

Leyden Emergency Management Committee  
Town Offices  
April 24, 2025 at 6:30pm

**Members:** Jeff Miller, Liz Kidder, Anders Fergusen, John Richardson, Janell Howard

**Departments:** Marcia Miller, Ken Medvetz

**Other attendees:** George Stephan

Meeting called to order at 6:35 by Jeff Miller.

Approval of Minutes:

**Motion:** Liz moved, and John seconded to approve the 2-20-25 minutes, four approved and one abstention.

Correspondence and regional meeting reports:

- Gary Ponce, the Colarin Ambulance Director, will be retiring in a few years and the current ambulance service will not be sustainable in the future.
- Nearby town's ambulance service is going up substantially
- The South County EMS study was very successful.
- Gary held a nine town meeting on Tuesday to introduce the idea of a nine town study for emergency services.
- Woodlands Partnership is working on getting low pilot payments.

Updates from EMD, MEMA, Departments

- Building Need is working on improving the lighting in the parking lot. Eversource came out and marked a spot for a light and they marked it in the snow so the mark is gone. Ken talked to the Select Board about getting a solar light in the parking lot.
- Liz went to a dark sky lighting meeting and light pollution can be an issue and needs to be a consideration.
- Police don't see a big increase in the budget for next year, they do need some new tasers and possibly a cruiser.
- Police are patrolling regularly everyday, they keep a log of their patrols.
- Jeff is going through the Leyden Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and updating it.

ACTION: Jeff will notify the Select Board that John will be putting up a trial motion sensor solar light.

ACTION: John will install a solar light in the parking lot as a sample light.

Emergency Communication, status of RAVE/911, Public Information Officer

- Janell will take care of documentation and getting the information out to the public on the website as the Public Information Officer.
- The electronic sign needs to be moved to a location that more town members can see. The Town Greenfield needs to be contacted to see if the electronic sign can be put on their property right by the reservoir.
- Jeff is working on RAVE and seeing what messages he can put out on RAVE.

#### Grants: EMPG/Garmin messengers and Woodlands Partnership

- Garmins are ordered and should be here soon, Jeff is writing up a procedure for the use of the Garmin.
- UTV purchased with the Woodlands Partnership grant for the Fire Department.

#### Public Safety team budget status. Inventory of equipment and supplies. keys/access to EMD office, laptop and EOC

- Budget - the finance committee reported what was approved.
- Stop the Bleed class is an hour and John can do it if the town is interested.
- LEMC will be fine with the approved budget.
- When the Recreation Committee does its run, maybe LEMC can have a booth.
- Discussion of having a Ready Fest at the Town Hall and coordinating with the Fire Department to display what the station has. Discussion on making it a community event that multiple departments can have a booth or presentation that is for the whole town. The Recreation Committee could be a part of it as well.
- Keys will be needed for Janell to the EMD office to access the laptop.
- Discussion on going through the inventory during one of the meetings.

ACTION: Marcia will look at dates for a Ready Fest in October.

ACTION: Jeff will talk to the Select Board about getting another key.

#### CERT - Community Emergency Response Team

- George Stephan talked about CERT and that during covid they had to have firefighters and police officers do things that a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) could be doing instead of the firefighters and police officers. He's been working in Ashfield to get a CERT team together. George can help Leyden with training. FEMA training needs to be done by all members of the CERT and CERT members can only be sent out by the EMD or police. Regionalization of emergency management is being discussed to help support one another.
- Discussion of an interest in Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) as well.

#### Leyden/Bernardston regionalization grant update

- A committee was made for the regionalization grant, which is to look at all the possible options for shared services, the committee has gone through and prioritized what are the 6 most important areas they want a memo on.
- Steven Folley is working on meeting with all the departments to gather information.

#### Priorities and Next Steps

- Updating CEMP
- Working on tentative Ready Fest
- Table Top drill

ACTION: Jeff will talk to Nate about a Table Top drill.

#### Schedule next meeting(s)

- July 10th at 6:30pm.

**Motion:** John moved, and Liz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janell Howard