

Leyden Select Board and Finance Committee Minutes
Leyden Town Offices
Regular Session Minutes
September 20, 2021
6:00pm

Select Board Members Present: Jeff Neipp, Bill Glabach, Erica Jensen

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, John Higgins, Gilda Galvis, Beth Kuzdeba, Michael Stempel, Carol Kuzdeba, Ken Medvetz, Ginger Robinson, Ann Zavaruha, Trish Saline, Barbara Wallace, Robin Neipp

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. For information, Jeff mentioned Phil Zimmerman long time Leyden resident passed away and services will be Sept. 25 at 10am at Walker Funeral Home.

Motion: Erica moved the Sept. 7 and Sept. 13, 2021, meeting minutes. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Public Comments:

Beth Kuzdeba – stated she has several concerns: First is the EMT and Fire Dept. coverage for the town. She would like a monthly progress report on the concerns that Barbara Wallace and others raised previously. On August 25th she sent an email and asked to be put on the Select board agenda as chair of the Board of Health (BOH). She had 3 items she wanted to discuss with the board: BOH selection of an appointee, mask mandate for town buildings and West Nile Virus inadequate RAVE alert. Jeff refused to put her on the agenda. Jeff replied he did not refuse to put her on the agenda. Beth rebutted, but I never got on the agenda for August 30, you are the one that sets the agenda. Beth went on to say that Jeff recruited Carey Barton for the BOH to get back at Beth. Beth continued, there was a police officer on the police department who did not have a certificate to carry a firearm yet patrolled with it and pulled that firearm. Dan Galvis has not been held accountable for this and I want to know what has changed for the hiring of police officers from the select board? You have adopted a Code of Ethics and in that is mentioned an appearance of impropriety, you and Bill go out to breakfast all the time and possibly discuss town business. This has the appearance of impropriety.

Gilda Galvis asked about getting on the select board agenda. Why has it changed? She stated Michele told her she had to email the chair. Michele replied the select board just adopted a new policy for getting on the agenda. It is called the Select board meeting Rules of Order and it states to either contact the Municipal Assistant or the Select board chair. Prior to that it was just the select board chair.

Ann Zavaruha asked about getting these meetings on zoom or having them taped. For people in their homes who either cannot get out or do not want to come to a meeting in person. Jeff replied the select board has changed the meeting times earlier in the past to earlier in the day but not many people showed up. Erica replied there are certain ways to record meetings and put on the website, on September 13th the select board adopted several new policies and this included new rules for the meetings.

Brian Pelletier-monthly Fire Department update-Brian presented several Verizon bills for the board to sign off on since some of these date back to February and these are for FY 21. The town accountant needs the select board to sign off on them to pay. He stated the bills were not getting here by mail and he had no way of receiving online. Michele has now gotten his account online, and he will receive these bills that way and not wait for the mail in the future. Jeff asked Brian if he was still paying for dsl and Brian stated yes. He said if Whip City could run fiber underground from the town hall to the fire station, then he could get rid of dsl. Jeff signed the fire department bills. Brian proceeded to say in August he gave Bill the OSHA regulations that we will be

required to follow to read. Brian said he will be applying for a \$8500 grant to purchase a new set of Jaws of Life. It will cost the town \$3000; he did factor this amount into his budget. The grant has to be in by September 30th. Erica asked Brian if Dan had gotten in touch with him about the new traffic detail policy? Brian replied, no I have not heard anything. Erica replied to Brian to reach out to Dan. She went on to say she would like to look at the fire department equipment with Brian, she will schedule a date and time to do so. Barbara Wallace asked how many people are on the fire department now? We need to let people know we have a fire department. How do we do this? Barbara continued; I think residents should know who will respond if called. Brian responded to Barbara the Leyden Fire Dept. helps other towns as well.

Cares Act and Quintas Allen Fund-Jeff stated the Quintas Allen fund is a fund given to the town each year from a trust. It has about \$14,000 in it currently. We should discuss with our 3 school committee members and possibly the district how this money could be spent to help Leyden children. **Cares Act** -Jeff asked Michele how much money is left in the Cares Act. She stated she did not know at this time she could ask the town accountant. The Cares Act will end on October 31st and all the reporting that has to be done is in the select board's correspondence file that DLS requires for the town. Much discussion followed on what the remaining Cares Act money could be used for. John Higgins suggested purchasing more room air purifiers. Robin Neipp asked about rapid COVID Test kits. We could order in bulk and give to every family. Beth Kuzdeba concerned about ordering in bulk and test kits expiring.

Municipal Assistant update –Michele stated the Coates Road public hearing for replacement of the culvert will be held by the Conservation Commission on October 4th. Ann Zavaruha stated she still has an issue that the road will not be straightened out. Michele replied she should attend the public hearing. Michele called the retirement board as well as our treasurer for retiree health insurance. As she stated last meeting the town did not accept insurance for retirees and no retirees have ever received health insurance unless they paid the premium to the town in full. MVP grant kickoff will be in November not October more information to come. Michele presented the highway laborer position draft from DJ Consulting group. She stated all the job descriptions should be in a uniform format, so they are consistent. She also thinks the resumes should come to the select board office as stated in the personnel policies and procedures for how to post for vacancies as well as Equal Opportunity guidelines that state you should have one central place for resume submittal. Jeff had asked Michele to put in the ad to send all resumes to the highway department. Bill stated he thinks having the job descriptions look the same is a good idea. Erica stated she thinks the resumes should come to the select board office as stated in our current policies and procedures and she would like to interview all candidates. Select board members all in agreement.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso