

**Town of Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting July 6, 2022**

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held at Town Hall at 6:30 pm, on July 6, 2022.

**Present:** Elizabeth Kidder, Chair, Barbara Wallace, Emily Yazwinski, Anders Ferguson

**Audience:** Bill Glabach, Kathy DiMatteo, Jack Golden, Sara Seinberg, Glenn Caffrey, Ken Medvetz, Linda Lutz, Michael Higgins, Beth Kuzdeba, Chris Larrabee

**Absent:** Marcia Miller, Candance Hope, Michael Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Review of the minutes of June 15, 2022 and a letter of resignation from Jack Golden. Jack noted that since he has been elected to the position of Town Moderator, he is stepping back from his position on the Public Safety Advisory Committee, but still expects to often attend the meetings.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented for June 15, 2022 made by Emily Yazwinski and seconded by Barbara Wallace.

**VOTE:**

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Anders Ferguson: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

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**UPDATES**

**Police**

- Transition to Bernardston Police services started on 7/1/22
- Bernardston currently update records and syncing their data bases with Leyden
- Review of 2 Leyden Police vehicles
  - Tahoe: Steven Foley proposed converting the Tahoe to an EMS vehicle
  - Impala: Bill Glabach suggested the Town should just sell it.
  - Radar and other electronic equipment will be pulled out of the vehicles and as needed to be installed in Bernardston vehicles
  - Chief Palmeri will be inventorying Leyden's police equipment
- Introducing the Police to Leyden residents
  - 7/18 Chief Palmeri will hold his first office hours from 4-6 pm, prior to the Selectboard meeting, Liz will try to spread the word that this will be an opportunity to meet our new Police Chief
  - Art in July.- the Rec committee is sponsoring weekly art classes in July and BPD officers will try to stop by and introduce themselves to participants.
  - The Rec committee and the Library are hoping to sponsor a family event with a folk singer for a meet and greet with the police in later August; this will be held on the ballfield.
  - Jack suggested organizing a standalone event at the Pavillion for Police and maybe Fire? Food and time fore real discussion. Possibly a benefit for the Rec/EMS/Fire.
  - Liz will ask for pictures and a brief boils of each officer to put on our website.
  - Plan to start a regular Police column in Leyden Life
- Leyden Bernardston Police Task Force's first meeting will be 8/11/22 in Bernardston
- How to handle citizen input/complaints about police?:

- Residents should submit any personnel complaints directly to Chief Palmieri via email or phone call. Non personnel concerns or complaints could be directed to the Leyden Selectboard.
- Donna MacNicol is Town Counsel for both Bernardston and Leyden. She acknowledged this when Leyden first started talking to Bernardston and therefore she is unable to negotiate an agreement between the two Towns. Leyden and Bernardston used the Collins Center as advisors and the Wendell/Leverett agreement as a model to negotiate with the interim agreement with Bernardston. She has advised both Towns to find separate lawyers to review any final agreement that is negotiated. She did not violate any professional standards regarding conflict of interest. This was brought up at annual town meeting and Liz Kidder wanted it very clear that Town Counsel did not violate any professional conduct.

#### RAVE

- Sometimes called reverse 911 calls, the RAVE technology can be a very useful tool for communicating public safety issues with Town residents. Michele Giarusso and the Board fo Health has been investigating the RAVE protocol and the Selectboard are going to be developing policies regarding its use in Town.

#### PET CONTROL

- Kyle Dragon is the Town's Animal Control Officer. We need to clarify what number residents should call for assistance so that the Town website is correct.

#### EMD & PLAN

- Stephen Foley is willing to work with Leyden Emergency Management Committee to update our plan over the summer and to conduct a drill in the fall
- Stephen Foley is also evaluating other regional options for emergency management and has talked with the Bernardston EMD/Fire Chief.
- The FRCOG is currently evaluating whether they could increase their role in emergency management for the rural towns in the county but they have not finished their study.
- Jack asked if it should be up to the Selectboard to appoint an EMD and a committee.
- Katherine DiMatteo, in response to Jack's suggestion, recommended the PSAC prepare a recommendation to the Selectboard that would include:
  - minimum job description for EMD – appropriate to the needs of Leyden
  - the organizational structure of an emergency management committee that would meet Leyden's needs rather than the standard structure that would be more appropriate for a large town or city.
  - A list of individuals who have already expressed an interest in participating in such a committee.

Liz suggested scheduling a special working session of the PSAC in order to prepare a recommendation for the Selectboard. A meeting was set for Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Town Office Building.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anders and seconded by Emily.

Vote:

Emily Yazwinski: Yes  
 Anders Ferguson: Yes  
 Barbara Wallace: Yes  
 Liz Kidder: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Anders Ferguson and Liz Kidder