

LEYDEN PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAY 4, 2022

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

COLLINS CENTER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

MICHAEL EDWARDS, PROJECT MANAGER

STEPHEN FOLEY, ASSOCIATE

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our mission is to make sure the people of Leyden have adequate police, fire, and emergency coverage for everyone's safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY IS A TEAM SPORT

Liz Kidder, Chair, Liaison to Town Counsel and Collins Center

Jack Golden, Police and Communications

Emily Yazwinski, Police and Communications

Barbara Wallace, Emergency Management

Anders Ferguson, Fire and Emergency Medical

Michael Morgan, Fire and Emergency Medical

Marcia Miller, Board of Health

Candace Hope, Alternate

First Meeting was held: December 9, 2021

WHAT IS OUR COMMITTEE?

WE ARE EIGHT LEYDEN RESIDENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO ORGANIZE AND PROVIDE CITIZEN INPUT INTO THE SELECT BOARD'S REVIEW OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY OPTIONS.

- **We are here to help ensure an open and transparent review of and plan for our Town's public safety departments.**
- **We have held 10 duly posted meetings, usually with Selectboard Finance committee members present.**
- **Most of these meetings have been covered by the Recorder, resulting in regular newspaper articles.**
- **We have had 4 articles in Leyden Life describing what we have been doing and asking for input from other residents of Leyden.**
- **We have our own email address that has been included in all articles**
 - **Publicsafety@townofleyden.com.**
- **We have given regular updates about our progress at Selectboard meetings.**
- **We have received at least 7 emails with comments and concerns from residents.**
- **Our agendas and meeting minutes are posted on our webpage at Townofleyden.com**

What have we accomplished so far?

\$187,000 Efficiency & Regionalization Grant

COLLINS CENTER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

- **Team of consultants available to advise Leyden until September 2023**
- **Feasibility Study to identify most efficient and effective service options for each aspect of public safety.**
- **Identified police services as the top priority –Why? Police Reform Act**

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FIRE

- LEYDEN'S PLACE IN TRI-STATE MUTUAL AID
- SUPPORT OUR FIRE FIGHTING TEAM
- EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES NEEDS
- TRAINING OPTIONS/RESOURCES
- HOW TO COMPLEMENT and COLLABORATE WITH OUR NEIGHBORING TOWNS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- SUPPORT OUR TEAM OF EMS FIRST RESPONDERS
- PARTICIPATE IN NORTHFIELD'S GRANT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY OF REGIONALIZED AMBULANCE SERVICES WITH COLLINS CENTER
- EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE NEEDS
- TRAINING OPTIONS/RESOURCES

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN – REVIEWING DRAFT TO UPDATE**
- **INVENTORIED EM EQUIPMENT IN TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**
- **MET WITH LOCAL MEMA OFFICIALS**
- **ORGANIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and REVIEWING OPTIONS FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**
- **INCREASE PARTICIPATION WITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS AT FRCOG AND COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORING TOWNS**
- **RECEIVING ADVICE FROM THE COLLINS CENTER**

If you would like to a part of the discussion on emergency management, please send your contact information to:

Publicsafety@townofleyden.com

POLICE SERVICES

OPTIONS TO BE STUDIED BY COLLINS CENTER:

- **MAINTAIN LEYDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**
 - officers on call and patrolling for about 135 hours/month
 - current budget at about \$75,000
 - reliance on part-time officers
- **OBTAIN SERVICES FROM BERNARDSTON**
 - Officers on call to respond for about 550-600 hours/month
 - Dedicated officers in Leyden for patrolling and office hours of about 80+ hours/month
 - Interim budget of about \$86,000/year
 - Full-time police officers
- **RELY ON STATE POLICE – 24/7**

OVERRIDING FACT TO CONSIDER

-- IMPACT OF POLICE REFORM ACT --

PROGRESS ON INTERIM POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BERNARDSTON

ESTABLISHED A JOINT TASK FORCE WITH BERNARDSTON

- Selectboard Representatives
- Finance Committee Representatives
- Public Safety representatives

AGREED TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT TO START JULY 1, 2022

- Provides call response hours of 550-600 hours per month
- Provides same call response service as Bernardston residents
- Provides dedicated patrol/office hours in Leyden
 - About 80 hours per month
 - Additional dedicated hours can be added for an additional fee
 - Police substation will be in Leyden Town Office Building for communication with residents and issuance of FID and LTC

TIMELINE

- Agreement to be voted on by each Town's Selectboard and signed by June 1.
- Police Services would start July 1.
- Leyden's ATM budget request will reflect agreement – about \$86,000

NEXT STEPS FOR POLICE SERVICES

- Collins Center will conduct feasibility analysis over the next few months
- Leyden/Bernardston Task Force will meet regularly
 - To review collaboration
 - To monitor finances
 - To develop a possible long-term Intermunicipal Agreement for Police Services

WHY ENTER INTO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BEFORE FEASIBILITY STUDY IS DONE

- Allows for the two towns to experience working together
- Provides important information to consider while developing a long term agreement
- Provides Leyden with full-time police coverage while all options are studied.
- Allows the two town's Finance Committees to study the financial efficiency of regionalizing services so that the agreement is fair to both Towns.
- Allows both towns to understand the full impact of the Police Reform Act.

SERVICE EFFICIENCY

LEYDEN FY 2022

Police Call Response Coverage per week

Local Officer on-call 32 hrs/week

Reliance on State Police for calls 136 hrs/week

BERNARDSTON FY 2023

Police Call Response Coverage per week

Local Officers on-call 140 hrs/week

Reliance on State Police for calls 28 hrs/week

FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY

Leyden Annual Police Budget FY 2022 \$75,000

On Call Hours/year: $32 \times 52 = 1,664$ hrs/year

Cost of On Call Response in FY 22 **\$45/hr.**

Bernardston Budget for Leyden FY 2023 \$85,644

On Call Hours/year: $140 \times 52 = 7,280$ hrs/year

Cost of On Call Response in FY 23 **\$12/hr.**