

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Hall
Regular Session
February 28, 2022
6:00pm

Select Board Members Present: Bill Glabach, Erica Jensen

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, William Brooks, Catherine Hurley-The Recorder, Liz Kidder, John Higgins, Michele Higgins, Sara Seiberg, Ginger Robinson, Anders Ferguson, Bradley Baker, Colleen Caffrey, Glen Caffrey, Nik Adamski, Mary Glabach, David Curtis, Barbara Wallace, Andy Baker, Ray and Lorinda Lavallee, Jeff Glabach, Art and Pam Baker, Gilda Galvis, Dan Galvis, Christine Brodeur, James Brodeur, Kim Hine, Lance Fritz

Selectboard signed FY 22 warrants.

Motion: Erica moved 1/3/22, 1/24/22, 1/31/22, 2/14/22, 2/15/22 meeting minutes as written. Bill amended the 1/24 minutes and added Erica emphatically denied going into the police station nor did she need to. Erica seconded the amendment. Unanimous approval of all minutes.

East Hill Road project-Bill Glabach introduced Bill Brooks as the town's new highway superintendent. Bill B. stated that the town has received a grant through Municipal Assistant Michele Giarusso for replacement of culverts, improved drainage, widening of the road in some areas, and straightening of the road. He has spoken to most people about the removal of trees on their property prior to the start of any construction. Lance Fritz asked if there would be a tree hearing. Bill replied yes, 22 trees are projected to be cut. There will be 2 telephone poles that need to be moved. Lance asked about under the springs under the road and Bill stated he hoped to take care of them also. Bill explained the material going down and he hoped to establish a good base before thinking of paving the road which may or may not be done. He stated the paving is not the main focus since Chapter 90 money which is used for our paving program has not been increased in over 10 years. If we add any more paved roads the Chapter 90 money will not go far enough to maintain them. Lance asked about improving the north end of East Hill. Bill stated there is no large plan to do so. Bill stated a retaining wall will probably have to be built in front of Andy Baker's house after an inquiry from a resident on the widening of the road. Bill reiterated any residents input is welcome since this will probably be contracted out. There will be catch basins installed for water runoff and there is no elevation changes expected. Bill Glabach stated hopefully this project can serve as a model to maintain our dirt roads.

Public Safety Advisory Committee and grant-Liz Kidder stated they will have their next in person meeting this Wednesday at the town office building. She continued; Chief Palmieri from Bernardston has made some changes to the MOU between the two towns. April 1st is the start date on the MOU. In the MOU it calls for an advisory committee made up of representatives from both towns and the goal is to have a balanced committee from each town. The budget consists of 138 hours of on-call time and 80-100 hours per month of patrol. We currently have around 138 hours per month with coverage going to 500 hours/month of coverage. Liz shared the zoom call several committee members and select board members from both towns had with Sean Cronin head of the Department of Local Services (DLS). She explained he was very interested in the grant we submitted and wanted to make sure we understand no capital expenditures will be made until after the feasibility study was complete. It was a very positive and interactive meeting. Christine Brodeur asked about benefits for the police department for long term. Liz replied that will all be considered in the budget if we sign up long term. Anders Ferguson stated he has enjoyed working on this committee. He feels the process will help us get to good answers for the future of the town. Susan Bobe asked if Fire Dept. and EMS will also be looked at. Liz replied

that can also be looked at in the feasibility study as the Collins Center representatives have expertise in these areas. Erica stated she would like the advisory committee to look at the town's EMD as they are looking at public safety from a holistic approach.

Return of military equipment and town owned property- Bill Glabach stated deadline to return all equipment is March 30th for the LESO program. Some of the equipment we could put out to bid on the municide auction site. Hopefully the money received can offset the amount it will cost to return the equipment. Bill continued the final step will be for all equipment to be returned by May 1st due to Dan needs time to remove decals. The Humvees will be parked in the front of the town hall before they are to be returned. Ginger Robinson asked what the exact surplus equipment is that will be returned. Is there a list? Bill answered mostly generators, the 1.5ml worth of equipment is erroneous. Maybe when the equipment was new it was worth that amount but not what we received. The equipment we gave to the highway department is going to stay, the generator program is gone by the wayside. Ginger asked about the trailers, where did they go? She especially wanted to know where the one purchased in 2019 is. Bill answered some of them were short stacked and they were given to farmers to haul water. Dan Galvis answered some were sold or transferred to other towns or farmers. David Curtis asked what towns? Someone asked about the generator outside of town hall. Bill answered it is junk. The outside panels need to be removed and sent back. Christine Brodeur asked if this equipment had asset tags and was declared as assets to the town.

Motion: Bill declared the generators and high tower be declared as surplus equipment to sell. Unanimous.

Municipal Assistant Update- Michele stated the board needs to vote on the addendum to the Coates Road project and sign the contract for the extra \$130,000 she received to complete the project.

Motion: Erica moved to accept the \$130,000 for the Coates road project and Bill to sign the addendum. Unanimous.

Motion: Erica moved to pay a FY21 bill to Eversource for \$5340 for pole attachments and to pay Vanessa Russell an FY21 bill \$20 for constable work. Unanimous.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Giarusso