

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Hall
Minutes
Dec 18, 2017**

Selectboard Members Present: Lance Fritz, Jeff Neipp and Bill Glabach.

Others Present: Vicki Baker, Dan Galvis, Clint Davis, Kathy Benson, Desiree Rehman (of Shelburne Falls), Jim Bell (of Bernardston), John and Barbra Wallace, Michele and John Higgins, Beth Kuzdeba, Liz Kidder, Jennifer Paris, Dave Curtis, Kathy DiMatteo and Dianne Ryan.

Meeting called to order: 7:05 PM

Motion: Jeff Neipp moved to approve minutes of Dec. 11, 2017 as written. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

Police Appointment: Police Chief Dan Galvis requested that the Board appoint Desiree Rehman to the Police Department. It was explained that the appointment would be probationary for six months at the end of which Dan would make a recommendation to the board on permanence. Motion by Fritz. Second by Glabach. Unanimous.

Special Municipal Employee(s): Jim Bell, a PVRs School Committee Member, stated that he had been advised by the State Ethics Commission that since he was the Track Coach at PVRs and a School Board Member that he had to be appointed as a Special Municipal Employee by all the member towns. A review of the statute indicated that it was the position which must be designated not the individual. Motion by Fritz to designate School Committee Members as Special Municipal Employees. Seconded and passed unanimously. The Board directed the Chair to sign Mr. Bell's form.

COA Appointments: Michele Higgins requested that the Board appoint Robbi Miller of 500 Brattleboro Rd to the Council on Aging. Motion to appoint by Fritz. Seconded and unanimously approved.

Special Town Meeting Protocol Discussion: Barbara Wallace approached the board as to the protocols that were to be observed for the STM. She wanted to know who could speak and procedures that would be used. Kathy DiMatteo, Town Moderator, explained the process and the procedures that she proposed to use. She stated that only registered voters could speak and vote and that she was requesting the Selectboard to contact the Town Clerk and have registrars available to check people into the hall and to prepare paper ballots for the meeting. She then reviewed standard protocol for all meetings and the difference between a town meeting and a public hearing.

STM Date Change: Since Jan 15 is Martin Luther King's Birthday the legality of holding the meeting on the 15th was questioned. With the proponents of the citizens group in agreement the date was moved one week to the 22nd of January.

Review of STM Articles: Reviewed all 5 proposed articles. It was noted that a new article was inserted to fund an Administrative Support Salary Account from free cash in the amount of \$500. The reason was the recent injury to the Admin Asst. which will leave the office unattended for four to six weeks. These funds would be used to pay part-time support for the office. Also 5000 was requested to be transferred from free cash to building maintenance instead of 4000.

Selectboard Recommendations

Article 1 Thru 4 Selectboard recommends approval

Article 5 Selectboard recommends disapproval

Office Coverage: Chair reported that Tracey Baronas has agreed to provide office coverage for a few hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoons.

Cohn Property Chair reported that he has been trying to contact the lawyers about the status of eviction proceedings. He also wondered if the Selectboard had any interest in researching the possibility of constructing a Solar Farm on this property.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lance Fritz, Chair