

**Town of Leyden
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Annual Town Meeting
Motion Warrant**

**Monday, June 2, 2025
6:00 PM at Leyden Town Hall- 16 West Leyden Road**

Moderator: John "Jack" Golden

Select Board: Katherine DiMatteo, Chair, Erica Jensen, Jeffrey Baker

Town Coordinator and Recorder of Meeting: Michele Giarusso

Counsel: Donna MacNicol, Esq.

The Leyden Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Moderator Golden. Philip Juiliani, Constable delivered the warrant. Moderator Golden continued by reviewing the rules of the meeting. There were 52 people in attendance with 6 guests.

ARTICLE 1-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, a sum of \$2,222,172.80 in accordance with the proposed budget to defray the operating expenses of the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

		FY26
		FinCom/Selectboard Recommend
DESCRIPTION		
OPERATING BUDGET		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Moderator		
114-5100	Stipend	150.00
114-5300	Expense	30.00
	Subtotal	180.00
Town Operations		
122-5100	Selectboard Chair Stipend	2,500.00
122-5110	Selectboard Member Stipend	4,000.00
122-5340	Web Site / Internet Access	3,000.00
122-5380	Selectboard Computer Account	5,000.00
122-5420	Selectboard Equip./ Supplies	3,500.00
122-5210	Diesel Acct	22,000.00
122-5300	Boards / Committees Expense	5,000.00
	Admin. assistant hourly	

123-5100	Town Coordinator Salary	65,270.20
123-5300	Expense	1,000.00
	Subtotal	111,270.20
Finance Committee		
131-5300	Finance Committee Expense	150.00
132-5780	Reserve Fund	5,000.00
	Subtotal	5,150.00
Town Accountant		
135-5100	Salary	14,868.90
135-5300	Expense	4,900.00
	Subtotal	19,768.90
Assessors		
141-5100	Chair Stipend	3,200.00
141-5110	Member Stipend	4,800.00
141-5120	Assistant Assessor Hourly	12,899.20
141-5300	Expense	8,800.00
	Subtotal	29,699.20
Treasurer		
145-5100	Salary	14,249.36
145-5110	Treasurer's Certification	1,000.00
145-5420	Expense	1,842.00
145-5580	Treas Tax Taking Exp	12,000.00
145-5300	Payroll Expense	2,720.00
	Subtotal	31,811.36
Tax Collector		
146-5100	Salary	14,249.36
146-5300	Expense	8,991.25
146-5580	Tax Lien Expense	2,500.00
	Subtotal	25,740.61
Town Council		
151-5300	Town Counsel Fee & Expense	6,000.00
	Subtotal	6,000.00
Town Clerk		
161-5100	Hourly	25,000.00
	Registrar Stipend	400.00
161-5300	Expense	1,651.20
162-5120	Election Expense	1,845.00
	Subtotal	28,896.20
Planning Board		
175-5100	Chair Stipend	800.00
175-5110	Member Stipend	1,000.00
175-5300	Expense	500.00
	Subtotal	2,300.00
Town Buildings		
192-5240	Building Repairs/Maint.	15,000.00
192-5210	Utilities	41,000.00
192-003	Grounds Maintenance	7,000.00
192-5111	Custodian/Maintenance Hourly	6,039.17
192-011	Elevator Rep & Maint	3,500.00
192-5291	East Hill Cemetery	900.00
	Subtotal	73,439.17

Town Reports		
195-5300	Annual Town Report Printing	750.00
	Subtotal	750.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		335,005.65

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police		
	Leyden/Bernardston Policing	104,692.07
210-5120	Constable	300.00
	Subtotal	104,992.07
Fire		
220-5110	Chief Stipend	5,200.00
	Assistant chief Stipend	1,000.00
	Captain Stipend	500.00
	Department Clerk	0.00
220-5115	Fire employee hourly	25,811.33
220-5300	Expense	29,360.00
	Subtotal	61,871.33
Emergency Medical		
	RAVE 911	2,850.00
	EMS Coordinator Stipend	1,000.00
250-5110	EMS Hourly	0.00
250-5300	EMS Expense	
	EMS Oversight/training (community 911)	0.00
	Ambulance	13,000.00
	Subtotal	16,850.00
Emergency Management		
	Stipend	1,600.00
	Deputy EMD Stipend	600.00
	Expense	5,500.00
	REPC	150.00
	Subtotal	7,850.00
Animals and Trees		
275-5300	Barn & Animal Inspector Stipend	1,500.00
	Animal Control/Kennel	3,372.00
294-5300	Tree Warden	15,000.00
	Subtotal	19,872.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		211,435.40

EDUCATION

Pioneer Valley Regional School		
301-5320	Operating Budget	894,772.00
301-5710	School committee stipend	900.00
301-5820	Capital PVRSD	3,105.00
	Subtotal PVRSD	898,777.00
Franklin County Technical School		
303-5320	Operating Budget	122,418.00
303-5820	Capital	2,424.13
	Subtotal FACTS	124,842.13
TOTAL EDUCATION		1,023,619.13

PUBLIC WORKS**Highway Department**

	Highway Superintendent Salary	80,705.32
421-5100	Foreperson Salary	65,423.59
	Hourly	22,740.29
421-5300	Expense	6,800.00
421-5430	Maintenance	103,000.00
421-5240	Machinery	56,000.00
423-5300	Winter Maintenance	69,000.00
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		403,669.20

HUMAN SERVICES**Board of Health**

510-5100	Chair Stipend	800.00
510-5110	Member Stipend	1,200.00
	BOH training	1,440.00
510-5300	Expense	1,000.00
519-5650	FRCOG Coop. Public Health Service	4,730.00
	Subtotal BOH	9,170.00

Veteran Services

544-5770	Veteran Services	1,985.29
545-5770	Veteran 115 Benefit	11,340.00
	Subtotal Veteran	13,325.29

Council on Aging

541-5300	COA Expense	1,500.00
	COA wages	1,500.00

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	25,495.29
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CULTURE**Library**

610-5100	Director Salary	20,444.82
610-5110	Custodian hourly	792.75
610-5300	Expense	5,956.56
	Material	6,785.00
	Subtotal	33,979.13

Recreation

new line	Expense	4,000.00
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TOTAL**CULTURE**

37,979.13

DEBT SERVICE

752-5925	Notes and Interest	1,000.00
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		1,000.00

INSURANCE

910-5300	General Insurance	120,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL INSURANCE		120,000.00

REGIONAL

Mosquito Control District		3,500.00
FRCOG		
850-5676	FRCOG Procurement	1,890.00
241-5580	FRCOG Inspection Service	4,873.00
851-5677	FRCOG Stat/Core Assessment	5,070.00
	FRCOG subtotal	11,833.00
Retirement		
852-5678	Retirement Expense	48,636.00
TOTAL		63,969.00
REGIONAL		
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET		2,222,172.80

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 2-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the Town will vote by consent articles 3-8.

The moderator explained how the consent vote will be conducted.

Passed by a show of voter cards by (consent*), unanimous

***ARTICLE 3-**

To see if the Town will vote to set the stipend compensation for the elected officials who receive compensation from the Town as provided by M.G.L. c.41, section 108 to be made effective from July 1, 2025, as contained in the budget or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 4-**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 5-**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the report of the Town Officers for the fiscal year 2024 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 6-**

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, approve and to expend such grants. Any grant requiring matching funds will be subject to appropriation at a Town Meeting or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

***ARTICLE 7-**

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.

***ARTICLE 8-**

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.

ARTICLE 9-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Thomas Luck 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.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 10-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to the Land Acquisition account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, 50 yes, 2 no votes

ARTICLE 11-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 to the Conservation Commission knotweed project account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, 50 yes, 2 no votes

ARTICLE 12-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to the Audit Fund account to be administered by the Select Board for Town audits.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 13-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to the Audit Fund, to be administered by the Select Board for Town audits.

Passed by a show of voter cards, 51 yes, 1 no vote

ARTICLE 14-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to the Highway Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 15-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to the Fire Development Fund account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 16-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$47,000 to the Fire Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 17-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 to the Police Capital Stabilization account per the Intermunicipal Agreement.

Passed by a show of voter cards 51 yes votes and 1 no vote

ARTICLE 18-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Katherine DiMatteo to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$26,157.36 to the General Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 19-

A motion was made by Ginger Robinson and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Town Building Stabilization account \$35,000 to repair the town office building roof.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 20-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the town will vote to adopt the following general bylaw to change the Annual Report publication from an annual calendar year report to a fiscal year report according to M.G.L. c.40, section 49.

Bylaw:

The Selectboard shall cause the annual report to be printed on a fiscal year basis.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 21-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c.200A, section 9A. Disposition of abandoned funds by city or town; notice of period during which funds may be claimed; city treasurer authorized to hear claims; appeal; disbursement.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 22-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, section 57, which allows municipalities to deny licenses, permits, renewals or transfers, when the applicant or owner of the property owes municipal taxes or fees and to adopt the following bylaw.

Bylaw:

The Town may deny any application for, or revoke or suspend a building permit, or any local license or permit including renewals and transfers issued by any board, officer, department for any person, corporation or business enterprise, who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges, including amounts assessed under the provisions of section 21D or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges.

(a) The tax collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each department, board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, and that such party

has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

(b) The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate owned by any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and the tax collector, as required by applicable provisions of law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. Said list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this bylaw shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as the date of issuance of said certificate.

(c) Any party shall be given an opportunity to enter into a payment agreement, thereby allowing the licensing authority to issue a certificate indicating said limitations to the license or permit and the validity of said license shall be conditioned upon the satisfactory compliance with said agreement. Failure to comply with said agreement shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of said license or permit; provided, however, that the holder be given notice and a hearing as required by applicable provisions of law.

(d) The Select Board may waive such denial, suspension or revocation if it finds there is no direct or indirect business interest by the property owner, its officers or stockholders, if any, or members of his immediate family, as defined in section 1 of chapter 268A in the business or activity conducted in or on said property.

This section shall not apply to the following licenses and permits:

- open burning; section 13 of chapter 48;
- bicycle permits; section 11A of chapter 85;
- sales of articles for charitable purposes, section 33 of chapter 101;
- children work permits, section 69 of chapter 149;
- clubs, associations dispensing food or beverage licenses, section 21E of chapter 140;
- dog licenses, section 137 of chapter 140;
- fishing, hunting, trapping license, section 12 of chapter 131;
- marriage licenses, section 28 of chapter 207 and
- theatrical events, public exhibition permits, section 181 of chapter 140.

Passed by a show of voter cards 51 yes votes and 2 no votes

ARTICLE 23-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified

Copies of the 2025 Proposed Amendment to the FRCOG Charter were available at the Town Office prior to the Annual Town Meeting and copies were available at the Annual Town Meeting.

The voters allowed Rebekah Boyd representing the FRCOG to explain the article.

Passed by a show of voter cards 52 yes votes and 1 no vote

ARTICLE 24-

A motion was made by Katherine DiMatteo and seconded by Erica Jensen to see if the town will vote to amend the general bylaws 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 M.G.L. c.44, section 53E1/2.

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. Purpose. 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 M.G.L. c.44 § 53E1/2.

2. Expenditure Limitations. A department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this bylaw 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 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. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this bylaw shall be credited to the general fund.

4. Procedures and reports. Except as provided in M.G.L. c.44 section 53E1/2 and this bylaw, the laws, bylaws, 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 bylaw. 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. Authorized Revolving Funds. 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 bylaw.

Revolving Fund	Fees, Charges or Receipts Credited to Fund	Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund	Program or Activity expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions Or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements/ Reports/ Fund Balance/	Fiscal Years
Recreation Committee Revolving Account	Fees Collected for Recreation Committee Events	Recreation Committee	Recreation Committee Expenses	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$2025	FY26
Animal Control Officer Revolving Account	Fees Collected for citations, licenses and registration	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control Expenses	\$5,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$1006	FY26
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 \$725	FY26
Planning Board Revolving Account	Fees collected from applications requiring public hearings, copies of bylaws	Planning Board	Planning Board advertising expenses	\$3,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$1979	FY26
Agricultural Commission Revolving Account	Fees collected for fines or Agricultural Commission events	Agricultural Commission	Agricultural Commission expenses	\$2,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$929	FY26
East Hill Cemetery Commission Revolving Account	Fees collected for burial plots or donations	Select Board or Designee	East Hill Cemetery Expenses	\$5,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$0	FY26
ZBA Revolving Account	Fees collected from applications requiring	ZBA	ZBA Advertising expenses	\$1,000	Balance Available for Expenditure \$0	FY26

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

Moderator Golden temporarily stepped down as moderator for Articles 25-27 as he is also the MLP Manager. Nominations were opened for temporary moderator. Katherine DiMatteo was nominated by Elizabeth Kidder and received a second by Sharon Fontaine. With no further nominations, a vote was taken, and Katherine DiMatteo was unanimously elected temporary moderator.

ARTICLE 25-

A motion was made by Tom Luck and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to recommend that the following sums be appropriated and approved to operate the Leyden Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Enterprise Fund:

MLP Budget

Expenses	\$141,150
Administration	44,100
ISP	<u>169,900</u>
Total Expense	\$355,150

Revenue

Internet and phone	<u>\$355,150</u>
Total Revenues	\$355,150

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 26-

A motion was made by John Golden and seconded by Sharon Fontaine to see if the Town will vote to move \$88,056 from the Leyden MLP Certified Retained Earnings to pay down broadband debt.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

ARTICLE 27-

A motion was made by John Golden and seconded by Carolyn Asbury to see if the Town will vote to move \$35,000 from the Leyden MLP Certified Retained Earnings to the MLP Stabilization account.

Passed by a show of voter cards, unanimous

Respectively submitted,



Michele Giarusso

Town Coordinator

June 4, 2025