

Leyden Select Board Joint Meeting with MLP Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
August 1, 2022
6:00pm

Select Board Members Present: Bill Glabach, Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Michele Higgins, John Higgins, Mary Glabach, Ginger Robinson, Sara Seiberg, Jack Golden, Liz Kidder, Beth Kuzdeba, Gilda Galvis, Chris Larrabee-Greenfield Recorder

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm.

Select Board signed FY 23 warrant, read correspondence. Katherine would like to add to future agendas “review agenda”. Discussion followed on how to set future agendas as well as prioritize agenda items.

Bill as chair signed the Winter Recovery Assistance program (WRAP) contract and the Assessor’s contract to purchase new GIS maps.

Motion: Katherine moved to accept the FY22 Warrant for the Municipal Light Plant. She asked Jack Golden for an explanation on the outstanding bills received after July 1, 2022, from Whip City. Jack replied he thinks they are valid invoices and is looking into further. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Motion: Katherine moved to accept the meeting minutes of July 18, 2022, with two changes: under Reprint of Preliminary Tax Bills she wanted it to say:

“The best option is to send the back of the tax bills to the list of taxpayers with a note that there was an error in printing the original tax bills. **Motion:** Katherine moved to print the back of the tax bills with a note about the error. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.”

And under MLP Reorganization:

“Katherine asked if this should be a MLP board decision and although the Selectboard serves as the MLP board, we are not convened tonight as that board.

Mary Glabach asked to add to minutes under COA Appointments:

“Mary Glabach sent a letter of interest to serve on committee. Katherine noted that this additional member should be postponed until there is clarity on the COA.

Glenn seconded the corrections. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION

Explanation of what the WRAP money will be spent on

Michele G. read what Highway Superintendent Bill Brooks plans on spending the \$117,000 the town will be receiving in WRAP money. Essentially it will be for rubber chip seal for 1.5 miles of Brattleboro Road from the intersection of Simon Keets Rd. to Zimmerman Hill.

Jack Golden-Special Employee status and MLP reorganization

Jack called the Ethics Commission again and they said the Select Board can rescind their vote of a special Employee status at any time. Michele and Glenn spoke to Town Counsel and she is recommending the Manager of the MLP position be the Special Employee.

Jack will fill out the appropriate paperwork as recommending form Ethics and return to next Select Board meeting. Glenn stated Town Counsel also stated the MLP board should be elected positions. Until the next election the Select Board shall stay as the MLP board.

Public Safety Advisory Committee

Liz Kidder reviewed the recommendations for an Emergency Management Committee (EMC), Emergency Management Plan and appointments as Emergency Management Director and Deputy Director.

Glenn reported that he organized a meeting between David Pomerantz and Erica Jensen to discuss Co-Directors positions. They both agreed they would like to be Co-Directors. Their skill sets both complement each other, their compatibility and willingness to serve should be good for the town. Glen contacted MEMA and he found out that there are no other towns in Massachusetts that have Co-Directors. As a result of this conversation only moments before this meeting he will make 3 motions. Katherine has some reservations about the makeup of this committee with out going out to the public. Glen moved:

Motion 1: Establish a subcommittee to the Select Board consisting of 4 members Liz Kidder, David Pomerantz, Erica Jensen and Glenn Caffery to Finalize an Emergency Management Committee structure for Leyden including short job descriptions and then recruit membership.

Katherine seconded. Vote: Glenn-yes, Bill-yes, Katherine-no.

Motion 2: Establish an emergency management leadership structure with two directors working together as co-EMDs reporting to the Select Board for a term of 1 month. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

Motion 3: Appoint to the positions of co-EMD Erica Jensen of Simon Keets Road and David Pomerantz of Eden Trail. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

Liz mentioned the task force for the Police interim agreement will be meeting monthly the next one is scheduled for August 11 at 11am. Each town will have to hire a lawyer to work on the final agreement.

Municipal Assistant Update

Michele stated the Coates Road culvert project is complete. There are a few more invoices she is anticipating. As she pays the bills and reconciles with DER, she wanted to remind the board she had mentioned a small overage could occur even with the extra money she received. Town records really need to be organized much better than they have been in the past, most towns have invested in vaults. She would like to call companies for estimates to organize our records. Board agreed. She would like the Building Needs Study Committee to take over the task of the future of town buildings as far as heating and cooling decisions, mold remediation and rodent infestation for a plan for sustainability. The FRCOG approached Michele about a federal grant they are working with other small towns for Village Center's water and sewer needs. Michele thinks we should try and get in on the water part if we want the town hall to be a shelter. We have no idea what condition the well is at town hall. Camp Lion Knoll director has emailed two events he would like permission to hold events. No liquor will be served. August 22 and September 16. Board approved.

Other Business

Katherine asked about decisions to made in their correspondence file from Jim Palmieri and Steve Foley on the future of the police vehicles and surplus equipment they have from these vehicles. John Higgins asked why the board is making decisions on town equipment right now when there is only an interim agreement. Bill replied he had always thought we would put the vehicles on Municibid and see how much we could sell for, then keep that money for a future purchase of a vehicle.,

Motion: Katherine moved the Municipal Assistant to work to get the vehicles checked out in the most efficient and cost benefit way to attain the road worthiness of the vehicles. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Motion: Glenn moved to adjourn at 8:00pm. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant