

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

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

**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso, Michele Higgins, John Higgins, Lance Fritz, Brenda Beck, Doug Beck, Marylou Barton, Elwin Barton, Gina Johnson, Eric Johnson, Emily Yazwinski, Fred Feldman, Jack Golden, Arnold Egloff, Susan Bobe, Bob Bobe, Ginger Robinson, Barbara Wallace, Liz Kidder, Beth Kuzdeba, Marie Lovely, Bob Depalma, Andrea Zimmerman, Cliff Carlson, Phil Guiliani, Anne Garvey, Sara Seinberg, Gilda Galvis, Ed Klaus, Rita Klaus, Vicky Baker, Diedrick Neipp, Mary Glabach, Greg Doyle, Daniel Galvis, Mark Gilmore, Bob Barry

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Select board signed 4 warrants. Jeff signed the Opioid Settlement paperwork to go to the Attorney General's office and Mass in Motion Age Friendly Community Grant the FRCOG will be applying for.

**Motion:** Erica moved to approve the November 8 and November 22, 2021, meeting minutes as written. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

**Donald Jacobs, Consultant-**Don has asked the select board for a working session to go over the wage and salary compensation plan and a draft of the policies and procedures he drafted since his time is limited and he cannot explain what he has prepared during select board meetings. Jeff would like to table this until after the first of the year.

**Interviews of Highway Superintendent, Laborer and Foreman-**Jeff handed out William Brooks letter of intent for the Highway Superintendent and a person applying for the foreman position who would like to remain anonymous. Jeff will decide next week when to schedule interviews.

**Select board recommendation on returning vehicles to National Guard depot in PA-** Dan is waiting for further information to send the Humvee military ambulance and 2 generators back to PA. Erica asked Dan if there is a timeframe for this. Dan stated he contacted the appropriate person and is waiting to hear back from them.

**Regan Gornaults proposal for roof over south handicap ramp-**Regan submitted a proposal for \$7500 to put a roof over the handicap ramp so ice and snow cannot build up on the ramp.

**Motion:** Bill moved to accept the proposal. Unanimous.

**Mark Gilmore, Emergency Planner for Vermont Yankee and Bob Barry from MEMA-**Jeff invited them to tell the town about the process Vermont Yankee's emergency preparedness money could be used for. Mark stated the money was to comply with safety regulations rules and plans the state of MA required. This was not a grant, just a check given to the towns to support local Emergency Management Directors (EMD) and the training of fire and police for emergencies. The trainings were beneficial to the towns but ended in 2015. Mark stated the state of MA was very kind to the towns to allow the money to be given to the towns and the state did not take the money. The money was given to the EMD in each town to use at their discretion. Erica stated she appreciated Mark and Bob coming to explain what the purpose of the money was, and she assumed the money was used for much needed equipment in each town also. Erica asked Dan why the defibrillators that he bought for the town were not updated with batteries, so

they were in compliance, and he had the money to do so. Jeff stated the select board never budgeted for the EMD because the money was coming in each year from Vt. Yankee. Ginger Robinson added that it looks like we received money in 2018. She thought Mark said the program stopped in 2015. Bob Barry from MEMA stated MEMA was the conduit to get the money to the towns. Vt. Yankee did not get involved in how the money was spent in each town. MEMA just asked the towns to comply with trainings on a biannual basis. The particulars on the training were left up to each town to coordinate for fire and police trainings. There was a lot to do. Dan received EMD of the year one year for supplying a generator to a young child in central MA during a blizzard where many towns lost electricity for a few days or more. Ginger asked what the oversight of this money was from MEMA? Erica stated the money is coming from a private entity and being passed to the towns with no oversight from any governing body, it what it sounds like. Diedrick Neipp stated the money was given to Dan to use as he wanted. Bob Barry stated the money came via check to the Select board and the select board would have had to accept the check on behalf of the town. Bob continued to explain about the EMPG grant. It is an in-kind grant for populations of less than 2700. There is a match requirement and Dan used the money at his discretion. Erica asked Dan if there is anything he would like to add to the discussion or explain. Dan replied he only wished he had taken the money all up front in one lump sum. Erica stated from now on the EMD stipend should be funded through Annual Town Meeting and she would have thought there was a mechanism somewhere in the town budget to accept this money. Jeff stated he wanted to thank Mark and Bob for coming out tonight to explain what this money was for.

**Public Comments-**Robin Neipp read a statement she wrote about the select board meetings these past few months. She stated she would like to see the town come together in a more positive manner and to not continue the divisiveness. She would like to see the town's boards work more collaboratively and to stop the division that has been happening over the last few months. Robin felt people were being mean to each other, yelling, swearing, and acting totally unprofessional. Brenda Beck read a statement she had prepared. She said there has been a lot of emotions displayed these past few months. She would like to see people rewarded for the time they put in volunteering for the town and to stop the name calling, looking over everyone's shoulder for "bad things" and work in a more cooperative manner. What has been going on over the last few months by residents does not look good for the town. Lance Fritz stated he happened to be chairman of the select board during hurricane Irene. He said Dan was there for the town for many things. The select board does not get paid enough for the hours they put in. Thank them for the work they do and forgive them for not being professional enough for you. Bob Depalma stated he has worked for the town as an Assessor for over 22 years. He said he has always worked collaboratively with town officials to keep the tax rate reasonable. It looks like we are \$4.00 below our levy limit this year.

Jeff read a statement from the Department of Local services Technical Review completed last spring that stated Leyden was in good financial shape.

**Motion:** Erica moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele Giarusso