

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Offices
Regular Session Minutes
August 24, 2020
7:00pm**

Selectboard Members Present: Bill Glabach, Jeff Neipp

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Beth Kuzdeba, Carol Kuzdeba, John Higgins, Art Baker, David Brooks, Andea Zimmerman, Brian Pelletier, Elizabeth Tubegan, Ginger Robinson.
Meeting Called to Order at 7:04 pm.

Minutes

Jeff would like the minutes of August 10, 2020 reworded on the subject of absentee ballots. He would like it to say voter application. Bill felt it said what is was supposed to but no motion made. Michele will reword.

Motion: Jeff moved to sign the warrant for the state primary on Sept.1. It has to be posted by August 25. Michele stated she already called a constable and if the select board sign the warrant tonight he will post tomorrow. Unanimous.

Discussion

Ginger Robinson and Elizabeth Tubegan asked for a letter of support to apply for a Brownfield's grant phase 1 for their property on Brattleboro Road (the old Barton's garage). Bill asked what they planned on ultimately doing with the building. Elizabeth stated she is an artist and she plans on having an art studio and woodworking shop. Bill stated he would be happy to sign a letter of support and wishes them well in completing their art studio and wood working shop. Jeff asked if the building would be open to the public and Ginger answered no. Ginger also stated the reason they are applying for a grant is they only have by word of mouth that underground tanks were removed from the property. Records were either destroyed or they cannot be found by the Franklin Regional County of Governments. With this grant they will assess the property everything will be documented.

Motion: Bill moved Michele to draft a letter of support for Ginger and Elizabeth for a phase 1 Brownfield's grant. Unanimous. Bill will sign letter when completed.

David Brooks wanted Art Baker from Indus Corporation to present a power point presentation on micro surfacing Frizzell Hill Road. Art stated the micro surface freezes the current condition of the road with a layer of asphalt type material. He handed out a sample of what it looks and feels like. Cracks in the road need to be filled prior to the application. The application goes on cold and would cost \$88,000-\$104,000 for Frizzell Hill. Dave stated Frizzell Hill was repaved 7-8 years ago and is still in pretty good condition. He would like to preserve this road and recommends we do soon before it gets too cold. Art said he could give recommendations of other towns who have used this product.

Motion: Jeff moved to micro surface Frizzell Hill Road. Unanimous.

Bill asked Brian Pelletier what is going on with fire vehicles? Brian Pelletier told the board the tanker was down but is repaired now. Bill stated there is a huge communication problem if the select board has to find out from others and not the officer in charge especially since Brian has been before this board several times within the past month or so. Brian stated the tanker was down for about 2 weeks and needed ball valves. The repair cost \$1700. Bill stated we know that, we see in the warrant. Brian also stated the brush truck is having electrical issues. He questions if it needs replacement of 2 generators and 2 alternators. It is out of service. Jeff asked who will repair and Brian stated Raymond's. Jeff stated we want to know the estimate first. Jeff wanted to talk about the strike team again and how the board was blind sighted by the enrollment of officers to participate. He told Brian the strike team is on hold for now until the board sees a written plan. Brian stated he would like a job description of his role since he has not seen what his role is. Jeff stated we have a volunteer fire department and we have to get back to that. We cannot afford to

pay \$50 per hour for officers to participate in this program until we know more. Bill stated the reason for Officer in Charge and not Chief is because this select board has a history of mistrust with you. One being the purchase of the fire truck that sat in your yard for years. The select board was told it was not purchased through the fire association and then it just sat there for 3-4 years. There has to be trust between any department head and the select board. Jeff stated the board appreciates the time and effort Brian has put in, but there has to be better communication for the future and how money is spent. Jeff stated you were told you could not spend more than \$1,000 without asking the board and that has to be adhered to. Jeff stated we have not appointed any fire personnel at this time. We need to know how many men are on the force. Brian stated he had 2 more Leyden residents that would like to be on the fire department. Bill stated he only wants Leyden residents and no more than 12 people. Bill stated we can do the appointments at our next meeting next Monday.

Michele stated she received a call from complainant who was here on July 20, they wanted to know what is going on. There has been no communication back.

Motion: Jeff moved the Executive Minutes of July 20 as printed. Bill seconded. Unanimous. Bill asked Michele to compose a reply to complainant and state in the letter they can request copies of police reports as previously requested. Bill will sign letter when completed.

Covid 19 plan for polling on primary day Sept. 1. Beth Kuzdeba stated the town hall is an issue for voting because you go in the same door as you exit. She stated you have to have 6 feet between people and someone needs to watch the traffic. Beth did call the Greenfield Town clerk and they are having greeters at the door which she thinks is something we need to think about. She also stated there needs to be a written plan to give to poll workers and constables so they can read their duties. Michele stated she could start a draft based on MA elections recommendations and send it to Beth and Nicole to review. Beth thought that would be a good starting point.

Municipal assistant -Michele stated we have received all the bills for Keets Brook Bridge and it came in about \$200,000 under budget. She is also working on a Massworks Strap grant for East Hill Road. The IT technology grant is completed. She will be discharging IT consultant.

Andrea Zimmerman wants to know what the previous complaint was that the select board approved the Executive session minutes and the response letter. Bill stated it was a confidential matter and cannot be discussed due to having to do with personnel matters. She also is questioning the parking status outside this building. She wants it to be a no parking area. She wanted to know where the cones went. Bill stated he thinks we can get 3-4 cars in there for parallel parking and maybe someday we will want to put electric charging stations there so it will not be a no parking zone.

Motion: Jeff moved to adjourn meeting at 9:15pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso