Rd more particularly described as follows:

Running a width of 2 rods and beginning at a point on East Hill Road 200' south from the intersection of East Hill Road and Simon Keets Road, then running southerly a distance of 1,470' to a point on East Hill Road.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

GLENN CAFFREY/JIM BRORDER AMMENDED ARTICLE TO INCLUDE THE WORD "STATUTORY" BEFORE PRIVATE TO STATE "TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO ACCEPT THE LAYOUT OF A STATUTORY PRIVATE WAY OF A PORTION OF EAST HILL ROAD MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: RUNNING A WIDTH OF 2 RODS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON EAST HILL ROAD 200' SOUTH FROM THE INTERSECTION OF EAST HILL ROAD FROM SIMON KEETS ROAD, THEN RUNNING SOUTHERLY A DISTANCE APPROXIMATELY 1303' TO A POINT ON EAST HILL ROAD, MARKED BY A REBAR IRON PIN AT A 33" MAPLE.

VOTE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 8-

To see if the Town will vote to enact Chapter 1 of the Town of Leyden General Bylaws, entitled "Stretch Energy Code" for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to 225 CMR 22 and 23, the Stretch Energy Code, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2023 a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

SUBMITTED BY SELECT BOARD APPROVAL

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION MADE BY KATHERINE DIMATTEO SECOND BY TOM LUCK

VOTE PASSED 44 TO 14

ARTICLE 9-

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following additions to SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS, of the Leyden Zoning Bylaw, to adopt the following additional paragraphs to SECTION 4. USE REGULATIONS, of said Bylaw, i.e. 4.1 Permitted Uses, 4.2 Uses Requiring a Special Permit, 4.3 Prohibited Uses Section, and to adopt a new SECTION 5.12 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS (SPVI), to said Bylaw, or take any action relating thereto:

That the following paragraphs be added to <u>SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS</u> of the Leyden Zoning Bylaw:

BioMap: The BioMap, which is updated periodically by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, is designed to guide strategic biodiversity conservation in Massachusetts by focusing land protection and stewardship on the areas that are most critical for ensuring the long-term persistence of rare and other native species and their habitats, exemplary natural communities, and a diversity of ecosystems and include:

- Core Habitat: identifies key areas to ensure the long-term persistence of species of conservation concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems across the Commonwealth.
- Critical Natural Landscape: identifies larger landscape areas that are better able to support ecological processes, disturbances, and wide-ranging species.

Farmland of Statewide Importance: land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops, as determined by the appropriate state agency or agencies. Generally, these include lands that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

<u>Federally Recognized Tribe's Cultural Authority (FRTCA)</u>: shall mean, for the purposes of this bylaw, a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Office (THPO); or a federally recognized Tribe's formally designated Cultural Authority

Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes (CSLs): indigenous stone features on the land of sacred cultural significance that have been identified by a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or a federally recognized Tribe's formally designated cultural authority. Ceremonial Stone Landscape Sites in the Northeast are locations of ceremonial activity that are characterized by stone assemblages of many types, some earthworks, and usually incorporate a number of natural landscape features into their design. (For further information, reference USET Resolution #2007:037)

Indigenous Cultural Resources: shall include cultural resource(s) that have been identified by a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) or a federally recognized Tribe's formally designated cultural authority, as possessing religious and cultural significance to tribes. Said cultural resources may include but are not limited to sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects; and shall also include Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes (CSLs) (reference USET Resolution #2007:037).

Low Impact Development (LID): an environmentally friendly approach to land use development. It includes landscaping and design techniques that attempt to maintain the natural, pre-developed ability of a site to manage rainfall. LID techniques capture water on site, filter it through vegetation, and let it soak into the ground.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP): NHESP, which is a program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and-Wildlife, is responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state, as well as the protection of the natural communities that make up their habitats.

<u>Prime Agricultural Farmland</u>: land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for economically producing sustained high yields of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

<u>Priority Habitat</u>: Priority Habitat areas are based on the known geographical extent of habitat for all statelisted rare species, both plants and animals, as codified under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Habitat alteration within Priority Habitats may result in a 'take' of a state-listed species, and is subject to regulatory review by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

And that the following paragraphs be added to <u>SECTION 4. USE REGULATIONS</u> of the Leyden Zoning Bylaw:

In **Section 4.1.** <u>Permitted Uses</u>. Add: **A.4.f.** Building-mounted and residential ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations; and add: **A.5.** Small scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, with site plan review by Planning Board.

In **Section 4.2.** <u>Uses Requiring a Special Permit</u>. Add **A.3.** Large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations up to 5 acres, with site plan review and special permit.

In **Section 4.3**. <u>Prohibited Uses</u>. Add: J. Large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations over 5 acres; and add: K. Stand-alone commercial or industrial scale Battery Energy Storage Facility(ies).

And that the following section be added to the Leyden Zoning Bylaw:

SECTION 5.12 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS (SPVI)

A. PURPOSE

There is a pressing need to promote solar energy development in light of the current global climate crisis. The purpose of this section is to create, town-wide, the opportunity for new Solar Photovoltaic Installations (SPVI) in the Town of Leyden, in order to help advance the Commonwealth's policy goals to transition to non-carbon-based energy production and thereby move away from fossil fuels. Appropriate solar energy development is also a potential opportunity for economic development, diversifying the Town from its dependence on the residential tax base. By providing reasonable standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modifications, and removal of such installations, Leyden can accomplish the above, while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of its inhabitants, and minimizing impacts on scenic, natural, historic and wildlife habitat resources, as well as providing adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations.

The protection of the public health, safety and welfare of Leyden's inhabitants requires consideration of the below-ground water on which the entire town is dependent upon for wells, which also depends upon the above-ground wetlands, rivers and streams. So protection of water resources is paramount.

And since the majority of lands within Leyden are either forested or farmed, consideration of maintaining a proper balance of those characteristics, with this new land use, also requires consideration, in order to preserve the character of the Town and the prime agricultural resource values of the Town.

This bylaw section establishes a procedure to find a balance between renewable energy generation and natural and cultural resource protection that serves both our social and environmental responsibilities and protects public health and safety.

B. DEFINITIONS

- 1. *As-of-Right Siting: As-of-Right Siting* shall mean that development may proceed without the need for a special permit, variance, amendment, waiver, or other discretionary approval. As-of-right development may be subject to site plan review to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws. Projects cannot be prohibited, but can be reasonably regulated by the inspector of buildings or the Site Plan Review Authority, the Leyden Planning Board.
- 2. **Battery Energy Storage Facility:** a system of mechanical, electrical, chemical or electrochemical devices that charges or collects energy from the local electric grid or an electric generating facility and then discharges that energy at a later time to provide electricity to the grid or homes and businesses.
- **3.** *Building Mounted SPVI*: A solar energy installation that is permanently affixed to a building, as defined by the State Building Code. This definition is inclusive of canopy structures.
- 4. *Dual-use solar and agriculture*: agricultural production and electricity production from solar photovoltaic (PV) panels occurring together on the same piece of land. These facilities may also be referred to as agrivoltaic systems, agrisolar, or co-location of solar and agriculture.
- 5. *Large-Scale Ground Mounted SPVI*: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof-mounted, and covers at least one acre but nor more than five (5) acres of land.
- 6. *On-Site Solar Photovoltaic Installation*: A solar photovoltaic installation that is constructed at a location where other uses of the underlying property occur.
- 7. *Rated Nameplate Capacity:* The maximum rated output of electric power production of the Photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC).
- 8. *Residential ground-mounted SPVI*: an on-site SPVI as an accessory use to the residential structure on the property.
- 9. *Small-scale ground-mounted SPVI*: SPVI on up to one acre of land.

C. APPLICABILITY

The provisions set forth in this Section shall apply to the construction, operation and/or repair of SPVIs proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this Section. This Section also applies to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment.

Whether an SPVI is allowed-by-right, requires a Site Plan Review or a Special Permit is described in the chart below:

Type of SPVI	Allowed As-of-right	Site Plan Review	Special permit
Building-mounted	Υ	Ν	Ν

Residential Ground-Mounted	Y	Ν	Ν
Small Scale Ground-Mounted	Y	Y	N
Large- Scale Ground-Mounted			
1+ to no more than 5 acres	Ν	Y	Y
Large-Scale Ground-Mounted			
5+ acres		Not permitted	

Battery Energy Storage Facility

- 1. A *Battery Energy Storage Facility* that is accessory to a building mounted or *Residential ground mounted SPVI* and is utilized in connection with a primary permitted use is allowed by right with a building permit.
- 2. Standalone Commercial or Industrial scale *Battery Energy Storage Facility*(ies) are not allowed.
- 3. An accessory *Battery Energy Storage Facility* for a *Small-scale ground mounted SPVI* is subject to site plan review and shall be sized to accommodate only the electricity generated on the site.
- 4. An accessory *Battery Energy Storage Facility* for a Large-scale Ground Mounted SPVI is subject to site plan review, shall be subject to the special permit review for the site, and shall be sized to accommodate only the electricity generated on-site.

D. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- a. **Compliance with Laws, Bylaws and Regulations** The construction and operation of all *SPVIs* shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of a solar electric installation shall be constructed in accordance with the Massachusetts State Building Code.
- b. **Building Permit and Building Inspection** No *SPVIs* shall be constructed, installed, or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit and paying any required fees.
- c. Special Permit An applicant for a proposed SPVI, that requires a special permit (see Section C. Applicability), must seek a Special Permit from the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) as described in Section 4.2. For the purposes of this bylaw, the Planning Board shall serve as the SPGA.
- d. **Waiver** Planning Board can consider a request for a waiver of a requirement or standard if it permits the project to better meet the goals of this bylaw.
- e. **Pre-Application Conference** For all *SPVIs* that require a site plan review, the applicant is strongly encouraged to meet with the Leyden Planning Board to conduct a pre-application conference to discuss the project, process, waivers, and submittal requirements and proposed management practices for siting, construction, screening, reducing the visual contrast, operation, and maintenance of that type of commercial *SPVI*.

- f. Utility Notification No small-scale or *Large-Scale Ground Mounted SPVI* intended to be connected to the grid, shall be installed until evidence has been given to the Leyden Planning Board that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar electric installation owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected facility, and the applicant has provided a signed copy of the interconnection agreement with the utility company to the Leyden Planning Board.
- g. **Proof of Liability Insurance** The applicant for a Building Permit for a Small-scale or *Large-Scale Ground Mounted SPVI* shall be required to provide evidence of liability insurance to the Building Inspector in an amount and for duration sufficient to cover loss or damage to persons and structures occasioned by the failure of the facility until the system is dismantled. A Certificate of Insurance shall be provided annually to the Building Inspector.
- h. Site Control At the time of its application for a Building Permit, the applicant shall submit documentation of actual or prospective control of the project site sufficient to allow for installation and use of the proposed facility. Documentation shall also include proof of control over setback areas and access roads, if required. Control shall mean the legal authority to prevent the use or construction of any structures for human habitation within the setback areas.
- i. Independent Consultants Upon submission of an application for Site Plan Review and/or a Special Permit, the Site Plan Review Authority and/or the Special Permit Granting Authority are authorized to engage outside consultants and legal counsel to peer review the application and to provide expert advice on topics including but not limited to stormwater management, fire suppression, hazard mitigation, decommissioning, and financial surety measures, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 53G, whose services shall be paid for by the applicant.

E. GENERAL SITING STANDARDS

- 1. **Setbacks**—For Small-scale and *Large-Scale Ground Mounted SPVIs*' front, side and rear setbacks from property lines shall be as follows:
 - a. Front yard: the front yard depth shall not be less than 100 feet.
 - b. Side yard: each side yard shall have a depth of at least 100 feet.
 - c. Rear yard: the rear yard depth shall not be less than 100 feet.
- 2. Appurtenant Structures All appurtenant structures to *SPVIs* shall be subject to regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area and setbacks as specified in Section 5.12.E.1, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other and the rural character of other structures in the area. Structures shall be screened from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.
- 3. Height of Structures- The height of any structure associated with a SPVI shall not exceed 20 feet.

F. DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- a. Lighting- Lighting of solar electric installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Lighting of the solar electric installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution. In addition, such fixtures shall be "dark sky" compliant and meet International Dark Sky FSA certification requirements. The owner/operator shall be responsible for maintenance of lighting systems.
- b. **Signage** Signs on *SPVIs* shall comply with Leyden's sign regulations, Section 5.3. One (1) sign shall be required to identify the owner and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number. Solar electric installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar electric installation.
- c. **Utility Connections** Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Planning Board shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar electric installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.
- d. **Roads** Access roads shall be constructed to minimize grading, stormwater/run-off, removal of stone walls or trees and impacts to environmental, wetlands, or historic resources. (See Scenic Road restrictions M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 15C).
- e. **Control of Vegetation** Except in the case of invasive plants listed by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group, herbicides may not be used to control vegetation at the *SPVI*. Mowing, grazing, or the use of pervious pavers or geotextile materials underneath the solar array, are possible alternatives. Aforementioned invasive plant species must be controlled using best management practices and effective methods least detrimental to the environment. Should herbicides be required by best management practices, only federally approved, state-registered herbicides may be applied by a statelicensed applicator in a carefully prescribed and targeted way specifically to control invasive vegetation. Property abutters and the Leyden Board of Health shall be provided in writing with the treatment plan at least 60 days before any planned application.
- f. **Hazardous Materials** Hazardous materials stored, used, or generated on site shall not exceed the amount for a Very Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) pursuant to DEP regulations 310 CMR 30.000 and shall meet all requirements of the DEP including storage of hazardous materials in a building with an impervious floor that is not adjacent to any floor drains to prevent discharge to the outdoor environment. If hazardous materials are utilized within the solar electric equipment, then impervious containment areas capable of controlling any release to the environment and to prevent potential contamination of groundwater are required. A list of any hazardous materials located on the site and a plan to prevent their release shall be provided to the Fire Chief at the time of application and on an annual basis.
- g. Visual Impacts The SPVI shall be designed to minimize visual impacts including preserving natural vegetation to the maximum extent practicable, using deer-resistant evergreen vegetative buffers (not fences) to provide an effective visual barrier from any public roads within ½ mile and to visually screen abutting residential properties, whether developed or not. Landscaping shall be maintained by the

owner/operator of the SPVI. Siting shall be such that the view of the SPVI from other areas of Town shall be as minimal as possible.

- h. **Noise-** Noise generated by *SPVIs* and associated equipment and machinery shall conform at a minimum to applicable state and local noise regulations, including the DEP's Division of Air Quality noise regulations, 310 CMR 7.10. In addition, for the purposes of this bylaw, a source of sound will be considered in violation of this bylaw if the source:
 - 1. increases the broadband sound level by more than 5 db(A) above the pre-construction ambient noise level;
 - produces a "pure tone" condition, when an octave band center frequency sound pressure level exceeds the two (2) adjacent center frequency sound pressure levels by three (3) decibels or more; or
 - 3. results in sound or noise levels greater than 33 dBA.

Said criteria are measured both at the property line and at the nearest inhabited residence. In addition, the said criteria shall be measured at any property line that is subject to sound elevations higher than ambient sound as a result of higher or lower topography in the opinion of the acoustical engineer paid for by the applicant and approved by the SPGA. "Ambient" is defined as the background A-weighted sound level that is exceeded 90% of the time measured during the quietest part of the day or night. All testing required by this bylaw shall be done by a licensed professional acoustical engineer chosen by the SPGA and paid for by the applicant. All testing shall be done in accordance with the professional standards of the appropriate accrediting agencies.

G. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

- 1. **Emergency Services** The *SPVIs* owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Leyden Fire Chief and Police Chief. The owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services to develop an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar electric installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.
- 2. Land Clearing Forest removal shall be limited to a maximum cumulative total of 3 acres to prevent erosion, protect water and air quality and to provide climate benefits to protect public health and welfare. Installations shall be constructed in a way to minimize impervious surfaces and disruptions to trees, soil and land. Establish ground cover using native plant species to minimize soil erosion and stormwater runoff in order to prevent adverse impacts to water quality. Forest removal completed in the two years preceding the site plan review will be counted as part of the 3 acres maximum permitted.
- 3. Soil Erosion and Farmland Impacts To the maximum extent feasible, the facility should be located to minimize impacts to agricultural land and should be compatible with continued agricultural use. The facility shall be designed to minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive land. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the *SPVI* or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws. The design shall

minimize the use of concrete and other impervious materials to the maximum extent possible. Locating *SPVIs* on grades in excess of 10% should be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. On parcels with soils classified as prime agricultural soils, as identified by the state's MASS GIS system, the applicant will prepare a dual use solar and agriculture plan. Information on dual use is available through UMass Clean Energy Extension Program. In no case shall any amount of soil be removed from the site off the property. Any material stripped for structural construction shall remain within and utilized elsewhere on the property.

- 4. **Habitat Impacts** To the maximum extent feasible, SPVIs shall not be located on Priority Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape Core Habitat mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and "Important Wildlife Habitat" mapped by the DEP.
- 5. Wetlands Impacts- The facilities, including the *SPVI* and access roads, shall meet the wetland buffer and river protection standards set forth by the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.0), and any additional local wetlands protection bylaws.
- 6. **Cultural Landscape Impacts.** Protect locations of Indigenous Cultural Resources including sites of Ceremonial Stone Landscapes 1 . Such locations shall be identified based on responses to written inquiries, with a requirement to respond within 60 days, to the following parties: all federally or state recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) within MA, RI, NH, CT, VT, NY, or their designated agents (FRTCAs); the Massachusetts State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO); tribes or associations of tribes within MA, RI, NH, CT, VT, NY, not recognized by the federal or state government but with cultural or land affiliation to Leyden; and the Leyden Historical Commission.

Such written inquiries shall be sent to the parties identified above and shall contain a site plan of the project including identification of the location of the project and all proposed facilities, and a statement that permitting for the project has been applied for. Such written inquiries, accompanied by the site plan, shall request responses from the parties to identify and describe any known locations and characteristics, including photographs, of any Indigenous Cultural Resources sites that may be impacted by the facility. The applicant should allow the THPO and/or their designated agents' access to the site upon their written request. Site visits should occur as soon as practicable after the application has been submitted.

To protect the cultural resources, only the permitting authorities and project applicant shall have access to the report submitted by the THPO or their or appointed cultural authority. If the THPO or appointed cultural authority identifies one or more Indigenous Cultural Resources or Ceremonial Stone Landscapes, a meeting will be held with the applicant, the THPO or their appointed cultural authority, and Town and/or federal officials to review policies and procedures, the process of mapping the cultural resources, and possible deed restrictions. A 50-foot boundary shall be established around any identified Indigenous Cultural Resources and/or Ceremonial Stone Landscapes inside of which no work or other disturbance shall take place. A deed restriction may be requested by the Leyden Planning Board to protect the cultural resources identified by the THPO or SHPO. A failure of parties to respond within 60 days shall be deemed non-opposition to the application.

H. MONITORING, MAINTENANCE AND REPORTING

- 1. Solar Electric Generating Installation Conditions- The SPVI owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, neat landscaping maintenance, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the local Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the SPVI and any access road(s).
- 2. **Modifications** All modifications (excluding routine repairs and maintenance) to an installation after issuance of Building Permit and Special Permit, shall require approval by the Building Inspector and SPGA.
- 3. **Annual Reporting** The owner or operator of the SPVI shall submit an Annual Report that certifies continued compliance with the requirements of the special permit and report the amount of electricity generated by the facility. The Annual Report shall be submitted to the Selectboard and Planning Board no later than 90 days after the end of the calendar year.

I. ABANDONMENT, DECOMMISSIONING, FINANCIAL SURETY & INDEMNIFICATION

- Removal Requirements- Any SPVI which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Section 5.12. I.3. of this bylaw, shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Planning Board by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal.
- 2. Decommissioning- Decommissioning shall consist of:
 - a. Physical removal of all SPVIs, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.
 - b. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
 - c. Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Planning Board may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.
- 3. Abandonment- Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the SPVI shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the Planning Board. If the owner or operator of the SPVI fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within 150 days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the Town retains the right, after the receipt of an appropriate court order, to enter and remove an abandoned, hazardous or decommissioned SPVI. As a condition of Site Plan Review and/or Special Permit approval, the applicant and landowner shall agree to allow entry to remove an abandoned or decommissioned installation. The Town's cost for the removal will be charged to the property owner in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. 139, Section 3A as a tax lien on the property.
- 4. **Financial Surety** Proponents of SPVIs shall provide a form of surety, either through an escrow account, bond or other form of surety approved by the Planning Board to cover the cost of removal in the event the town must remove the installation and stabilization or re-vegetation of the landscape, in

an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the Planning Board, but in no event to exceed more than 125 percent of the cost of removal and compliance with the additional requirements set forth herein. Such surety will not be required for municipal or state-owned facilities. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, stabilization, and re-vegetation, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

5. Indemnification - The owner/operator shall indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Leyden and/or any of its citizens from any and all liabilities, losses and/or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, resulting from the failure of the owner/operator to comply with the terms of this by-law and/or negligence in the operations and maintenance of any structures built in accordance with it. Any surety provided for in this by-law shall be available for the aforementioned indemnification. The current owner is obligated to maintain the surety in its original amount. The developer and/or any subsequent owner shall adhere to the reporting requirements for the indemnification funds as stipulated by the Planning Board at the time of the application for a Site Plan Review and/or Special Permit. Reporting requirements shall include, but are not limited to, an annual report of fund balances and compliance with the type of investments allowed by the Planning Board.

J. SPVI SITE PLAN REVIEW

Site Plan Review is conducted by the Site Plan Review Authority (SPRA) to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws. For the purposes of this bylaw, the SPRA is the Leyden Planning Board. Site Plan Review acts as a method for regulating as-of-right uses rather than prohibiting them. When evaluating the Site Plan Applications, the Planning Board may not unconditionally deny the Site Plan Applications that meet the requirements of these bylaws, but rather, it may impose reasonable conditions upon them.

Application Requirements- Each application for a Site Plan Review shall be filed by the applicant with the Leyden Planning Board, see Section 5.6. All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts. Any application for a commercial *SPVI* shall contain the following:

1. Completed Application Form

- 2. **Required Documents** The project proponent shall provide the following documents in addition to or in coordination with those required Special Permit Review under Section 6 of this bylaw.
 - a. Architectural, Engineering, and Site Plans showing:
 - b. A title sheet with the following:
 - c. A title labeling the company, type of proposal and location.
 - d. A locus map showing all major roadways within 2000' feet
 - e. A map showing other existing or proposed SPVIs within 1,000 feet.
 - f. A sheet index describing all parties involved in the project.

- g. A project summary block labeling the applicant, facility address, owner, deed reference, facility parcel number, and current zoning district.
- h. Property lines, map and lot from the Assessor's records, and physical features, including roads and topography, for the project site;
- i. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening, vegetation or structures including their height;
- j. Locations of wetlands as delineated by a wetlands scientist and approved by the Conservation Commission;
- k. Locations of Priority Habitat Areas and Biomap 2 Critical Natural Core Habitat defined by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), "Important Habitat Areas" defined by the DEP, and Permanently Protected Open Space, on or within 100 feet of the property boundary.
- I. Locations of floodplains or inundation areas for moderate or high hazard dams;
- m. Fire protection measures.
- n. Stormwater drainage, including ways that the stormwater will be managed and retained on site using Low Impact Development techniques, and calculations and engineering plans to show how stormwater runoff from the property will not be increased during or after construction or during operation of the installation. The stormwater management plan shall be consistent with the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and the stormwater management requirements of Leyden's Subdivision Regulations and employ measures to minimize impervious surfaces at the site.
- o. Existing trees of 10" caliper or better and existing tree/shrub masses; proposed tree removal, planting, landscaping, and screening. Each individual tree does not need to be described; an area that is forested with a continuous canopy greater than 10,000 square feet should be indicated.
- p. A list of any hazardous materials proposed to be located on the site in excess of household quantities and a plan to prevent their release to the environment as appropriate.
- g. Blueprints or drawings of the solar electric installation signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures;
- r. One- or three-line electrical diagrams detailing the solar electric installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
- s. Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the electric generating components, transmission systems, mounting system, inverter, etc.;
- t. Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer;

- u. Name, address, phone number and signature of the project proponent, as well as all coproponents or property owners, if any;
- v. The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project proponent;
- w. Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site;
- x. Provision fire suppression system needed for fire protection;
- y. A signed Interconnection Service Agreement for the proposed Solar Electric Generating Installation from the applicable utility.
- z. A report and analysis on any glare that will be produced by the solar panels and proposed mitigation, by a qualified engineer.
- aa. Proposed installation of native plants that provide habitat underneath and around the perimeter of the Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Generating Installation and measures to prevent the introduction of invasive species.
- 3. **Operation and Maintenance Plan** The project proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the Small-scale or large-scale ground mounted *SPVI*, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water and vegetation controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.
- 4. Landscape Plan- The project proponent shall submit a Landscape Plan detailing all proposed changes to the landscape of the site including vegetation removal and screening of structures. The Landscape Plan shall show the type and location of vegetation to be removed and vegetation proposed to screen the installation including appurtenant structures from public ways and adjacent properties as deemed appropriate by the SPGA (See Section F.g). The Landscape Plan shall identify all portions of the property that contain prime agricultural soils.
- 5. **Grading Plan** The project proponent shall submit a Grading Plan detailing all proposed grading, soil erosion and run-off control, and temporary or permanent access roads.
- 6. Proof of liability insurance (See Section 5.12.D.g);
- 7. Description of financial surety (see Section 5.12.I.4);
- 8. Sight line representation. A sight line representation shall be drawn from that portion of any public road within one (1) mile that would have the clearest view of the proposed facility, and the closest facade of each residential building (viewpoint) within one (1) mile of the highest point (visible point) of the solar electric generating installation. Each sight line shall be depicted in profile, drawn at a scale appropriate to represent the sightline. The profiles shall show all intervening trees and buildings;
- 9. **Photographs** existing (before condition) and proposed (after condition) photographs. Each sight line shall be illustrated by one four-inch by six-inch color photograph of what can currently be seen from any public road within one (1) mile. Each of the existing condition photographs shall

have the proposed solar electric generating installation superimposed on it to show what will be seen from public roads if the solar electric generating installation is built; and

10. Noise documentation provided by a licensed professional acoustical engineer, approved by the Leyden Planning Board and paid for by the applicant, of projected noise levels to be generated by the SPVI. – See Section 5.12.F.h

11. Pesticide Use/Plan – see Section 5.12.F.e

- 12. **Dual Use Solar and Agriculture** If the landscape plan identifies prime agricultural soils on-site, a plan for dual use solar and agriculture shall be submitted.
- 13. Additional materials-- any other drawings, photographs or materials deemed necessary by the Planning Board at a strongly encouraged pre-application meeting to discuss the project, process, waivers, and submittal requirements.
- 14. **Waivers**-- the Planning Board may waive documentary requirements as it deems appropriate (See Section 5.12.O) .
- 15. **Procedures** upon receipt of a complete application for a Site Plan Review, the Planning Board shall review and take action upon the application in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A and Section 5.6 of this bylaw.

K. SPVI SPECIAL PERMIT PROCESS, REQUIREMENTS & ENFORCEMENT

- 1. **Procedure:** Upon receipt of a complete application for a Special Permit for a *Large-Scale Ground Mounted SPVI*, the Planning Board shall review and take action upon the application in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A. The application should include the full Site Plan Review application, see Section 5.12.J.
- 2. **Special Permit Approval Criteria** After notice and public hearing and after due consideration of the evidence submitted, the Leyden Planning Board may grant a Special Permit provided that it finds that:
 - a. The proposed *SPVI* complies with the purposes and intent of this Section 5.12 and the Zoning Bylaw.
 - b. The application information submitted is sufficient for the Planning Board to consider approval of the Special Permit request.
 - c. Documentation regarding potential environmental, scenic, community, and public safety impacts provide sufficient assurance that the project will not result in substantial adverse effects.
- 3. Independent Consultants Upon submission of an application for a special permit, the Planning Board will be authorized to hire outside consultants at the expense of the applicant, pursuant to section 53G of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- 4. Expiration A permit issued pursuant to this bylaw shall expire if:

- a. The *SPVI* is not installed and functioning within 24-months from the date the permit is issued; the SPGA can extend the permit based upon evidence of progress and due diligence, or
- b. The SPVI is abandoned.

L. VIOLATIONS

It is unlawful for any person to construct, install, or operate a *SPVI* that is not in compliance with this bylaw or with any condition contained in a Site Plan Review, Building Permit, or Special Permit issued pursuant to this bylaw. Such systems installed prior to the adoption of this bylaw are exempt.

M. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

This bylaw shall be administered and enforced by the Building Inspector or other official as designated. The Building Inspector may enter any property for which a building permit and special permit has been issued under this bylaw to conduct an inspection to determine whether the conditions stated in the permit have been met. If the permit holder is found not to be in compliance, the Building Inspector may require the applicant to implement all reasonable measures to mitigate unforeseen adverse impacts of the *SPVI* should they occur. The Building Inspector may request submittal of a mitigation plan outlining measures to address unforeseen adverse impacts. The *SPVI* shall cease to operate if found to not be in compliance with the requirements of the special permit, until such time as the Building Inspector has determined compliance.

N. PENALTIES

Any person who fails to comply with any provision of this bylaw or a permit issued pursuant to this bylaw shall be subject to enforcement and penalties as allowed by applicable law.

O. WAIVER OF COMPLIANCE

The Planning Board may waive strict compliance with the requirements set forth in this Section of the Bylaw when in its judgment the application for said waiver meets all of the following criteria 1) in the public interest, 2) not inconsistent with the intent of Section 8 of the Zoning Bylaw, and 3) is justified due to unusual circumstances relating to the lot, land, or the *SPVI*. Any waiver request must be made in writing at the time of application with supporting documentation.

P. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this bylaw are severable, and the invalidity of any section, subdivision, paragraph, or other part of this ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the bylaw.

SUBMITTED BY PLANNING BOARD

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Requires 2/3 vote

EVAN ABRAMSON MADE MOTION TO AMMEND ARTICLE "THAT ANY SOLAR PROJECT OF ONE TO FIVE ACRES WOULD NEED TO BE CERTIFIED POLINATOR FRIENDLY BY UMASS AMHERST CLEAN ENERGY TO A MINIMUM OF SILVER LEVEL AND MAINTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION FOR THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT. ALL RESPONSIBILITIES AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPLICATION, CERTIFICATION, AND COMPLIANCE WITH CERTIFICATION SHALL BE BORN BY THE SPVI OWNER.

VOTE PASSED UNANIMOUS

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting. Given under our hands this 6th Day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

William Glabach, Select Board Chair

Katherine DiMatteo, Select Board

Glenn Caffery, Select Board

I hereby attest that I have posted said warrant at least fourteen days before said meeting.

Constable, Town of Leyden

Date

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Leyden

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Town Meeting

Warrant

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

5:30 PM

MEETING STARTED AT 5:36 PM

To a Constable in the Town of Leyden, in the County of Franklin, GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the LEYDEN TOWN HALL on 16 West Leyden Road, Leyden, MA, then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$15,000.00 from Free Cash to pay Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for previous monies expended for the Leyden Septic System Loan Program or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the town vote to transfer \$15,000.00 from Free Cash to pay Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for previous monies expended for The Leyden Septic System Loan Program

MOTION BY: GINGER ROBINSON

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 2-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$87,065.00 from Free Cash to the Highway Capital Stabilization account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer \$87,065.00 from Free Cash to the Highway Capital Stabilization account

MOTION BY:	GINGER ROBINSON	
VOTE REQUIRED:	MAJORITY	-PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 3-

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Capital Stabilization Account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to establish a Police Capital Stabilization Account

MOTION BY:	GINGER ROBINSON	
VOTE REQUIRED:	TWO-THIRDS-VOTE	-PASSED TWO-THIRDS-VOTE

ARTICLE 4-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to the Police Capital Stabilization account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to the Police Capital Stabilization account

MOTION BY: GINGER ROBINSON

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 5-

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$255,836.00 from the MLP(Broadband) retained earnings to the MLP(Broadband) Stabilization account or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

MODERATOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON ARTICLE 5 EMILY YAZWINSKI WAS NOMINATED TEMPORARY MODERATOR FOR ARTICLE 5.

MOTION: I move the Town vote to transfer \$255,836.00 from the MLP(Broadband) retained earnings to the MLP(Broadband) Stabilization account

MOTION BY: KATHERINE DIMATTEO

VOTE REQUIRED: MAJORITY -PASSED UNANIMOUS

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING END AT 5:58 PM

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting. Given under our hands this 5th Day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

William Glabach, Select Board Chair

Katherine DiMatteo, Select Board

Glenn Caffery, Select Board

I hereby attest that I posted said warrant at least fourteen days before said meeting.

Constable, Town of Leyden

Date

Public Safety

Fire Department Highway Department Leyden Emergency Management Committee Police Department Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

Fire Department

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key Accomplishments:

The Fire Department is going through a significant rebuilding phase. Accomplishments include:

- Going from one firefighter in April to seven by the end of the calendar year
- Renovation of fire station electricals
- Restoration of water in the station
- New turnout gear and PPE for four firefighters; successful grant application for three more sets
- Construction of new turnout gear racks, SCBA cylinder racks, and hose-drying rack (built by firefighters)
- Station cleanout by firefighters, Select Board members, and others.
- All firefighters trained to state-mandated first responder medical certification (24 hours of training).
- Firefighters completed miscellaneous other training including District 9 Basic 6 program (1 firefighter), Firefighting and Solar Structures (State Fire Academy, 6 firefighters), ICS Incident Command System classes (varies), SCBA Search and Rescue training, Emergency Vehicle Operation training, other miscellaneous in-house training.
- Purchase of hose, fittings, tools, and other equipment

Call report 1/1/23 to 12/31/23:

Medical Emergency	24
Line Down	13
Fire Alarm Activation	8
Safety Hazard, Other	6
Line Down, vegetation fire	4
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	4
Motor Vehicle Crash	2
Vehicle Fire	1
Structure Fire, Mutual Aid	1
Gas leak	1
Total	64



Fire Department Roster:

Name	Position
Nik Adamski	Chief
Carey Barton	Firefighter
Ernie Royer	Firefighter
Corrinda Thompson	Firefighter
Timothy Howard	Firefighter
Tina Riddell	Firefighter, EMT
Tom Raffensperger	Captain

Budget Expenditures:

The Fire Department has stayed within the Town Meeting-approved budget due mainly to grants, emphasizing protective equipment for firefighters and replacing out-of-date or damaged equipment. Exact figures are not available as the calendar year does not match the fiscal year. The Department expects to procure a 4x4 quick-attack mini-pumper during the FY24 fiscal year. The budget overall remains a work in progress as we learn what we need to do to ensure ongoing, sustainable operational effectiveness, ensure firefighter safety, and stay in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Grants and Additional Funding Received:

1. Efficiency and Regionalization Grant (ERG). This was expended as follows:

Collins Center Regionalization Feasibility Study (LFD portion)	\$10,000.00
Collins Center Risk Assessment Fire Dept.	\$10,000.00
Community 911 EMFR Administration/Advice	\$4,000.00
Fire Station Electrical Renovation	\$8,760.00
Repair of Tanker 1	\$854.92
Computer for new Admin Asst for fire, etc.	\$1,342.61
Firefighter Turnout Gear and Equipment (Brigham)	\$10,816.00
Other equipment: hose, connectors, etc.	\$4,993.97
Toto	al: \$50,767.50

- 2. The Town appropriated \$50,000 from a Fire Stabilization Account and \$100,000 from free cash, both these funds were put into a Fire and Emergency Services account for equipment/vehicle purchase.
- 3. The Department received a \$100,000 earmark for Leyden for a vehicle and equipment (the quickattack mini-pumper).
- 4. The Department received a \$10,500 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant (the maximum for our size community) for turnout gear for three firefighters.

Plans For Calendar Year 2024:

The main goal of the Fire Department is to continue to build our operational effectiveness through acquisition of a 4x4 quick-attack mini-pumper, through training, updating equipment, and building capacity for Emergency Medical Response. We also hope to recruit at least three more firefighters.

The 4x4 quick-attack mini-pumper will give us added capability in three areas:

- 1. Quicker response to fires of all kinds. A pickup-truck based fire engine carrying a lighter load than Tanker 1 will allow us to respond much faster.
- 2. Improved access to incidents. Leyden has many long, winding, unpaved driveways that are inaccessible to Tanker 1 during adverse weather events that result in mud, ice, or eroded roadways. The 4x4, smaller profile will enable us to get to these incidents.
- 3. Increased support for wildland firefighting. Communities are experiencing and are anticipating increased wildland fires. The Leyden Fire Department is seeking to build capacity in this area, and this type of vehicle will support that.

How will this vehicle work with other apparatus and with mutual aid? The quick-attack vehicle will arrive on scene first, laying a supply line from the main road as it approaches a difficult-to-reach fire. Tanker 1 will arrive on scene and connect to the feeder hose, providing the engine with water. This vehicle will provide support to our mutual aid partner communities especially in wildland firefighting or access more remote incidents.

Planned training priorities include at least three more firefighters completing Basic Six, further IDLH (Immediate Danger to Life and Health) environment search and rescue training, and training on department EMS Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).



Thanks:

The Fire Department has a lot of people to thank for making our rebuilding possible:

- Liz Kidder, who has served in several roles, but who has led the charge for funding for our department. We could not have got the department back on its feet without Liz's tireless, wise, and patient work.
- As mentioned above, we wouldn't be here with the dedication and commitment of **Nik Adamski**, who served as Chief through the toughest times. He stepped up when no one else would and is a respected and knowledgeable Leyden Firefighter.
- We'd also like to thank the **Select Board and Finance Committees** for their substantive support. In particular, **Erica Jensen** has brought to bear her experience as a firefighter and knowledge of procurement to guide us to a much better place.
- Folks at the Town Offices, specifically Janell Howard and Michele Giarusso. Janell keeps us organized and Michele has taken the lead on a number of grant and other issues and helped us navigate FRCOG.
- Thanks go to the fire departments of **Colrain, Bernardston, and Guilford** have been incredibly generous in offering advice, training opportunities, and of course much-needed mutual aid support.
- A huge thank-you to **Senator Comerford** and **Representative Blais** for securing funding for us and helping us navigate the bureaucracy.
- The Leyden Highway Department deserves our gratitude for their tireless work keeping the roads clear (especially during emergencies), for helping us with facilities challenges, and for advice on trucks and equipment.

- EMT **Tina Riddell** has been the mainstay of our medical response while we rebuild that part of our operations from the ground up. Thanks Tina!
- All the hardworking members of other town committees such as the Building Needs Committee, Leyden Emergency Management Committee, and the Leyden Public Safety Commission.
- Last but not least, we'd like to thank the **families of our firefighters** for their patience and support during those 3 am calls, as we rush out in the middle of a family event, all the training nights, and all the other time we spend away.
- Did we forget anyone? Probably. Rebuilding this department has relied on so many people.

In Sympathy:

The members of the Leyden Fire Department offer our sympathy to the Hagar Family of Colrain, who lost barns, equipment, and 39 animals in the fire of September 9, 2023.

The members of the Leyden Fire Department express our condolences to the family of Robert Alan "Bob" Manners, 59, who died after a long battle with lymphoma. Bob served as Deputy Chief of the Shelburne Center Volunteer Fire Department and was active in the Franklin County EMT Association. He also served as a Tactical Paramedic with the police department. He spent 30 years working in the medical field in Franklin County.

Respectfully submitted,

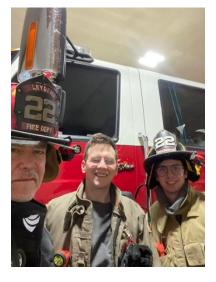
Nik Adamski, Chief Tom Raffensperger, Captain

Members:

- Nik Adamski, Chief
- Tom Raffensperger, Captain
- Carey Barton, Firefighter
- Corrinda Thompson, Firefighter
- Ernie Royer, Firefighter
- Timothy Howard, Firefighter
- Tina Riddell, Firefighter, EMT







Photos submitted by Tom Raffensperger

Highway Department

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Winter 2023:

Continuing with the trend of more ice than snow we entered the winter of 2023. Many late nights and early mornings were spent by the Highway Department sanding the roads to keep up with the slippery conditions, come late February a solid week of rain, ice, wind and snowstorms kept us on our toes. Swapping around equipment setups to meet the constantly changing weather conditions, sometimes multiple forms of precipitation in a 24-hour period. It was all hands-on deck keeping the roads safe, equipment running and material stockpiles full. Then when we thought we could see the light at the end of the tunnel with the roads thawing and snowbanks receding, the Blizzard of March 14 came. Snow started around midnight on Sunday and continued until late Wednesday night. The town declared a state of emergency due to multiple roads being impassable from downed power lines. With the heavy wet snow bringing down trees



all over town and the soft roads from recent thawing the highway department had to utilize all its equipment to keep the roads open for power restoration and tree removal efforts. Sections of town were isolated for several days even after the storm ended due to downed power lines. Plowing the heavy wet snow that was falling at a rate of several inches per hour required dedication from the Highway crew who was working round the clock in conjunction with emergency management, police, fire, Eversource and responding to calls from residents who could still communicate. When all was said and done there was





over 3 feet of snow in some areas of town. Our road grader and wheel loader ran round the clock keeping the snow and trees off the roads.

Spring:

Breezy days and gradual temperature changes made for an easier than normal mud season. Cleanup of all the roadside debris from the March 14 storm ramped up once the brush could be freed from the frozen roadsides. The Highway Department had two crews going around town chipping brush and moving logs preparing roads for grading season. We continued to improve our dirt roads by upgrading drainage and adding better materials to reduce maintenance time and costs.

Work on the East Hill grant project concluded with 900' of road being excavated by W.R Hillman and drainage improved in a section of road plagued by poor road base and mud in the springtime. Murray Paving and Reclamation came and reclaimed the top layer of East Hill Road, blending the existing material that had been added over the decades with the fresh hardpack hauled in for the grant. 3 passes over the course of 2 days provided a great road surface and with 100% compaction the roadway has been significantly improved.





Summer:

Mowing started on our roadsides and as we continue to adapt to changing priorities, we have been working with the Conservation Commission on a plan to mitigate the spread of Japanese knotweed. We had a new mower head built as the old one that came on the tractor in 2007 had begun to show its age after hundreds of hours of use. We had a local fabrication shop build the new mower head as we were unable to replace it with an original and would have to update the entire mower, this saved the town over \$15,000.

All States Construction came to town and did almost 2 miles of chip seal on Brattleboro Road. This project cost \$110,880.00 and was funded with W.R.A.P money and allowed us to regain some pavement preservation work lost by increasing asphalt prices.

Paving was scheduled for late summer but the Chapter 90 apportionments we use to fund the paving with did not get approved at the state level until late in the season, so this has been rescheduled until spring of 2024.

Rain... Heavy rainstorms were the theme of summer 2023. Above average rainfall in both volume and intensity kept us busy. It seemed what nature could do in just a few hours took us several days to repair. Many of the surrounding towns had catastrophic damage from the excessive rainfall and had several closed roads. We were fortunate enough to be spared the brunt of the heavy rain bands and our road improvements over the past years paid off with us not having to close any roads



and only having some partial lane closures and nuisance erosion. It seemed like this cycle of torrential rainstorms then weeklong repairs continued into the Fall.



Fall:

Rain set the theme for Fall going into early winter. With seemingly weekly rainfall of more than 3" at a time. Making shaping up roads for Winter a gamble as disturbing the hard roadways and reprofiling them with added material could make them more vulnerable to the heavy rain if they did not have time to settle back in. Only what was necessary for safety and drainage was done. As the ground started to freeze more challenges arose, stormwater could not absorb into the partially frozen ground and therefore had to run off. This overwhelmed many of our adequately sized culverts and catch basins causing ponding and local flooding. Erosion and washouts had to be fixed quickly as the storms were usually the leading edge of a cold front moving across the region and the falling temperatures made road work almost impossible as things refroze and were very punishing for the equipment.

Grants:

The 10-mile bridge improvement grant went out to bid and work has been scheduled to start in spring 2024.





Plans for the coming year:

Projects for spring of 2024:

- Reclaim and repave a section of South Schoolhouse RD.
- Mill and pave 1.25 miles of Greenfield RD.
- Improve sections of Hunt and East Hill RD.
- Address beaver flooding issues in multiple locations.
- Begin physical construction of the 10-mile bridge re-decking grant project.

Thanks:

Thank you to AJ Egloff, Erik Johnson, Paul Zimmerman, and Dave Brooks for all their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

William Brooks, Highway Superintendent

Highway Crew:

- AJ Egloff, full-time
- Erik Johnson, will call
- Paul Zimmerman, will call
- Dave Brooks, will call



Photos submitted by Bill Brooks

Leyden Emergency Management Committee

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed or works in progress:

- Planned and conducted Leyden Ready Fest as a way to continue to expand emergency preparedness in Leyden.
- Applied for and received Emergency Management Planning Grant
- Continued development of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan





Budget expenditures:

• Starting budget- \$2,700; expenditures- \$513.00; current balance- \$2,187.00

Grants:

- Secured a MEMA Emergency Management Planning Grant (2023). Funds were used to purchase a laptop computer for the Emergency Operations Center, and a flat screen television that is used for town operations.
- Applied for and secured a MEMA Emergency Management Planning Grant for 2024. The funds will be used to purchase cell phone boosters for Leyden Fire Department vehicles.

Plans for the coming year:

• Complete the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, have the Select Board adopt the plan and conduct a plan roll-out for the town.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pomerantz, Emergency Management Director

2023 Members Include:

- Nik Adamski, Chief, Leyden Fire Dept.
- Bill Brooks, Supt., Leyden Highway Department
- Liz Kidder, Public Safety Planner
- Beth Kuzdeba, Chair, Board of Health
- Marcia Miller, Board of Health/Pet Welfare
- David Pomerantz, Emergency Management Director
- Sgt. John Richardson, Bernardston Police Department
- Ginger Robinson, Chair, Finance Committee
- Sara Seinberg, Public Information Officer















Photos submitted by Sara Seinberg

Police Department

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, awards, and works in progress:

Chief James E Palmeri is pleased to submit the second annual report for the Town of Leyden. Bernardston is in the second year of policing for the Town of Leyden and are pleased to be doing so. In June, we started our three year IMA (Inter-Municipal Agreement) for policing services and are optimistic in fully succeeding in our commitment to serving the community of Leyden.

A little history of us at the police department. There are currently four full-time officers and two part-time officers. The rank and file is; chief, sergeant, and several patrol officers. Between Sergeant Richardson and me, we bring over (50) years of combined experience to the department. I have been the police chief for over (16) years and Sergeant Richardson has been in his position for several years, working for the town since 2010. In July of 2022, the town hired Officer Thomas Chabot to fill a newly appointed position. Tom brings several years of experience to the department and has shown himself to be a valuable asset to our communities. Our department's newest full-time member is Officer Jordan Zukowski. Officer Zukowski has been with our department since 2022, working in a part-time capacity. Jordan brings several years of experience to the department. In late 2022, Jordan was recognizing for his heroic efforts in saving multiple lives during a residential structure fire in Bernardston. During a Select Board meeting, I had the privilege to present Jordan with a Certificate of Commendation for bravery. The courage Jordan displayed on this date demonstrated the characteristics of not only a good police officer, but a good person as well. We are lucky to have him working for our communities.

Throughout the year, we continued our regional co-response program through the Department of Mental Health. This program partners a behavioral health clinician with a police officer to respond to all types of calls. This regional co-response program is shared among the following towns: Erving, Gill, Leverett (Wendell), Northfield and Warwick. The program is grant funded for forty hours a week and equally scheduled with the listed community's police departments. Since its start, this program has shown to be very valuable and much needed.

Grants:

Officer Thomas Chabot has written and been awarded several grants for the Bernardston Police Department for both equipment and dedicated safety patrols. Some of these equipment items were hand-held radar units, portable breath test machine (alcohol), and AED (defibrillator).



Crimes Investigated:

Larceny, breaking and entering, domestic violence, and rape. Below are some, but not limited to statistics for Leyden:

Animal Services – 19	Assists Citizen/Motorists – 32	Burglar Alarms- 14
Community Policing – 17	Disabled Motor Vehicles – 12	Medical Emergencies – 26
MV Accidents – 16	Motor Vehicle Stops – 85	Patrol Times – 707
Suspicious Activity – 21	Traffic Enforcement – 72	Traffic/Safety Hazards – 62
Investigations – 21		

Plans for 2024:

In the coming year 2024, we will be focusing our efforts on motor vehicle violations, specifically impaired and distracted driving. As mentioned above, Officer Chabot wrote and was awarded a dedicated safety patrol grant, for several thousand dollars. These patrols will be on designated months for the majority of 2024, so you may see more dedicated traffic enforcement in the late Spring, Summer and Fall.

Please remember to visit the department's website; <u>www.townofbernardston.org</u> Click on Police Department and you will find links that may interest you. You can also *like* us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is for daily warning and alerts, or special events. If you ever have a question or concern, please feel free to stop by the station to speak with an officer or email me directly at <u>police@townofbernardston.org</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Chief James E. Palmeri

Police Department:

James Palmeri- Chief of Police John Richardson- Sergeant Thomas Chabot- Officer Jordan Zukowski – Officer Darren Gale – Officer Mitchell Waldron- Officer



Photo Submitted by Bill Brooks

Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments:

The Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (PSCAC) held its first meeting on December 9, 2021 and established its mission: "...to make sure the people of Leyden have adequate police, fire and emergency coverage to make sure everyone is safe." On December 6, 2023, the committee met and voted to recommend that public safety planning be merged into the Leyden Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and that PSCAC be dissolved as a separate committee. Public Safety Planning will serve to track and then advise the Select Board about Leyden's regional contracts and progress towards further public safety regionalization that is expected to evolve over the coming years.

Over the past two years, Leyden has signed an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) for Police Services with Bernardston, signed a contract for Ambulance Services with the Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association, seen our Fire Department rebuilt, worked with the State Legislature to procure funds towards a new quick attack fire vehicle, signed a contract for emergency medical first responder training with Community 911, and under the guidance of our Co-EMDs. David Pomerantz and Erica Jensen, seen the update of our Emergency Management Plan and the rebuilding of an emergency management committee.

Grants:

Through an Efficiency and Regionalization Grant for \$187,000 Leyden hired the consulting services of Michael Edwards and Stephen Foley of the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management based at UMass Boston. Mike Edwards delved into the costs of providing police services to both Leyden and Bernardston and helped develop the formula which is used to determine what is Leyden's share of the police budget. Stephen Foley assisted Leyden with the redevelopment of our Fire Department, recommendations on repairs and maintenance of the building, and prepared a full risk assessment for the departments and towns' use. In addition, the E&R grant paid for: a new fully outfitted police cruiser, solar radar speed signs, repairs to the fire station electrical system, medical first responder training, office equipment, renovations to the town office building for a police substation, firefighter personal protective equipment, and legal reviews of contracts and agreements.

Plans for the coming year:

The Police Services Task Force that developed the IMA will continue to meet quarterly as the Police Services Advisory Committee. That committee is composed of a representative of each town's Select Board and Finance Committee along with a citizen representative appointed by the Town Moderator and in Leyden, one additional citizen representative appointed by the Select Board. The Leyden members of that committee are Liz Kidder, Erica Jensen, Ginger Robinson and Emily Yazwinski.

Thanks:

Special appreciation for their service on the PSCAC go to: Liz Kidder, Barbara Wallace, Anders Ferguson, Emily Yazwinski, Devorah Vester, Marcia Miller, Candace Hope, and Michael Morgan. Thank you to the many other residents who attended our meetings and whose input was always useful. Liz Kidder, Anders Ferguson, and Marcia Miller are going to continue serving as members of the LEMC.

Thank you to all Leyden residents for supporting the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee for the past 2 years. Special thanks should go to the Bernardston Select Board and Police Chief, James Palmeri, and the rest of his department for the respect and support they have extended to the citizens of Leyden as we strove to develop our shared police services.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Kidder, Chair

Members:

- Liz Kidder, Chair
- Emily Yazwinski
- Michael Morgan (2022)
- Marcia Miller
- Jack Golden (2022)
- Barbara Wallace
- Anders Fergusen
- Devorah Vester
- Candace Hope, Alternate (2022)





Photos Submitted by Sara Seinberg

Financial

Board of Assessors

Town Accountant

Treasurer

Board of Assessors

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and works in progress:

The new year started out with the Assessors processing abatements for Fiscal Year 2023. As late spring arrived, our office began conducting inspections of building permits and properties on the town's cyclical inspection list. The Department of Revenue (DOR) requires the Assessors to visit every property once every ten years.

In June, Robert DePalma was re-elected to the Board for another 3-year term.

Education is very important in the Assessing field as the laws under which we operate continually change. The Board of Assessors is the only elected board that the state requires its members to successfully complete a 30-hour course and examination within one year of taking office. Failure to do so jeopardizes the DOR approval of the town's tax rate.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the office granted 3 abatements totaling \$121,723 of value which translated into \$1,847.76 of tax dollars. Currently, there are no filed Appellate Tax Board cases for 2023. As we inspect properties in town, our property record card accuracy continues to improve, which promotes fair and equitable assessments. We encourage all residents to check the information on their property record cards periodically, especially after any building permit or demolition work has been completed.

The Leyden tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024 was \$14.94/per \$1,000.00 of valuation.

The Town of Leyden's parcel count, total assessed values for each major class of properties and their percentage of the Levy Limit is as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>% of Value</u>
ResidentialCommercialIndustrialPersonal Property	\$113,167,750 \$ 2,403,463 \$ 244,100 \$ 3,555,324	94.8037 2.0134 0.2045 2.9784
Total amount of 2024 Property Tax Valuation	\$119,370,637	100.00%

The Assessors have our property cards online which we know is helpful to residents, appraisers, town departments, attorneys and others since our office has limited office hours.

There are several statutory property tax exemptions for the elderly varying in amounts from \$175 to \$500. Each exemption is based on income guidelines and as economic times become more difficult; our elderly residents are encouraged to contact the Assessors' office to see whether they may qualify. Any

information that is provided to qualify for these exemptions is strictly confidential and is not available to the public. Also available are exemptions for the blind and veterans with a service-connected disability.

We want the public to know that assessing is a very complicated field, and the DOR sets forth very strict guidelines with which our office must comply. With that said, our office is available by phone or appointment for any questions on Mondays from 4:00-8:00PM. Our board meets on Mondays typically at 7:00PM in the Assessor's office as needed. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Board, please call the office at 774-4111 Ext. 2 or email us <u>assessors@townofleyden.com</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Wozniak, MAA & Assistant Assessor

- Kenneth Spatcher, Chair
- Robert DePalma
- John Rodgers
- Alice Wozniak, MAA & Assistant Assessor



Photo submitted by Karin Parks

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Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

Town Accountant July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

2023						Fiduciary	Account	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Proierts	Internal Enternrise Services	nal		Daht	(Memorandum Onlv)
		Governmental Fund Types		tary Fund		Fund Types	Groups	Totals
						Irust and Agency	Long-term	
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	324,635.57	100,291.36	28,573.77	95,411.44		848,639.97		1,397,552.11
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	149.74							149.74
Real estate taxes	109,065.59							109,065.59
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(17,478.56)							(17,478.56)
Tax liens	42,238.64							42,238.64
Deferred taxes	29,141.94							29,141.94
Motor vehicle excise	22,052.50							22,052.50
Other excises								0.00
User fees								0.00
Utility liens added to taxes								0.00
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments								0.00
Other receivables								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions								0.0
Prepaids								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Working deposit								0.00
Inventory								0.0
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds								0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets	509,805.42	100,291.36	28,573.77	95,411.44	0.00	848,639.97	00.0	1,582,721.96

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:								
Warrants payable Accounts payable Accrued payroll 0.00 Withholdings (2,726.62) (2,726.62) Accrued claims payable Due to/from other funds Due to other governments Other liabilities 0.00 Fiduciary Account	.6.62) (2,726.62) count							0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
	General	Special Revenue Governmental Fund Types	Capital Projects	Inter Enterprise Servi Proprietary Fund Types	Internal Services Ind Types	Fund Types Trust and Agency	Debt Groups Long-term	(Memorandum Only) Totals
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes 91, 736.77 9 Deferred taxes 29, 141.94 29, 141.94 Foreclosur User fees 0.00 Utility liens added to taxes Deposits receivable	91,736.77 closures/Posses: taxes	91,736.77 Tax liens 42,238.64 42,238.64 res/Possessions 0.00 Motor vehicle excise 22,052.50 0.00 Departmental 0.00 Special assessments	xcise 22,052.50 al assessments	22,052.50 Other excises 0.0 0.00 Due from other governments	cises 0.00 ir governments	0.00 Other receivables	bles 0.00	00.0
00 Tailings	0 IBNR 0.00 Agency Fun	0.00 IBNR 0.00 Agency Funds 0.00 Notes payable 818,720.81 818,720.81 Bonds payable	18,720.81 818,720.	81 Bonds payable	0.00 Vacation and sick leave liability	sick leave liability	0.00	
	182,443.23	00.00	818,720.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,001,164.04
Fund Equity: Total Liabilities								
Reserved for encumbrances								00.00
Reserved for expenditures								00.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	197,805.72							197,805.72
Reserved for petty cash								0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit								0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								00.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								00.0
Reserved for debt service								00.0
Reserved for premiums								0.00
Reserved for working deposit								00.0
Undesignated fund balance	129,556.47	100,291.36	(790,147.04)			848,639.97		288,340.76
Unreserved retained earnings				95,411.44				95,411.44

	1,582,721.96	
0.00	0.00	
848,639.97	848,639.97	
0.00	0.00	
95,411.44	95,411.44	
(790,147.04)	28,573.77	
100,291.36	100,291.36	192
327,362.19	509,805.42	Jity 581,557.92
	Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	Investment in capital assets 0.00 Total Fund Equity

PROOF BALANCE SHEET IS IN BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023	Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 6/30/2023				
Ledger History - Allocated Summary	ted Summary - Expenditure Ledger				
Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 21 - Cultural Council				
21-699-5400-21101	CC Grant Awards Expense	0.00	-6,817.00	-6,817.00	00.0
lotal Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 21 - Cultural Council	0.00	-6,817.00	-6,817.00	e/u
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 23 - Highway Grants				
23-422-5410-00000 Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Chapter 90 Expenses Code: 23 - Highway Grants	0.00	-88,461.05 -88,461.05	-88,461.05 -88,461.05	0.00
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Coder 28 - Revolving Funds				
26-176-5400-26103	Planning Board Revolving-Supplies	000	-865.66	-885 88	00.0
28-220-5400-28104	Fire Inspection Revolving-Supplies	00.0	-215.00	-215.00	00.0
26-292-5400-26105	Animal Control Revolving-Supplies	0.00	-3,175.50	-3,175.50	0.00
26-630-5400-26110	Recreation Revolving-Supplies	0.00	-657.54	-657.54	00.0
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 28 - Revolving Funds	00.0	-4,713.70	-4,713.70	e/u
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues				
29-122-5400-29113	Community Compact Expense	0.00	47,983.16	-47,963.16	0.00
29-122-5400-29143	ARPA Expenditures	0.00	-69,479.48	-69,479.48	0.00
29-162-5400-29104	Covid Election Expenses	0.00	-712.50	-712.50	00.0
29-175-5400-29112	MVP Expenses	0.00	-15,560.73	-15,560.73	0.0
29-210-5400-29146	FRCOG Training Expenses	0.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	0.00
29-210-5400-29148	CC Reg and Eff Grant Expenses	0.00	-128,752.13	-128,752.13	0.00
29-212-5400-29142	EMPG Grant Expenses	0.00	-2,587.67	-2,587.67	0.00
29-422-5400-29128	Coates Road Grant Expenses	0.00	-77,981.50	-77,981.50	0.00
29-422-5400-29147	East Hill Road Grant Expenses	0.00	-372,398.75	-372,398.75	0.00
29-435-5400-29145	Historical Commission Gift Expenses	0.00	-502.66	-502.08	0.00
29-541-5400-29135	COA Grant-Supplies	0.00	-7,965.26	-7,985.28	0.00
29-541-5400-29136	COA Donations-Supplies	0.00	-90.00	-90.00	0.00
29-541-5400-29149	Mass in Motion Grant Expenses	0.00	-3,837.80	-3,837.80	0.00
29-610-5400-29137	Library State Grant-Supplies	0.00	4,633.87	4,633.87	0.00
29-610-5400-29138	Library Donations-Supplies	0.00	-1,138.72	-1,138.72	0.00
29-630-5400-29140 Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Recreation Donations-Supplies Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues	00.00	-738.782.23	-738.782.23	0.00
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 67 - Broadband		•		
67-191-5100-67101	Broadband Wages	23,000.00	-14,734.50	8,265.50	64.06
67-191-5200-67101	Repairs and Maintenance	38,760.00	-2,801.00	35,959.00	7.23
67-191-5300-67101	Broadband Whip City Fees	137,080.00	-185,645.87	-48,565.87	135.43
67-191-5320-67101	Middle Mile Access Fee	21,600.00	0.00	21,600.00	0.00
67-191-5330-67101	Pole Rental Fee	13,500.00	-3,023.66	10,478.34	22.40
3/4/2024 2:19:14 PM	Printed by: adesroches				Page 1 of 2

Filter by: Segment 1: 21, 23, 24, 28, 27, 29, 39, 67, 83 Group as: 11---------

Group as: 11-m. m.

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023 Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 8/30/2023

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Expenditure Ledger

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
67-191-5340-67101	Retainer for 3rd Party Boom Truck	9,600.00	0.0	9,600.00	0.00
67-191-5360-67101	Pole Bonding Fee	6,000.00	-9,122.72	-3,122.72	152.05
67-191-5380-67101	Insurance	7,500.00	-11,430.00	-3,930.00	152.40
67-191-5400-67101	Replacement Reserve Fiber and Electronics	43,500.00	0.00	43,500.00	0.00
67-191-5700-67101	Broadband Electricity and Gas	11,400.00	-8,515.25	4,884.75	57.15
67-996-5961-00000	Transfer to Stabilization	255,836.00	-255,836.00	0.00	100.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 67 - Broadband	567,776.00	489,109.00	78,667.00	86.14
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts				
83-220-5700-83119	-220-5700-83119 Fire Dept Stabilization Expenses		-50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts	0.00	-50,000.00	-50,000.00	e/u
	34 Account(s) totaling:	567,776.00	-1,377,882.98	-810,106.98	242.68

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Filter by: Segment	s: 11-***_**** *****

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023 Start

Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 6/30/2023

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Revenue Ledger

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 21 - Cultural Council				
21-000-4680-00000	State Cultural Council	00.0	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00
21-000-4820-00000	nterest	00.00	166.97	166.97	00.0
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 21 - Cultural Council	0.00	5,666.97	5,666.97	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 23 - Highway Grants				
23-000-4422-00000	Chapter 90 Revenue	00.0	117,034.82	117,034.82	00.0
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	使用的 化合物	0.00	117,034.82	117,034.82	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund					
26-176-4840-26103	Planning Board Revolving Rev.	0.00	300.00	300.00	00.00
26-220-4840-26104	Fire Inspection Revolving Rev	0.00	345.00	345.00	00.00
26-292-4840-26105	Animal Control Revolving Rev Code: 23 - Highway Grants	00.00	175.00	175.00	0.00
	Code: 26 - Revolving Funds				

		00 0	00 000	00 000	
26-630-4840-26110	Recreation Revolving Rev	0.00	380.00	380.00	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 26 - Revolving Funds	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues				
29-122-4680-29143	ARPA Revenues	00.0	106,859.20	106,859.20	00.0
29-162-4840-29106		00.0	480.24	480.24	00.0
29-422-4680-29128 Culver Replacement Grant Revenue 0.00 467,322.67	Grant Revenue 0.00 467,322.67 467,322.67 0.00 29-422-4680-29147 East Hill Road Grant Revenues 0.00 294,864.25 294,864.25 0.00 29-435-4820-29145	ant Revenue:	0.00 294,864.25 2	294,864.25 0.00 29-435	-4820-29145
Historical Commission Gift Revenes 0.00 1,365.00 1,365.00 0.00	1,365.00 1,365.00 0.00				
29-541-4840-29135	COA Grant Rev	00.0	7,947.51	7,947.51	00.0
29-541-4840-29136 COA Donations Rev 0.	29-541-4840-29136 COA Donations Rev 0.00 162.00 162.00 0.00 29-610-4840-29137 Library State Grant Rev 0.00 3,886.21 3,886.21 0.00	21 0.00			
29-610-4840-29138	Library Donations Rev	0.00	1,643.00	1,643.00	00.0
29-630-4840-29140	Recreation Donations Rev	00.0	670.00	670.00	00.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 29 - Misc Special Revenues	0.00	885,200.08	885,200.08	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 39 - Capital Projects				
39-000-4970-00000	Transfer from G/F	00'0	59,837.19	59,837.19	00.0
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 39 - Capital Projects	00.0	59,837.19	59,837.19	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 67 - Broadband				
67-000-4820-00000	Broadbank Interest	00.0	646.76	646.76	0.00
67-191-4200-67101	Broadband Ent. Operations-Charges for Services	0.00	328,620.83	328,620.83	0.00
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Code: 67 - Broadband	0.00	329,267.59	329,267.59	n/a

	0.00	0.00	0.00		% Var.	00.0	n/a	8 Stabilization-	cellaneous 0.00 0	0.00	n/a	n/a
	51.86	1.70	54.79		Ending	841.46	1,131.80	00 83-141-4800-831	000.00 10,000.00 0.0	91,059.83	372,799.89	1,772,138.34
	51.86	1.70	54.79		Expended	.69 1.69 0.00 841.46	1,131.80	.00 797.10 797.10 0.	500-83103 Town Bull tab Revenue 0.00 10,	91,059.83	372,799.89	1,772,138.34
	0.00	00.00	00.00		Allocated	I Trust-Interest 0.00 1 0.00	0.00	ation-Miscellaneous 0	143./6 0.00 83-192-4; 3120 Police Capital St	00.00	00.0	0.0
Code: 82 - Expendable Trusts	Barstow Trust-Interest	Cemetery Trust-Interest	Davenport-Interest	3/4/2024 2:20:45 PM Printed by: adescoches. Page 1 of 2 Group as: 11_***_*******************************	Name	82-290-4820-82104 Davenport Poor and School-Interest 0.00 180.30 180.30 0.00 82-294-4820-82105 Robertson Memorial Trust-Interest 0.00 1.69 1.69 0.00 82-522-4820-82107 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 82-522-4820-82107 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0	Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund Code: 82 - Expendable Trusts 0.00	Group 1: Segment 1: Fund Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts 83-122-4800-83121 Opioid Stabilization Revenues 0.00 339.99 0.00 83-141-4800-83101 Asses. Software Stabilization-Miscellaneous 0.00 797.10 797.10 0.00 83-141-4800-83118 Stabilization-	Miscellaneous 0.00 10,861.63 10,861.63 0.00 83-191-4800-83167 Broadband Stabilization Revenue 0.00 256,143.76 256,143.76 0.00 83-192-4800-83103 Town Building Stabilization-Miscellaneous 0.00 3,558.94 0.00 83-192-4800-83106 Technology Stabilization-Miscellaneous 0.00 38.64 0.00 83-210-4800-83120 Police Capital Stab Revenue 0.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10,000.00 10	Highway Capital Stabilization Fund-Miscellaneous	Code: 83 - Stabilization Trusts	34 Account(s) totaling:
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	82-286-4820-82101	82-288-4820-82102	82-289-4820-82103	3/4/2024 2::20:45 PM Printed by: adescocioes Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023 Start Date: Ledger History - Allocated Su	Account Number	82-290-4820-82104 Davenport Poor and Sch 82-522-4820-82107	Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	Group 1: Segment 1: Fund 83-122-4800-83121 Opioid Stabilization Rev	Miscellaneous 0.00 10,861.63 10,861.63 0.0 3,558.94 3,558.94 0.00 83-192-4800-83106	83-421-4800-83111	Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund	

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Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023

Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 6/30/2023

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Expenditure Ledger

. ini	- Allocated Summer - Experiuture Leager	Allocated	Evended	Ending	of Mar
		Allocated	Experiace		.10 vdi.
01-114-5100-00000	Moderator-Stipend	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
01-114-5300-00000	Moderator-Fees	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00
01-122-5100-00000	Selectboard-Chair Stipend	2,000.00	-2,000.00	00.00	100.00
01-122-5110-00000	Selectboard-Member Stipend	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.00	100.00
01-122-5210-00000	Selectmens Diesel Account	34,000.00	-32,634.76	1,365.24	95.98
01-122-5300-00000	Board and Committee Exp	3,000.00	-2,509.64	490.36	83.65
01-122-5340-00000	Selectboard Web/Internet	2,000.00	-1,940.00	00.09	97.00
01-122-5380-00000	Selectmens Computer Account	4,500.00	-4,077.95	422.05	90.62
01-122-5420-00000	Selectmens Equipment/Supplies	4,350.00	-3,813.40	536.60	87.66
01-123-5100-00000	Municipal Assistant Salary	57,200.00	-57,200.00	00.00	100.00
01-123-5300-00000	Municipal Assistant Expense	1,110.00	-1,107.11	2.89	99.74
01-131-5300-00000	Finance Committee Expense	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
01-132-5780-00000	Reserve Fund	640.00	00.00	640.00	0.00
01-135-5100-00000	Salary Town Accountant	12,730.00	-12,730.00	00.00	100.00
01-135-5300-00000	Town Accountant Expense	6,960.00	-4,292.89	2,667.11	61.68
01-141-5100-00000	Assessors Chair Salary	3,200.00	-3,200.00	00.00	100.00
01-141-5110-00000	Assessors Members Salary	4,800.00	-4,800.00	00.00	100.00
01-141-5120-00000	Assessors Clerk Salary	12,000.00	-11,257.82	742.18	93.82
01-141-5300-00000	Assessors Expenses	8,500.00	-8,494.85	5.15	99.94
01-145-5100-00000	Treasurers Salary	12,730.00	-12,730.00	0.00	100.00
01-145-5110-00000	Treasurer Certification	1,000.00	-1,000.00	00.00	100.00
01-145-5300-00000	Treasurers Payroll Exp.	2,000.00	-1,662.46	337.54	83.12
01-145-5400-00000	Treasurer Debt Expense	0.00	0.00	00.00	0.00
01-145-5420-00000	Treasurers Expense	1,520.00	-923.78	596.22	60.78
01-145-5580-00000	Treasurers Tax Title Exp.	12,000.00	-2,425.42	9,574.58	20.21
01-146-5100-00000	Salary Tax Collector	12,730.00	-12,730.00	00.00	100.00
01-146-5300-00000	Tax Collector Expense	5,350.00	-2,356.46	2,993.54	44.05
01-146-5580-00000	Tax Taking/Liens	2,050.00	0.00	2,050.00	0.00
01-151-5300-00000	Town Counsel Fee and Expense	7,500.00	-6,562.50	937.50	87.50
01-161-5100-00000	Salary Town Clerk	10,400.00	-10,293.44	106.56	98.98
01-161-5300-00000	Town Clerks Expense	1,400.00	-1,316.62	83.38	94.04
01-162-5120-00000	Election Worker Expense	2,565.00	-2,497.97	67.03	97.39
01-175-5100-00000	Planning Board Chair Salary	350.00	-350.00	00.00	100.00
01-175-5110-00000	Planning Board Member Salary	800.00	-400.00	400.00	50.00
01-175-5300-00000	Planning Board Expense	350.00	-50.00	300.00	14.29
01-192-5111-00000	Custodian Salary	5,665.00	-3,143.02	2,521.98	55.48

Page 1 of 3

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Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023 Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 6/30/2023 Ledger History -	Allocated Summary - Expenditure Ledger

	- LAPOIIUIUI C LOUGOI	Allocated	Fxnended	Fnding	% Var.
01-192-5210-00000	Utilities-Town Hall	35,000.00	-33,579.84	1,420.16	95.94
01-192-5240-00000	Building Repairs/Maint.	10,000.00	-6,388.48	3,611.52	63.88
01-192-5290-00000	Beaver Meadow Cemet. Exp.	900.006	-900.00	00.00	100.00
01-192-5291-00000	East Hill Cemet. Exp	900.006	00.00	900.006	00.00
01-192-5292-00000	South Cemetary	900.006	00.00	00.006	0.00
01-192-5293-00000	W. Leyden Cemetary	900.006	-900.00	0.00	100.00
01-192-5430-00000	Elevatior Repair/Maint	2,800.00	-2,785.00	15.00	99.46
01-192-5460-00000	Grounds Maint. Exp.	7,000.00	-6,053.00	947.00	86.47
01-195-5300-00000	Town Report Printing	750.00	-688.75	61.25	91.83
01-210-5120-00000	Constables Stipend	300.00	-200.00	100.00	66.67
01-210-5300-00000	Police Expense	89,344.00	-89,142.25	201.75	99.77
01-210-5650-00000	FRCOG REPC Assess	150.00	-150.00	0.00	100.00
01-220-5110-00000	Fire Chief Salary	5,000.00	-2,916.69	2,083.31	58.33
01-220-5115-00000	Firemans Salary	13,500.00	-4,532.00	8,968.00	33.57
01-220-5300-00000	Fire Expenses	27,500.00	-19,793.07	7,706.93	71.97
01-241-5580-00000	FRCOG Inspection Svc.	4,600.00	-4,600.00	0.00	100.00
01-250-5110-00000	EMS Salary	3,500.00	-1,789.00	1,711.00	51.11
01-250-5300-00000	EMS Expense	2,000.00	00.00	2,000.00	00.0
01-250-5320-00000	EMS Ambulance Expense	1.00	00.00	1.00	0.00
01-250-5400-00000	RAVE 911	2,850.00	-2,850.00	00.00	100.00
01-252-5110-00000	EMD Stipend	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00	100.00
01-252-5300-00000	EMD Expenses	1,000.00	00.00	1,000.00	00.0
01-275-5300-00000	Barn & Animal Ins. Exp.	1,000.00	-1,000.00	00.00	100.00
01-294-5300-00000	Tree Warden Expense Ins. Exp.	10,000.00	-9,986.94	13.06	99.87
01-301-5320-00000	PVRS Operating Budget	839,838.25	-839,838.25	00.00	100.00
01-301-5710-00000	PVRS School Comm. Travel	600.00	-600.00	00.00	100.00
01-303-5320-00000	FCTS Operating Assessment	210.00	00.00	210.00	00.0
01-303-5820-00000	FCTS Capital Assessment	2,386.75	-2,386.69	0.06	100.00
01-421-5100-00000	Highway Salaries	157,018.00	-152,313.60	4,704.40	97.00
01-421-5240-00000	Highway Machinery	55,792.00	-55,115.83	676.17	98.79
01-421-5300-00000	Highway Expenses	12,900.00	-10,382.68	2,517.32	80.49
01-421-5430-00000	Highway Maintenance	86,306.88	-75,934.07	10,372.81	87.98
01-423-5300-00000	Winter Maintenance	83,276.12	-83,276.12	00.00	100.00
01-510-5100-00000	Bd of Health-Chair Salary	800.00	-800.00	00.00	100.00
01-510-5110-00000	Bd of Health-Mem. Salary	1,200.00	-1,200.00	00.00	100.00
01-510-5300-00000	Bd of Health Expenses	1,000.00	-945.83	54.17	94.58
01-510-5650-00000	FRCOG Health Assess	4,417.00	-4,417.00	0.00	100.00
Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023	Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 6/30/2023				

Page 2 of 3

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 Expenditure Ledger
Summary
Allocated
History
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Name

Account Number

Ending Expended Allocated

% Var.

100.00 Library Custodian 793.00 -600.00 193.00 75.66 01-610-5300-00000 Library Operating Expense 10,207.00 -9,899.01 307.99 96.98 01-752-5925-00000 Interest on Indebtedness 1,000.00 -550.00 450.00 270.72 0.00 100.00 01-545-5770-00000 Veterans Benefits 6,460.58 -6,121.76 338.82 94.76 01-610-5100-00000 Salary Library Director 17,661.00 -17,460.00 201.00 98.86 01-610-5110-00000 Salary Retiremnt. Asses: 36,533.00 -36,533.00 0.00 100.00 01-910-5300-00000 Insurances 105,000.00 -93,308.46 11,691.54 88.87 01-996-5967-00000 Transfer to BB 63,000.00 -63,000.00 0.00 100.00 01-01-541-5300-00000 COA Expenses 4,000.00 -1,891.93 2,108.07 47.30 01-544-5770-00000 Gfld. Vets Svc. Dist. Asses 1,699.70 -1,699.70 0.00 100.00 01-545-5300-00000 Veterans Plaques 270.72 -55.00 01-850-5676-00000 FRCOG Procurement 1,698.00 -300.00 1,398.00 17.67 01-851-5677-00000 FRCOG Stat/Core Assess. 5,044.00 -5,044.00 0.00 100.00 01-852-5678-00000 Franklin Reg. 0.00 -102,650.00 996-5968-00000 Trans.to Stabilization 97,065.00 -97,065.00 0.00 100.00 01-996-5971-00000 Free Cash Vote 15,000.00 -15,000.00 0.00 100.00 102,650.00 Special Projects in 03 01-999-5962-00000

95.67 94,093.24 -2,079,358.76 2,173,452.00 89 Account(s) totaling:

78

Filter by: Segment 1: 01

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2023

Start Date: 7/1/2022 end: 6/30/2023

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Revenue Ledger

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
01-000-4110-20230	FY2023 PP Revenues	0.00	46,005.31	46,005.31	00.0
01-000-4120-20210	2021 Real Estate Tax	00.00	15.22	15.22	00.0
01-000-4120-20220	2022 Real Estate Tax	00.0	16,803.92	16,803.92	00.0
01-000-4120-20230	Real Estate FY2023	00.0	1,589,491.67	1,589,491.67	00.0
01-000-4140-00000	Local PILOT	00.0	19,907.72	19,907.72	00.0
01-000-4142-00000	Tax Liens Redeemed	00.00	3,692.62	3,692.62	00.0
01-000-4150-20160	2016 Motor Vehicle Tax	00.00	81.25	81.25	00.0
01-000-4150-20180	2018 Motor Vehicle Tax	00.00	32.50	32.50	00.0
01-000-4150-20190	2019 Motor Vehicle Tax	00.0	311.25	311.25	00.0
01-000-4150-20200	2020 Motor Vehicle Tax	00.00	653.25	653.25	00.0
01-000-4150-20210	2021 Motor Vehicle Tax	00.00	1,619.81	1,619.81	00.0
01-000-4150-20220	MVE 2022	00.00	12,381.83	12,381.83	00.0
01-000-4150-20230	2023 MVE Revenues	00.00	97,683.37	97,683.37	00.0
01-000-4161-00000	Town Clerk Fees to Town	00.00	450.50	450.50	00.0
01-000-4170-00000	Penalties and int. taxes	0.00	600.00	600.00	00.0
01-000-4171-00000	Interest on Property Tax	0.00	6,697.63	6,697.63	0.00
01-000-4172-00000	Interest on Motor Veh Ex	0.00	1,204.61	1,204.61	00.0

01-000-4173-00000	Interest on Tax Titles		0.00	338.49	338.49	00:0
01-000-4270-00000	Other Charges for Service		0.00	25.00	25.00	00.0
01-000-4320-00000	RMV Marking Fees		0.00	820.00	820.00	00.00
01-000-4360-00000	Tax Collector Fees to Town		0.00	4,874.00	4,874.00	0.00
01-000-4420-00000	Town Hall Rental		0.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
01-000-4449-00000	Business Cert.		0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
01-000-4452-00000	Permits-Plumbing/Gas		0.00	50.00	50.00	00.00
01-000-4459-00000	Permits - Other		0.00	25.00	25.00	00.00
01-000-4462-00000	Death Certificate		0.00	10.00	10.00	00:0
01-000-4611-00000	State Owned Land		0.00	40,811.00	40,811.00	00:0
01-000-4613-00000	Abatements Veterans		0.00	4,055.00	4,055.00	00:00
01-000-4671-00000	Unres. Gen. Govt. Aid		0.00	93,831.00	93,831.00	00:0
01-000-4770-00000	Fines-District Court		0.00	1,007.50	1,007.50	00:00
01-000-4772-00000	CMVI Fines		0.00	375.00	375.00	00:0
01-000-4820-00000	Interest on Investments		0.00	8,411.36	8,411.36	00:0
01-000-4841-00000	Sale of Surplus Equipment		0.00	2,372.52	2,372.52	00:0
01-000-4841-01020	Misc. Vendor Reimbursement		0.00	4,076.60	4,076.60	00.00
01-000-4842-00000	Sale of Street Lists		0.00	25.00	25.00	00:0
		35 Account(s) totaling:	0.00	1,959,149.93	1,959,149.93	n/a
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Treasurer

July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2023

Cash Accounts		6/30/2023
Checking Account Depository Account Greenfield Coop MM Tax Collector Accounts		71,763.68 684,288.45 11,879.93 60,199.00
Total Cash Accounts	\$	828,131.06
Stabilization Accounts		
Stabilization Fund Bldg Cap Improv Stabilization Technology Stabilization Assessors Software Stabil Highway Equipment Capital		295,667.75 91,141.82 1,119.18 12,359.82 107,851.20
Total Stabilization Accounts	\$	508,139.77
Trust AccountsBarstow PoorDavenport BooksDavenport Poor & SchoolArts Lottery CouncilQuintus AllenCemetery CareRobertson Memorial LibraryTotal Trust AccountsTOTAL TOWN FUNDS	\$ <u>\$</u>	1,336.19 1,414.59 4,624.71 4,283.17 14,946.43 637.04 635.73 27,877.86 1,364,148.69
MLP- Broadband Accounts		
MLP Broadband		231,818.11
MLP Broadband Stabilization		25,307.76
TOTAL MLP FUNDS	<u>\$</u>	257,125.87

Town Departments

Broadband/MLP Robertson Memorial Library

Broadband/MLP

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and works in progress:

This has been a big year for the Leyden MLP (Municipal Light Plant). First, John Wallace was appointed MLP Assistant Manager and has been working diligently to learn about the workings of our equipment hut and finances.

Grants:

Perhaps the biggest news is that we partnered with four other towns (Colrain, Heath, Rowe and Charlemont) and received a \$400,000 grant from the state to establish a more reliable, resilient, and redundant internet service. We now can connect the town through 3 different service routes, maximizing the likelihood of uninterrupted connection. Of course, there is no way to guarantee 100% service, but we are closer to that number than ever before. We also now have more bandwidth available to serve greater numbers of customers here in town.

Currently, we have 288 subscribers getting broadband and 152 with phone hook up as well.

Thanks:

In addition, we established an MLP Advisory Committee, consisting of Erica Jensen (Select Board representative), Al Woodhull and Anders Ferguson. Their help in guiding the MLP is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Golden, Manager

MLP Advisory Committee Members:

- Jack Golden, Manager
- John Wallace, Assistant Manager
- Erica Jensen, Select Board Representative
- Al Woodhull
- Anders Ferguson

MPL Board Members:

Leyden Select Board

- Glenn Caffery
- Katherine DiMatteo
- Erica Jensen



Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Robertson Memorial Library

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments:

The Robertson Memorial Library stands as a cornerstone in our small town, playing a vital role in providing free access to a diverse range of materials. Open to the public for 12 hours each week and available by appointment, the library goes above and beyond to cater to the needs of its patrons by offering delivery options. The collection of materials is carefully curated with the community in mind, boasting a selection of 4,532 books for all ages, along with audiobooks and films. By prioritizing quality with selections endorsed by reputable sources like Booklist, New York Times, and Kirkus Reviews, the library ensures that there is something for everyone.

In addition to its extensive collection for its tiny little building, the Robertson Memorial Library actively fosters community engagement through various initiatives. From successful summer reading programs that draw in children from neighboring areas to collaborative events like the Leyden Running Festival, the library serves as a hub for bringing residents together. Supported by dedicated trustees and a team of enthusiastic volunteers, the library thrives as a welcoming space where individuals of all ages can connect, learn, and grow. With a commitment to staying current and inclusive, the library continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of its community, making it a beloved institution worth exploring for anyone seeking knowledge, connection, and entertainment.



Photo submitted by Karin Parks



Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Budget expenditures:

In the Fiscal year 2024, our budget totaled \$30,309.58, marking a modest increase of only 5.8% from the previous fiscal year. We allocate our budget thoughtfully with 20% dedicated to expanding our materials collection while ensuring our shelves are not overcrowded, 63% of the budget is assigned to the director and custodian salaries. The remaining 17% covers utility expenses, office supplies, and building maintenance. State funds of \$4,366.20 were received this year to enhance programs and address additional building needs, such as painting the library's exterior and upgrading energy efficient lighting.

Plans for the coming year:

Exciting plans are in motion for our library, including full integration into the CWMARS library system for enhanced access to materials and an expansion of community programs.

Thanks:

Thank you to the dedication of our library trustees and volunteers, bidding farewell to retiring trustees Cornelia Reid and Carolyn Asbury, whose unwavering support has been invaluable over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Parks, Library Director

- Karin Parks, Director
- Tom Raffensperger, Trustee Chair
- Richard DiMatteo, Trustee Member
- Cornelia Reid, Trustee Member (Term ended 06/23)
- Carolyn Asbury, Trustee Member (Resigned 12/23)



Photo submitted by Karin Parks



Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury



Photo submitted by Karin Parks

Boards, Committees & Commissions

Board of Health Cooperative Public Health Service Building Needs Study Committee Conservation Commission Council on Aging Historical Commission Leyden Zoning Board of Appeals Planning Board Recreation Committee

Board of Health

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

The Board of Health services Leyden for all public health issues with the assistance of the Cooperative Public Health Services (CPHS) of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Elizabeth Kuzdeba is Leyden's representative with the CPHS Oversight Board.

The highlights of 2023:

- A "perfect storm "of Covid-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus(RSV), and Influenza in January. Between the Covid-19 and Influenza vaccines made available by mobile clinics, the monthly clinics offered by our Public Health Nurses, and the home visits by the nurses, these viruses were addressed. A vaccine for RSV became available in the fall.
- PPE ordered from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health by the Board is available to our residents at Town Offices or by request. Items available are rapid tests, masks (adult and child), gloves, bandaids and Sharps containers.
- The Massachusetts Public Health emergency ended on 5/11/23 coinciding with the Federal.
- The ability to opt out of aerial mosquito spraying was not available from the state. Individual properties could do so on the state site. Our mosquito population is monitored through testing by the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, with whom we contract. The PVMCD received funding from the state to open a local office in Deerfield.
- Ticks and the diseases they carry will be a continuous and evolving issue through the years. Different types of ticks and the new diseases they carry are changing yearly. The Board purchases Tick Keys that are free to residents and we subsidize the testing of ticks with online coupons through the Tick Report. The Board participated in Ready Fest. With emergency preparedness in mind, we subsidized CPR and Basic First Aid trainings, in conjunction with Wild Med, in the fall to our residents.
- The Board purchased a First Aid kit and made Narcan available at our town offices. There are also Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips at the Town Offices. Anyone who has a concern, can take online Narcan training, and request Narcan be sent to you at home. New resources are available for our increasing mental health crisis:
 - Behavioral Health Helpline. 1-833-773-2445
 - National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. 9-8-8
 - Resources for Substance Use Addiction are at Town Offices
- Short Term Rentals (STR) must be permitted and inspected on a yearly basis by FRCOG with the online permitting system. Leyden has a couple of STR's.
- New terminology became part of the public health language. Health equity, racial equity, PFAS, Age Friendly Communities, Ageism, and the Opioid fund.
- Monthly articles in Leyden Life focus on current public health issues

Plans for the coming year:

The Board of Health is a regulatory board, and we believe in the education of our town to maintain a high level of public health for all. Educational material on a variety of subjects has been made available at the Town Offices

Thanks:

Thank you to the Board of Health members for their hard work and professionalism through this last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Kuzdeba, Chair

- Elizabeth Kuzdeba, Chair
- Marcia Miller
- Jerry Lund



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

Cooperative Public Health Service

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and work in progress:

The Town, along with the other member towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, Rowe, and Shelburne, is served by the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS provides professional support to the Town Board of Health for all public health issues. Staff members include Program Manager Randy Crochier, Health Agent Kurt Schellenberg, Health Inspector Jasmine Ward, Permitting Coordinator Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Public Health Nurses Lisa White and Meg Ryan, and Epidemiologist and Community Health Educator Maureen O'Reilly.

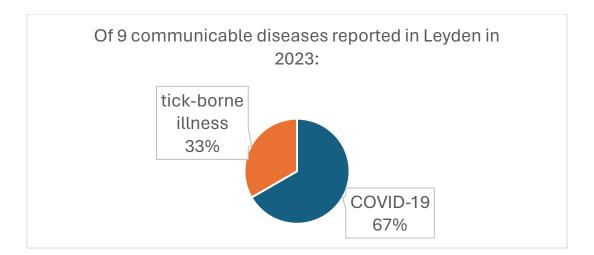
CPHS activities on behalf of the Board of Health in Leyden during 2023 included:

- Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers. The clinics in Cooperative Public Health District Towns 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine.
- Additionally, the nurses gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours, and home visits, and carried vaccines to nursing hours throughout season. Leyden residents received 24 vaccines, including 3 in home visits.
- Served as a resource for residents and hosted monthly drop-in nursing hours at Town Offices or Town Hall monthly, serving 43 different people in 72 separate contacts. Services included blood pressure and other health screenings, assistance addressing health concerns, and where appropriate, wellness visits in the home.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases, checking state infectious disease reporting system daily and following up as required, including 9 Leyden cases. (See pie chart below).
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. At all drop-in nursing hours, residents can pick up hazardous waste boxes appropriate for needle disposal and can bring full boxes for disposal. 69 boxes were exchanged over the year.
- Supported Franklin County Age- and Dementia- Friendly Communities initiative by working with community partners to write and publish a five-year action plan in response to local priorities identified from the needs survey data.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by collaborating with the board of health to provide education materials and 7 permethrin shoe-spraying events districtwide.
- Through a CPHS district program, Leyden residents sought 13 low-cost tick tests, saving a value of \$455. Of the tested ticks, 47% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen and 8% tested positive for the Babesiosis pathogen.
- Served as Town's arbovirus coordinator, monitoring weekly data reports of mosquito and tick borne disease from the state and providing regular updates to the town.
- Provided a biweekly newsletter for Board of Health (BOH) members, to provide updates to pertinent public health topics, including upcoming events/trainings, visualizations of local data, and relevant epidemiological analyses.

- Provided written articles on monthly public health topics to BOH and a topical flyer to BOH, town administrator, library and nearby senior centers.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with our on-line public health permitting system; reviewed and made determinations on a total of 30 applications for Leyden, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits, including:
 - To enforce the Title-5 (septic) code for the town: witnessed 7 soil evaluation/percolation tests for septic systems; reviewed and issued 1 local upgrade approval and 4 septic installation permits, visited sites, conducted final installation inspections, and prepared certificates of compliance; witnessed 4 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer.
 - Reviewed 5 food and temporary food establishment permit applications and conducted 6 inspections.
 - Reviewed 3 well permit applications. Assisted businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance.
 - Responded to and managed multiple housing cases.
- Provided guidance to the Board of Health, and regularly attended board meetings.
- Organized two low-cost 3-in-1 Food safety trainings (ServSafe[®], Mass Allergens Awareness and Choke Saver with use of EpiPen[®] and Narcan[®]) for town residents and business employees.

The CPHS staff looks forward to working together with Leyden Board of Health members and residents to improve the health of the community in the coming year.

Leyden's representative to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2023 was Board of Health member Beth Kuzdeba. For more information about the Board or the health district, visit <u>www.frcog.org</u>.



Building Needs Study Committee

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and works in progress:

- Upgrade electrical panel and lighting in the Fire dept.
- Provide the Select Board with information to allow Leyden to be accepted into the "Green Communities" and be able to apply for grants to improve our town buildings.
- Provide the Select Board and Finance Committee with a spreadsheet that lists maintenance needs, priority and estimates on all of the town's buildings over the next several years as well as possible funding.
- Insulated the crawl space in the Town Offices
- Had security system added to the Town Offices.
- Provided plans and proposal to separate the room the Police Department used and make half of that for the Emergency Management Office.
- Approval to purchase a dehumidifier to lessen the moisture issue down in the basement.
- Coordinating with town maintenance providing him with a list of repairs for him to do.

Grants or additional funding received:

Waiting to hear back from the Green Communities for feedback and assistance.

Plans for the coming year.

- Getting the roof repaired on the Town Office.
- Getting bids to repair the outside of the Town Offices.
- Getting bids on repairing and or replacing gutters and mold mediation.
- Getting bids to repair the roof of the Fire Department.
- Getting bids to build a room for the Fire Department's personnel gear to insure safety.
- Getting bids for installing lights in the parking lot at the Town Offices.
- Reviewing Town Hall egress.
- Hepa filter for Fire Department when running engines.
- Insulate the Fire Department
- Getting the Fire Department chimney repaired.

Thanks:

To the following members with their expertise in building matters and codes Richard Parks, David Pomerantz and David Vreeland

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Medvetz, Chair

- Richard Parks
- David Pomerantz
- David Vreeland
- Ken Medvetz, Chair



Photo submitted by Karin Parks

Conservation Commission

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and works in progress:

The Conservation Commission reviewed several logging plans, building plans and conducted site visits across town over the course of the year. Groundwork for dealing with invasive Japanese knotweed on town roadsides was also set in place through collaborations with the Highway Department. The Conservation Commission assisted the Select Board in permanently protecting the Penfield property on Hunt Hill Road.

Budget expenditures:

A total of \$75 was spent to maintain active membership in the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC). We are a lean, mean conservation machine!

Grants or additional funding received:

The Leyden Finance Committee awarded nearly \$3,000 to the Conservation Commission for the purposes of mapping all invasive Japanese knotweed locations on roadsides in Leyden; the money was returned unspent, however, as Leyden resident Ryan Clary generously completed the map for free.



Seeking:

Photo submitted by Evan Abramson

We still seek a fifth member; interested parties should email <u>conservation@townofleyden.com</u>.

Plans for the coming year:

The Conservation Commission endeavors to continue to serve the residents of Leyden by conserving and protecting its wetlands, wildlife, and natural resources. We plan on hosting public education sessions on preventing the spread of Japanese knotweed in the coming months.

Thanks:

To Ryan Clary of the FRCOG and Bill Brooks of the Highway Department for creating a map of all Japanese knotweed locations on roadsides in Leyden.

Respectfully submitted,

Evan Abramson, Chair

- Richard DiMatteo, Chair- Retired
- Evan Abramson, Chair
- Karen O'Neil, Vice Chair
- Don Sadowsky, Secretary
- Janell Howard, Treasurer
- Michael Morgan Resigned
- Fifth seat vacant

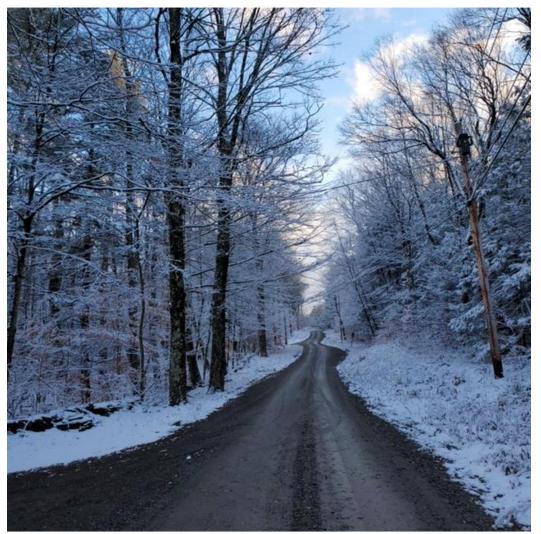


Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Council on Aging

April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Mission Statement: The Leyden Council on Aging (COA) is a senior advocacy group funded by the Town of Leyden and the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Our purpose is to enrich the lives of Leyden residents 60 and older by providing educational and recreational opportunities that promote the physical, social, and mental wellness of our residents and by directing seniors and their families to local and state agencies that will address their personal needs.

Key Accomplishments:

- As newly appointed COA members, we focused our earliest efforts on ensuring smooth continuation of previously offered programs (Walk-In Wellness Clinic, Foot Clinic for seniors, monthly meals).
- We provided community luncheons each month and drew speakers from the pool of talent and skills that exist in our community. Luncheon presentations included Leyden history, African travel experiences, three generations of sheep farming at Orchard Valley Farm, a Leyden artist and book author's creative work and sources of inspiration, and informational talks on Medicare, fraud and scam prevention, and funeral planning. In addition to providing meals to those in attendance, we also offered drive-by meals to go, and delivered meals to some community members unable to attend our sit-down luncheons.
- Several of us have joined the newly formed Mass in Motion committee that will develop a 5-year plan for activities, events, and projects in accordance with the Age Friendly Franklin County and North Quabbin Regional Action Plan. We look forward to collaborating with members of other Leyden town committees over the months and years ahead.
- Other COA projects over the past year include an Election Day Bag Lunch Social, participation in last summers' Readyfest event, and hybrid zoom exercise sessions. Several of our COA members are now ServSafe certified.

Budget Expenditures:

The Leyden COA receives funding from the town, the Executive office of Elder Affairs, and some donations. Our largest expense is our monthly lunches. Other expenses include purchasing privacy screens for the Wellness and Foot Care Clinics, Town Hall kitchen supplies, and for our birthday card program. A grant from the Fred W. Wells Trust covers the cost of the nail clinics.

Grants:

Thanks to a state digital literacy grant obtained by the Bernardston Senior Center, Leyden residents were able to enter a lottery for one of 6 iPads especially designed for seniors, with technology training provided through Cyber Seniors. (There are still 2 iPads available.) Leyden also received a public desktop and monitor for Leyden seniors through this grant, and it is available for use in the Town Offices Building.

An additional Bernardston Senior Center grant provided funds for an outreach worker for Leyden seniors seeking information and access to such resources as Medicare, fuel assistance, SNAP, and other supports. We are scheduling appointments for seniors to meet with Matt Aversa, Outreach Coordinator, in Leyden or nearby Senior Centers. Community support is also provided through Neighbors Helping Neighbors and other targeted outreach efforts by one of our COA members.

Plans for the Coming Year:

- Ongoing Mass in Motion committee participation
- Extended outreach efforts
- Restocking of Town Hall kitchen with cookware for meal preparation for community events
- "Being Mortal" film and end-of-life discussion program.
- In-person and/or hybrid exercise sessions
- Enhanced communication of Bernardston Senior Center programming that may be of interest to Leyden seniors.
- Publishing of updated Leyden Town Directory

Special thanks:

Thank you to the Leyden Select Board and especially Katherine DiMatteo for keeping the COA in focus while it was undergoing transition. Also, thanks to Peggy Brown who sends out the birthday cards and helps to serve meals. Thanks to Deb Collins for helping in serving meals as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Maguire and Amy St. Clair, co-chairs

Members:

- Chris Maguire, Co-chair
- Amy St. Clair, Co-chair
- Anne Garvey, Treasurer,
- Pat Little, Secretary
- Nanette Rolstad
- Merideth Lein
- Linda Allis, Assistant to the COA



COA December luncheon presentation – Orchard Valley Farm: A Legacy of Female Farmers spanning 3 generations.

Photo taken by Merry Lein

Historical Commission

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Key Accomplishments:

- The Leyden Historical Display was open for "Coffee and History" on 16 Sundays. We enjoyed the good company and conversation of 125 guests. Special thanks to Linda Allis for helping with snacks.
- Holly Hayes Spatcher Presented Leyden History slide show at a COA Luncheon
- A visual display, "A Walk Through Leyden History" was presented at the Running Fest as well as a Leyden Tee Shirt Sale by Gary and Vanessa Russell
- Visual displays were presented for Memorial Day, Mother's Day, and Veterans' Day during Coffee Hours
- A display of "Storm Stories" was presented during the "Ready Fest."

Funding:

The Historical Commission is supported only by fundraising and donations. We sold Leyden tee shirts and greeting cards of the front of Town Reports by Richard DiMatteo (with his permission)

One project nearing completion was to mail letters to all donors who gave funds in hope of purchasing the "Forge". That money was held in a fund specific for that purpose and could not be used for other projects. The letters requested the donor stipulate that their donation could be used for future and ongoing projects or request a refund.

Plans for the Coming Year:

The Historical Commission plans to expand the historical display further to include many items still in storage. Organization and proper storage of artifacts is a priority for this year. Coffee and History will resume again in the spring of 2024.

Thanks:

Thanks to both Sam Allis and Kim Jordan who resigned because they could not commit the time with their busy schedules. We appreciate their contributions. Both donated significant items to the collection.

Respectfully submitted,

Nannette Rolstad, Chair

- Holy Hayes Spatcher, secretary
- Linda Allis
- Gary Russell, Treasurer
- Vanessa Russell

Leyden Zoning Board of Appeals

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Work in progress:

There were no applications for variances or appeals this year, and therefore there was only one ZBA meeting scheduled, and that was to raise the Application Fee to \$500 to accommodate recent increases in Recorder advertising.

Sadly, John Higgins submitted his resignation from the Board at year end. He will be missed greatly.

Respectfully submitted,

James Brodeur, Chairman

- James Brodeur, Chairman
- John Higgins, Clerk
- Cecelia Tusinski
- Arthur Baker
- Robert Reilly



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

Planning Board

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

A new Zoning Bylaw was formulated in 2023 for large and small scale solar installations, in order to comply with one of the requirements of the Green Communities Act. A Public Hearing was held on March 1, at which no objections were raised that were not already covered in the requirements of the bylaw being proposed. At a Special Town Meeting on March 20, the Planning Board recommended adoption of the article and it was unanimously voted. However, due to numerous solar challenges around our State, the Attorney General's Office had not yet approved it as of year-end.

At mid-year elections, long-standing, 35-year member Warren Facey gave up his seat at the table. But, as requested by the remaining Board members, he accepted the appointed position of Associate Member, to be called on in the case of a regular member being unable to rule on a special permit application. Warren was certainly a wealth of information, wisdom, and history, and has already been missed at the table.

A Special Permit was granted by the Board via the hearing process, for a common driveway at 256 Greenfield Road, to service a new house to be built at 248 Greenfield Road. The new approximately 900-foot long driveway was approved with the condition that an 84-foot emergency vehicle turnaround would be provided nearest the new dwelling, as per Planning Board common driveway standards.

A new organization, The Movement Retreat Center, buying the former Angels Rest Retreat at 63 North County Road met with the Board to explain their purpose, that of a non-profit educational/residential organization. As with another retreat's claim the previous year, the organization's same attorney claimed that no Special Permit was required here either, because of the certification by the State of nonprofit/educational status.

Plans for the coming year:

Toward the end of the year, the Planning Board members began addressing the subjects of both marijuana zoning and accessory dwelling abilities within Leyden and will continue that endeavor in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

James Brodeur, Chairman

Members:

- James Brodeur, Chairman
- Sarah Bartholomew, Clerk
- David Curtis
- Emily Yazwinski
- Liz Kidder



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

Recreation Committee

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed and works in progress:



Throughout the previous year, the Leyden Recreation Committee has been dedicated to bringing joy and activity to the town by hosting a variety of engaging programs. These activities attracted a diverse range of town residents and received support from the Leyden Cultural Council.

For the second consecutive summer, we successfully executed the 'Arts in the Woods' program, where local artists inspired young participants to create beautiful art projects. Moreover, with the assistance of a Cultural Council Grant, we organized live music events.

Halloween was a big hit this year, featuring a collaborative effort with the Library, Bernardston

Police Department, Leyden Fire Department, and residents to host a well-attended Trunk and Treat event despite the rainy and windy weather. The costumes were imaginative, and everyone relished the festivities.

In December, Santa delighted Leyden residents by visiting families with the Leyden Fire Department, spreading joy and warmth.

Teaming up with the library, we launched the first Leyden Running Festival, which included a 5k and a costume fun run, and was met with an enthusiastic response. We are looking forward to making this event bigger and better in the future.



Notably, the completion of the Avery Field Field House marked a significant milestone of the year.

Thanks:

A special thanks to John Higgins and his crew of volunteers for their dedicated service to the project and the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Parks, Chair

Members:

- John Higgins, Chair Resigned 12/23
- Karin Parks, Chair
- Brian Pelletier Resigned
- Abbi Pratt
- Ella Muka
- Gary Russell





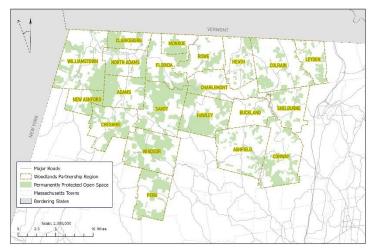
Photos submitted by Karin Parks

Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts



The Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts (established as the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership in 2018 state law) is a public body with its board comprised of representatives from the 21-town region (Franklin

County: Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain*, Conway, Florida, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe, Shelburne; Berkshire County: Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Savoy*, Williamstown, Windsor) as well as from Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Deerfield River Watershed Association, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Franklin Land Trust,



Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Hoosic River Watershed Association, Lever, Inc., Massachusetts Society of American Foresters, Massachusetts Forest Alliance, Ohketeau Cultural Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the U.S. Forest Service. New England Forestry Foundation serves as Administrative Agent for the Partnership.

*As of April 2024, Colrain and Savoy have not yet voted to join the Partnership.

Active & Ongoing

- The formation of Demonstration Forests in member town forests, one in Berkshire County and one in Franklin County—including outreach events, monitoring and research activities.
- Implementation of climate-smart forestry practices on properties with Forest Stewardship Climate Plans with cost-share funds and application development. Practices include thinning, riparian buffer planting, invasive species treatment, under-planting, forest regeneration patches, and forest improvement of degraded stands or Timber Stand Improvement.
- Recognition of the need to build relationships with Indigenous Peoples while bringing their perspectives to the work, and to embark on needed research into and action on ongoing struggles regarding aboriginal rights and access to land.
- Board committees meet frequently, with each member providing unique perspective and ideas committees include: Education, Outreach, & Research; Executive Committee; Finance & Budgeting;

Forest Conservation; Municipal Financial Sustainability; Natural Resource Based Economic Development.

• Local land trusts work on pursuing conservation projects for Forest Legacy Program consideration, following the Partnership's successful admittance into the eligibility area.

2023

- o Ten-Year Plan (2022-2032) continues to guide Board action
- \$460,000 awarded in grant funding to increase economic development focusing on the conservation and sustainable management of forests
- o Buckland and Florida voted to join-welcome!
- o Ohketeau Cultural Center of Ashfield added to the Board by unanimous vote—welcome!
- o State legislation submitted by Sen. Mark to officially change our name
- o Hank Art of Williamstown steps down as Board Chair—we thank him for his service!
- o Dicken Crane of Windsor steps up as new Board Chair—we thank him for his leadership!
- Outreach to state as they develop policies and initiatives related to forests (incentives and climate action) and municipalities (Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes reform)
- Virtual Forest Center website nearing completion in partnership with Mass Audubon, Rowe, and others for municipal resources related to forest stewardship
- o Woods walks, in-person workshops, webinars, conferences
- o Trees planted in Shelburne Falls and Williamstown for riparian restoration

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Conlin

Education

Bernardston Leyden Elementary School Pioneer Valley Regional School District Pioneer Valley Regional School Franklin County Technical School

Bernardston Leyden Elementary School

2023

When visiting Bernardston Elementary School during 2023, people found educators and students dedicated to social-emotional learning, community development, and academic growth.

To many adults, it may seem that the implications of the pandemic were over by 2023, but the reality was that our children were still swirling socially from its impact and were playing catch up academically. Their social emotional needs were high as were their instructional needs and our Bernardston educators worked very hard to support them during this journey.

One way that Bernardston educators prepared for this work was by participating in professional development opportunities that strengthened their skills in dealing with these heightened needs. Staff members deepened their understanding of Responsive Classroom approaches to education and best practice instruction. The initial four days of training focused on developing and strengthening successful routines and procedures, clearly communicating expectations, using positive language, and building a sense of community. This work was important and is ongoing.

Movement, interaction, and choice were part of Responsive Classroom work, because as we know, physical fitness helps all of us with our mental and physical health. At Bernardston Elementary School, we recognized the children's need for movement throughout the day and deliberately planned daily schedules to allow for frequent body breaks. In addition, children started attending physical education class twice a week and we added a climbing wall to the gym. Rock wall climbing became part of the physical education class, and the climbing helped develop upper body strength, build coordination, and increase teamwork opportunities. It was a huge hit with the children!

In classrooms, the need for movement and teamwork extended to Playful Learning and Playful Engineering, which are two initiatives that were funded by grants in 2023 and that benefited the children of Bernardston. Grades PreK through three were part of the Playful Learning grant and grades four through six were part of the Playful Engineering grant. With each of these grants, the children participated in engaging, hands-on, and choice driven activities. Children learned to create and share while participating in these initiatives. This work with classmates helped to solidify a sense of community.

Our sharing and community building extended from the classrooms to the building level during 2023 as well. Our All-School Meetings, monthly Code of Conduct Meetings, Business Box entries, and BEST Awards were a few of the ways that the whole Bernardston Elementary School community came together. Student voices were heard through meetings and opportunities to submit ideas in writing and pictures. At our assemblies, classes rotated leading and sharing in a variety of ways. They sang songs, recited poems, shared pieces of art and engineering, or segments of live performances. They also celebrated and recognized students for making good choices like being kind, safe, and trying their best.

Sharing and communicating was important to staff and students at Bernardston Elementary School during 2023. Our meetings and communications helped students and staff stay connected and share ideas, and through use of these methods two themes kept surfacing, the repair and update of our playground and the need for increased cooling for classrooms. (The second tended to come up on hot days.) Some children even met with the facilities director, Gretchen Licata, to share concerns and ideas and John Lepore from Future Land Designs, LLC.

As you can tell, 2023 was busy at Bernardston Elementary School. The staff grappled with social emotional growth and learning needs. They used many methods to address these needs,-such as hands-on, high engagement learning approaches, increased physical movement throughout the day, and increased opportunities for communication were just a few of the techniques. Throughout the year, educators at BES always stayed focused on the needs of the students.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Schultz, Principal



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

Pioneer Valley Regional School District

2023

Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) operates three schools: Bernardston Elementary (serving students PreK-6 from Bernardston and Leyden), Northfield Elementary (serving students PreK-6 from Northfield), and Pioneer Valley Regional School (serving students Gr. 7-12 from all three towns).

Departure of Warwick:

On July 1, the Warwick Community School officially reopened as part of the brand-new Warwick School District. The final transition process was notably collaborative, and we wish our colleagues in Warwick every success with their new district.

Warwick-resident students in PreK-6 who previously attended Northfield Elementary School now attend the Warwick Community School. Warwick-resident students in Grades 7-12 may attend Pioneer Valley Regional School through a tuition agreement with the Town of Warwick. (Students from Vernon, VT may attend our secondary school through a similar tuition agreement.)

Financial Improvements:

The district continues to improve its financial operations, as evidenced by the School Committee's vote in October 2023 to return \$740,214 to our member towns and to pay off a state note of \$198,000. In addition, the School Committee committed to \$614,000 in key investments over the next several years. Those investments will support curriculum renewal, the PVRS facility, and staff compensation.

Facilities Master Plan:

The district completed a Facilities Master Plan (FMP) during 2023 that produced comprehensive facilities conditions assessment reports on all three buildings. These reports provide important information to both the district and member towns regarding deferred and upcoming maintenance needs.

CannonDesign, an architecture and design firm that works with educational organizations across the country, was the vendor on this project. Cannon convened a stakeholder group of students, staff, parents/guardians, town officials, and School Committee members, to develop guiding principles for the process and to provide ongoing feedback on options developed by Cannon.

At the end of the process, Cannon recommended that the district consider a long-range plan to consolidate all of its facilities on the current site of Pioneer Valley Regional School. That recommendation will be further explored during 2024.

The district paid for the project with Covid-era ESSER grand funding.

Administrative Team:

Four new administrators joined the district over the summer. We welcomed new Principals at NES and PVRS, a Director of Student Services, and a Director of Teaching & Learning. Now that we have a full team of talented and dedicated administrators, the district will be developing a longer-range and comprehensive plan to strengthen our curricular, instructional, and student support services.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Kinsella, Superintendent



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

Pioneer Valley Regional School

2023

The year 2023 was a year of both change and development for Pioneer Valley Regional School, marked by the introduction of a new administrative team, several new teachers, and new class offerings. As the calendar turns to 2024, the foundation has been laid for the next steps in our school's continued growth.

There have been significant changes to programming offered at Pioneer, both in terms of class offerings as well as activities. One important example is the return of the woodshop program, which has rapidly become a highly popular class amongst students. Currently offered to students from grades 7 through 12, the woodshop allows students to engage in hands-on learning, express their creativity, and effectively channel their energy in a way that was not previously accommodated.

Another significant adjustment involves the Pathways program and how that time is utilized. This year, Pioneer introduced two new components of the Pathways program, RTI and Clubs. RTI, or Response to Intervention, is a program that allows students to receive individualized, direct, targeted instruction and academic support during the school day. Providing students with a specific, dedicated time to work on targeted areas of academic need is proving valuable and highly beneficial to our students. A second change that was made to Pathways is the inclusion of time for student clubs to meet. Due to a range of factors, including transportation and the high percentage of our students who participate in sports, the number of students who could attend after school clubs and activities has diminished. As these extracurricular activities are essential components of a balanced and enjoyable student experience, it was imperative that we provide a time for students to participate. At the close of 2023, Pioneer proudly offers over 20 students clubs and activities with a student participation rate of 100%.

Athletically, Pioneer has had a successful year, fielding teams that earned success either on the scoreboard or in growth and experience. Highlights include both boys and girls basketball, with the girls' team finishing the season with a winning record and a win in the state tournament, and the boys' team enjoying a 20-4 record before bowing out in the state quarterfinals. The boys baseball team also had a tremendous season, finishing an impressive 19-2 before ending the season in the state semi-finals. As a school, we are proud of our athletic accomplishments, but more importantly, we are proud of the fact that our athletes are also outstanding young people.

An additional and noteworthy development has been an extensive and continuing effort to reach out and communicate with students and families. Both administrators and faculty made a concerted and consistent attempt to engage in conversation with students and families in an attempt to learn more about their experiences with the school, their preferences, their areas of concern, and their hopes for the future. This effort was largely centered around students in Grade 8, with the rationale that our school needs to do a better job of retaining more students entering into Grade 9. While the fruits of this work are not yet realized, the efforts made in 2023 were well received by both parents and students, and promise good results moving forward.

A final important development in 2023 was the process of introducing Career Innovation Pathways to our students. In 2023, Pioneer advanced through the first steps for this designation, which will offer students broad entry points into important and rewarding careers or further areas of study. This is not to be confused with a vocational program; rather it is a means by which students can accrue real-world experience by doing hands-on work while also accruing academic credit. It is an exciting opportunity, and in pursuing this our school is strengthening both its academic standing and the options that will be available to our students.

Undoubtedly, there is much work left to be done, but Pioneer Valley Regional School closes 2023 on strong footing and can look to the future with optimism. Continuing to bolster our academic offerings, providing a rich and varied array of activities, and supporting our students academically, socially, and emotionally are hallmarks of a quality education and school experience, and we can proudly say that we are delivering on these promises. We conclude 2023 with hope and confidence that our future is bright.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew F. Sullivan, Principal



Photo submitted by Bill Brooks

Franklin County Technical School

82 Industrial Boulevard

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376

TEL: 413-863-4239 FAX: 413-863-2816

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

FY25 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2023-24 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. As a reminder, the budget represents October 1, 2023 enrollment count, which is always a year behind the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment of 568 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	30	Erving	27	Montague	74	Sunderland	9
Buckland	18	Gill	13	New Salem	14	Warwick	5
Colrain	23	Greenfield	132	Northfield	40	Wendell	8
Conway	7	Heath	11	Orange	90	Whately	18
Deerfield	35	Leyden	4	Shelburne	10		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 123 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2023. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023 FCTS has approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased courses in Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Technician program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45-minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS is in the final process of completing a new 4800 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The new building is located on Industrial Blvd next to FCTS. The facility is planning to open in the spring of 2024 and will be used for the FCTS Veterinary program and provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program is slated to start during the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials to be certified as an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2 million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000 sq. ft. aviation hangar with no additional assessment to towns. The FCTS hangar will be located along the boundary line between FCTS and the Turners Falls Airport. The facility will include; 1 twin engine airplane, 2 single engine airplanes, 1 glider, and 1 helicopter as well as FAA machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA to start a new program. FCTS is planning to become one of the few high schools in the United States to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students graduating from the program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training to sit for the FAA license test and be on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and is one of the few remaining regional vocational schools in Massachusetts without a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded facility. In late 2022, FCTS was invited into the MSBA eligibility phase of the process, which will conclude in May of 2024. At this time, the MSBA will make a determination if FCTS will enter into the Feasibility Study phase of the program. The Feasibility Study will take several years to complete and will include a design phase which will determine anticipated costs of a potential project. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study, the MSBA and FCTS will determine if it is "feasible" to go out to our member towns to build a new facility, renovate, or seek other alternatives.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in grants over the last 6 years without using tax dollars from member communities. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology and Aviation vocational technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines. Through the highly competitive skills grant FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to be used to develop technical skills towards certification. FCTS will partner with the Franklin County House

of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab as an opportunity to help inmates acquire advanced technical skills which can lead to employment upon release.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million-dollar multi-year grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant and plans to explore more programs for 2024. FCTS also started its own Electrical adult program and plans to add more in the near future. To accomplish these goals and to meet industry and community needs, FCTS has hired a full-time adult coordinator.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community. The current construction continues on the house on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Beyond the Greenfield house project, the Carpentry program constructed a new storage shed for the Town of Charlemont Federated Church, is constructing a pavilion for the Town of Shelburne Falls, and built a related classroom for our Automotive Tech program.

The Landscaping and Horticulture department worked with the Town of Shelburne Falls in the consultation and design of a pocket park, Source to Sea annual cleanup, Franklin County Fairgrounds tree planting, beautification design projects and fence repair, made wreaths for the Conway covered bridge, worked at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery for fall cleanup, consulted and designed the Veteran's Memorial in Pelham, the Peskeompskut Park signage in Turners Falls, and planted trees for the towns on South Deerfield and Turners Falls. In Montague LH is working with the Montague Planning Department on the Millers trail modification.

The Programming and Web Design students worked with the Montague Senior Center and will be providing Tech Support beginning in December of 2023. The program also helped to develop a website for the UCC Church in Conway and a senior student is working with the First Congregational Church in Ashfield and coordinates the video and audio for online services.

The Electrical department continues working with the Town of Heath, retro fitting new parking and office lights at the town hall. Additionally, there is ongoing work at the office of the Turners Falls Airport, the support of the wiring for the newly constructed Vet Science building on campus and the automotive technology related classroom, installation of securing cameras in the welding department, and supporting the FCTS NIS department.

The Advanced Manufacturing program collaborated with our welding and carpentry shop on the design and construction of the Towns of Deerfield and Northfield 350th time capsules. Currently the students are manufacturing rollers for the horticulture program for the striping of the athletic fields in addition to assisting with making replacement parts for the automotive and horticulture departments, and they have worked with carpentry to operate the CNC router with a MasterCam program.

The Culinary Arts program did a crepe presentation for the Northfield Senior Center, and will provided a holiday luncheon in December for the Montague Housing Authority. They will serve the Erving Lady's Red Hat Society for a Valentine's Day luncheon, have created ice carvings for the Annual Winter Festival in

Greenfield, hosted the Annual Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, the School Resource Officer's Breakfast, the Superintendent's Award Dinner, the Light Up The Fairgrounds Breakfast, the Annual National Honor Society's luncheon, . Also provided food and baked items for the Annual FCTS Car Show and Little Drummer Craft Fair.

The Welding department repaired the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls, have created an air conditioner unit cover for the Town of Warwick, a bench to be located at the French King Bridge in Erving, engine stands for the Aviation program scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024, brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage, worked on the recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair and they are in discussion with the High Street Cemetery in Greenfield to restore their gates.

The Health Technology program has run public blood pressure clinics, a nail clinic at the Erving Senior Center, volunteered at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield, collected items for a Hygiene Drive, work with the Ja'Duke Preschool observing child development and the creation of activities, and helped to serve holiday meals at the Stone Soup Café in Greenfield.

The Cosmetology program continues to provide services for residents of the Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center.

The Veterinary Science program ran a pet food and toy drive for local shelters, and has volunteered at the Dakin Humane Society. Services will expand to the public once the program occupies the new building.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,

Richard Kullewing

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz School Committee Chairman

Kichard J. Marta

Mr. Richard J. Martin Superintendent-Director



Regional Service Providers

Franklin County Regional Animal Control Report Franklin County Regional Council on Governments Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority The Fred Wells Trustees Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

Franklin County Regional Animal Control Report

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Key accomplishments, projects completed, and works in progress:

In 2019, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide full-time services to these towns. Since its inception, the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program has expanded to provide these services to (12) towns in Franklin County. The program has also expanded its staff to include a part-time Animal Control Officer.

Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 880 calls which resulted in 1,455 corresponding action(s).

Calls and Services:

Breakdown of calls by Town:			
*	Bernardston:	<u>47</u>	
*	Buckland:	<u>67</u>	
'	Charlemont:	<u>52</u>	
*	Colrain:	<u>49</u>	
*		<u>44</u>	
*		<u>55</u>	
*	Heath:	<u>18</u>	
*	Leyden:	<u>26</u>	
*	Monroe:	<u>12</u>	
*	New Salem:	44	
*	Northfield:	<u>75</u>	
*	Shelburne:	<u>77</u>	
**	Dog Shelter:	106	
*	Other:	<u>208</u>	

Calls for Service:

- ★ 22 Animal bite reports.
- ***** 179 Animal complaints or concerns.
- ▲ 134 Investigations.
- ***** 83 Found or lost animals.
- **23** Inspections.
- **★** 33 Sick or injured animals.
- ★ 74 Assistance to other agencies.
- * 51 Hearings, Meetings or Trainings. *Note: The above does not represent all the calls that where received.

Other Statistics:

- ★ 24 Animal surrenders.
- ★ 47 Canines picked up.
- ▲ 33 Cat(s) picked up.
- ★ 13 Wildlife picked up.
- **४** 1 − Other animals picked up.
- ★ 20 Warnings issued.
- **♦** 9 Dog hearings.
- ☆ 7 Citations issued.

Vaccinations:

In the spring of 2023, with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Amy Rubin and Jaime Remillard we were able to host rabies vaccination clinics in Turners Falls and Heath, through which a total of 96 pets where vaccinated. Plans for the coming year.

Contact information:

Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at **animalcontrol@fcso-ma.us** or by phone at **413-774-7340**. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**. Thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer

Judie Garceau, Part-time Regional Animal Control Officer



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

Franklin County Regional Council on Governments

SERVICES TO LEYDEN IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Assisted the Town Coordinator and Selectboard prepare an application to become a designated Green Community.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted to implement the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that information to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Pioneer Valley Regional School (PVRS) administrators on results from 90 Pioneer students, representing 64% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.
- Worked with PVRS District administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Supported Leyden Mass in Motion Age-friendly workgroup on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. With Mass in Motion funding, the workgroup updated, printed, and mailed out the new Leyden Factbook, including resources for older adults.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• Supported town's request for local digital equity planning services from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute and began working on the eight-town Franklin County Cooperative Digital Equity Plan.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Leyden contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, fire alarm services, school district fire extinguisher services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff conducted a bid for deck repairs on 10-Mile Bridge, and also assisted with a collective five-year bid for Student Transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School
- The Franklin County Cooperative Inspections program issued 50 building permits, 18 electrical permits, 19 plumbing/gas permits and two certificates of inspection for Leyden in 2023.
- Leyden contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, fire alarm services, school district fire extinguisher services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff conducted a bid for deck repairs on 10-Mile Bridge, and also assisted with a collective five-year bid for Student Transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees.

- Leyden is a comprehensive member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a regional health district based at the FRCOG. CPHS Staff:
- Facilitated COVID-19/flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools, libraries and senior centers. Clinics in CPHS towns served 726 individuals and provided 1075 vax doses.
- Hosted drop-in nursing hours at town offices and town hall lunches, serving 43 different people in 72 separate contacts.
- Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Leyden residents received 24 vaccines, including three at home visits.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, including for nine Leyden cases.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 69 boxes exchanged.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by providing educational materials and co-hosting seven permethrin "shoe spraying" events with boards of health.
- Through a CPHS district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Leyden residents sought 13 low-cost tick tests, saving a value of \$455. Of the tested ticks, 47% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen and 8% tested positive for the Anaplasmosis pathogen.
- Began hosting district "Train the Trainer" events. The first taught community members to train peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose.
- In an FRCOG/library collaboration, presented another training on overdose identification and response.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system; reviewed and made determinations on 30 applications for Leyden, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits Among these, inspectors reviewed five food and temporary food establishment permit applications, involving six inspections; and reviewed three well permit applications.
- To enforce septic code for the town, inspectors witnessed seven soil evaluation/percolation tests for septic systems, reviewed and issued one local upgrade approval and four septic installation permits, and witnessed four septic inspections prior to property transfer.
- Assisted businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance and responded to and managed multiple housing cases with varying degrees of complexity.
- Provided guidance to the Board of Health, and regularly attended board meetings.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions that Leyden public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Emergency Preparedness

Firefighter Fire Response — 4

Public Health & Community Awareness

Age and Dementia-Friendly Community Talk — 6 Cannabis Regulatory Updates for Municipalities — 1 Food Safety — 3 Mass in Motion Community Engagement — 1 4State Tobacco Updates — 1 USDA Rural Development Grant Information Session — 1 Municipal Officials' Continuing Education One-Stop Municipal Grants Information Session — 1 Planning, Conservation & Development Environmental Protection Grant Information Session — 1 Short Term Residential Rentals--1

TRANSPORTATION

- Provided technical assistance compiling a MassTrails grant application and created a map to be included.
- Conducted six traffic counts on Brattleboro Road, East Hill Road, Eden Trail, Frizzell Hill Road, Mid County Road, and West Leyden Road.
- Provided technical assistance initiating participation in the MA Complete Streets Funding Program.
- Created a neighborhood map for Emergency Management Director to mail to every resident.



Photo submitted by Carolyn Asbury

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

241 Millers Falls Road • Turners Falls, MA 01376 Telephone: (413) 863-9781 • Facsimile: (413) 863-9289

This is the annual report on activity in Leyden's Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund (HRRLF) account.

The terms of HRA's agreement with the Town of Leyden establishes the process for handling proceeds repaid from Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation loans.

The following chart provides a summary of **THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY** during this period:

А	Beginning Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2022	\$122,113.62
В	Deposits – loan repayment and interest	\$.00
с	Withdrawals – loan funds expended	\$17,910.00
	If applicable, funds returned to Town	\$.00
D	Withdrawals – fees paid (24%, 2% HRA, 2% DHCD)	\$4,298.40
E	Ending Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2023	\$99,905.22

The next chart provides information on <u>THE PROJECTS</u> completed or in progress during this period:

F	Number of new loans closed from the HRRLF (1/1/23 – 12/31/23)	0
G	Total amount of new loan funds committed	\$17,910.00
н	Loan funds committed after 12/31/23	0

HRA administers the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund for the town on a fee-for-service basis. HRA charges two types of fees: a program administration fee at the time that loans are initiated, and a loan servicing fee deducted at the time the loans are repaid. The fee structure, per the signed contract dated 1/3/2013, provides for a 24% program administration fee and a 2% loan servicing fee. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development also requires the town to pay a 2% fee on funds deposited and retained in the revolving loan fund during the preceding calendar year. The following chart provides a summary of fees paid between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

1	HRA program administration fees (24% of funds loaned)	\$4,298.40
К	HRA loan servicing fees (2% for subordinations, re-financing, discharges)	\$.00
L	DHCD program fees (2% for fees received during the period)	\$.00
м	Total fees	\$4,298.40

As of December 31, 2023, the balance of all outstanding housing rehabilitation mortgages in the Town of Leyden was \$298,086.70 and HRA is currently working with one homeowner who has housing rehabilitation assistance.

HRA appreciates the opportunity to assist income-qualified residents of Leyden requesting emergency assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund program. If you know of any residents who could benefit from this program, please refer them to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Pleasant, Community Development Program Manager

Current HRA Board of Commissioners:

- Faith Williams, Shelburne (Chair)
- Michael Cucchiara, Heath (Vice-Chair)
- Leslie Brown, Erving (Treasurer)
- Susan Worgaftik, Greenfield
- Mary McClintock, Conway
- Larry Bezio, Shelburne
- Vacant Seat (1)



The Fred Wells Trustees

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

This trust fund was established under the Will of Fred W. Wells. Mr. Wells, a former resident of Greenfield, directed that a portion of income from the fund be used for awarding scholarships in agricultural, mechanical or professional fields. Funds available for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 were \$263,772.69 (inclusive of unused scholarship money from previous years that was reallocated to be granted this year).

Education:

The Trustees received 190 applications and approved 186 of those received. Trustees awarded a total of **\$203,997.00.** This amount includes two \$1,000.00 scholarships in honor of Ralph and Hilda Haskins. The Trustees worked diligently throughout the year to provide all eligible applicants an award to assist in their education.

Health:

Eight applicants were provided grants totaling \$39,566.00.

Bernardston Senior Center \$ 1,000.00 Charlemont Council on Aging \$ 1,000.00 Conway Council on Aging \$ 1,000.00 Life Path, Inc. \$15,250.00 Northfield Senior Center \$ 1,000.00 South County Senior Center \$ 1,000.00 The Care Collaborative \$15,250.00 The Senior Center – West County Consortium \$ 2,066.00 **Total Health Grants awarded were \$39,566.00.**

Agriculture:

Three applicants were provided grants totaling \$13,189.00

Franklin County Agricultural Society \$6,122.00

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Feldman

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Mission Statement:

To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels.

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in over \$2,005,921.53 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY22 of 341,580.51 a month.
- District hired a new Deputy Director Stacey Geneczko who has completed all her National Certifications for the VA.
- District hired new Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Jeffrey Cochran who has completed all his National Certifications for VA. This brings the office from 1 to 3 VA Certified VSO now in the office.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.
- > The Director, Chris Demars, conducted a Chapter 115 presentation with GCTV for outreach.
- Expect a significant increase to Chapter 115 benefits for all City and Towns due to inflation and cost of living adjustments by the State of Massachusetts.
- We project a slight increase of the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2024.
- The Office has produced 143 claims and 46 appeals with VA for Veterans and their Dependents this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Demars, Director

Public Information

In Memoriam 2023 Leyden Municipal Directory

In Memoriam 2023

Carol A. Johnson, beloved wife of Ed Johnson died on Nov. 14, 2023. She was the mother of two adored children, Lisa and Lonnie. She worked for many years as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Carol loved working with children and families. She married Ed Johnson in 1985 and they shared a home that Ed built in Leyden. They celebrated their 38th anniversary on Feb. 16th. She loved living in Leyden but most of all she loved Ed.





Matthew Kyle Brodeur, age 37, passed away unexpectedly on November 23, 2023, in Haverhill, MA. Matthew was a research scientist who developed cells for cancer treatment drugs. He was especially proud of the work he did on the Moderna covid vaccine. Matt had a special love for animals. He loved to discuss politics, history, and religion. He was an avid supporter of education in the hope of a better world to come for future generations.

Michael Phillips Pollen, age 74, of Leyden, passed away peacefully at his home in Rhode Island on September 23, 2023. He spent time working in Minnesota as a Future Farmer of America, before joining the United States Navy in 1970. A Quartermaster on the USS Nitro AE-23, Mike used the stars to navigate the open seas. Mike had fond memories of his time with the Navy, and often told stories of his travels. Mike served his country for four years before moving back to Western Mass and settling down in Leyden.



Leyden Municipal Directory

Located at the Town Offices at 7 Brattleboro RD unless otherwise noted.

ACCOUNTANT			413-774-4111 Ext. 1	
			accountant@townofleyden.com	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT			413-774-4111 Ext. 106	
			adminasst@townofleyden.com	
ASSESSORS			413-774-4111 Ext. 2	
			assessors@townofleyden.com	
	BERNARDSTON LEY	DEN ELEMENTARY 37 School RD, Bernardstor	n 413-648-9356	
	BOARD OF HEALTH		boh@townofleyden.com	
	BROADBAND/MLP	(Whip City Fiber)		
	- -	Hook up and billing Technical Support Downed Wires or Damage from storms	413-572-0100 413-485-1204 413-485-1204	
	CONSERVATION CC	MMISSION	conservation@townofleyden.com	
	COUNCIL ON AGIN	G	<u>coa@townofleyden.com</u>	
	CULTURAL COUNCI	L	culturalcouncil@townofleyden.com	
	EMERGENCY MAN	AGEMENT COMMITTEE	emergencymgt@townofleyden.com	
	PUBLIC INF	ORMATION OFFICER	emergencyinfo@townofleyden.com	
	FINANCE COMMIT	TEE	fincom@townofleyden.com	
FIRE DEPARTMENT 16 West Leyden RD				
	-	To Report An Emergency Fire Station Administrative Assistant	911 413-773-7673 413-774-4111 Ext.106 <u>fire@townofleyden.com</u>	
	FRANKLIN COUNTY	TECH 82 Industrial BLVD, Turners Falls	413-863-9561	
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 16 West Leyden RD			highway@townofleyden.com	
HISTORICAL COMMISSION			histcomm@townofleyden.com	
PLANNING BOARD			planboard@townofleyden.com	
PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL 97 F Sumner Turner RD, Northfield			413-498-2931	

POLICE DEPARTMENT 256 South Street, P.O. Box 194 Bernardston

 Emergency Station 24-hour Dispatch Animal Control/Loose Dogs 	911 413-648-9208 413-625-8200 413-625-8200	
RECREATION COMMITTEE	reccom@townofleyden.com	
ROBERTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY 849 Greenfield RD	413-773-9334	
	library@townofleyden.com	
SELECT BOARD	selectboard@townofleyden.com	
TAX COLLECTOR	413-774-4111 Ext. 4	
	taxccollector@townofleyden.com	
TOWN CLERK	413-774-4111 Ext. 3	
	townclerk@townofleyden.com	
TOWN COORDINATOR	413-774-4111 Ext. 1	
	towncoord@townofleyden.com	
TREASURER	413-774-4111 Ext. 1	
	treasurer@townofleyden.com	
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	zba@townofleyden.com	



Photo submitted by Tabitha Howard

