



**LEYDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT**  
**Leyden Town Office Building**  
**Minutes**  
**December 6, 2021**

**Selectboard Members Present:** Jeff Neipp, Bill Glabach, Erica Jensen

**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso, Jack Golden, Susan Bobe, Ginger Robinson, Sara Seinberg, Lance Fritz, Ed Klaus, Rita Klaus, Gilda Galvis

Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**Past Due Whip City Invoice**

The bill has been submitted for payment in the warrant that was signed tonight at the select board meeting at 6pm. The money was taken out of 2 separate accounts.

**Cebula Alarm Contracts**

Three separate contracts were signed by the select board for the broadband hut. They included equipment and monitoring.

**Motion:** Erica moved to accept and sign the 3 contracts for Cebula.

**Stipends for staff**

Discussed stipends to be paid for MLP staff.

**Motion:** Erica moved to pay the 3 select board members \$1,000 per year. The MLP Manager \$5,000 per year, Town Treasurer, Town Accountant and MLP Secretary \$1500 per year. Michele informed the group that MA Gen Laws states if a person holds two appointed positions, they must be paid the same in both positions so the stipend suggested would not matter in this case. Jeff stated he just wanted to have a recommendation and vote, if the amount goes over it can be looked at before the end of the year and budgeted differently next year. Bill seconded the motion. Unanimous.

**Update from MLP Manager on status of the backhaul and future new broadband drops.**

Jack has been on several calls discussing the redundancy of the network with several other towns. WG&E is trying to design a system. They have divided WMass into clusters and Leyden is in the northern cluster. The Town of Rowe will connect with Crown Castle a company hired to put the wires higher than the tree line in Rowe so ice will not affect

the lines. It will be much cheaper than MBI. The other 4 towns in the northern cluster can connect to other towns that are fairly close to them for not a lot of money. Leyden can only connect directly to Colrain so Jack has contacted Greenfield to see if they would be willing to work out a backhaul. It could possibly cost less than going with Colrain. He said he will be speaking with Greenfield in the coming weeks. In speaking with other towns, they are hoping to use their ARPA funds to to buy switches etc. so the cost will not come out of our operating budget.

Jack stated he would like to make a push to get more subscribers and see if the ARPA funds can be used to those residents where the drop costs would be a lot of money.

Michele suggested Jack speak t our Town Accountant since she is the on responsible reporting on the ARPA funds.

**Motion:** Erica moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Bill Seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele Giarusso