

TOWN OF LEYDEN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING of December 6, 2023

Present: Elizabeth Kidder, Emily Yazwinski, Nik Adamski, Anders Ferguson, Marcia Miller, ,

Remote: Devorah Vester, Barbara Wallace

Audience: Beth Kuzdeba, Ken Medvetz

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

A Motion to approve the minutes of August 22, 2023 made by Anders and seconded by Emily

Vote: approved unanimously.

UPDATES:

Fire Department--

Nik Adamski reported that the fire department did training with solar panels. Trainings are happening every Tuesday.

\$100,000 grant needs to be spent by June. Select Board member working on sealed bids for fire trucks, working with FRCOG for quicker bid. Nik Adamaski and Tom Raffensperger looking for other vehicles in MA to buy. Nik reported that the two fire trucks need to be striped and disposed of, Engine 4 can be kept until summer, the pump truck goes back to DCR. Tahoe is also rusty and will need to be replaced soon. Bernardston police are selling a 2014 Ford Explorer around June, the SB is following the details on it. This vehicle could be a Medical First Responder. Nik Adamski said Tom Raffensperger has plans to build new racks for turnout gear to be in code compliance.

Liz Kidder proposed Community 911 line item in budget to extend training until June. Tuesday night training every Tuesday instead of trying to do 3 weekends to fit in before end of year.

Liz Kidder suggested keeping track of ambulance services as the contract comes up in 3 years, some services are going up 30%. Some towns are forming a district. Leyden, Colrain and Heath are possible district. Districts can take a couple of years to form. Woodlands partnership Savory and Plymouth same acres but one gets 8 times the help on climate change. Anders Ferguson noted that the house values are much higher in the east than the west. Liz Kidder noted that \$15,000 was received for Leyden. Anders, Emily, Beth and Liz talked about ambulance services and who pays for what and how ambulance service is paid for. Liz talked about a new safety complex. Leyden and Heath could co-town like Shelbourne and Colrain. The woodland partnerships with 20 towns – they get state reps to their meetings, they are forced to work politically together. FRCOG is going through a lot of turn over right now.

Police Department—

Liz reported that finance committee are looking at what the budget will be for next year. Police Chief said he's had problems keeping officers, there is a shortage of officers and they need to up the salary to keep police, they get better salaries other places. Emily noted that the police are happy with the arrangement with Leyden and Bernardston. Anders mentioned an officer came by and said hi, he patrols every street in Leyden, very nice guy.

Complete Streets—

Barbara asked about the distance signs. Highway is responsible for signs and this is not the time of year to get the signs up because of frozen ground. Lix commented that the signs are about walkers and bikers on the road. Goals have been set up to achieve from the Emergency Fest, now what?

Liz reported that the E&R grant is getting down to the final pennies. ADT is coming tomorrow to install security cameras. She is working on ordering walking vests.

Liz reported that the SB is proceeding forward to receive input from the residents, have two meetings scheduled, December 11th & 18th. They are doing a complete research including fog lines. Highway will have input as well, they are responsible for trees without wires around them. See if police and fire feel there is adequate safety for the Leyden residents. Advise SB on contracts for safety. Possible Public Safety Planner to keep track of agreements.

Emergency Management Committee—

Liz reported advising SB & Emergency Management Committee

Motion was made by Liz and seconded by Marcia to merge Public Safety into the Emergency Management Committee and dissolve the Public Safety Committee. Approved unanimously.

Ken noted the phenomenal job Lix did for the town the last 2 years with public safety, Barbara stated how grateful she is for Liz's work.

Liz said she is willing to continue on in public safety and that it will be appointed by the SB, it is Emergency Management Chair who will decide who will be public safety planner. Anders also expressed he is willing to continue. Liz noted that SB will put out a notice for interest in the open EMC.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anders and seconded by Barbara. Approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm