

Leyden Select Board Joint Meeting with Conservation Commission

Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
August 15, 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, Liz Kidder, Beth Kuzdeba, Gilda Galvis, Robbie Milner, David Pomerantz, Erica Jensen, Emily Yazwinski, Mary Bryne-Greenfield Recorder, Evan Benjamin, Richard Dimatteo, Donald Sadowsky, Bob Anson

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

Select Board signed FY 23 warrants, read correspondence, reviewed agenda.

Motion: Katherine moved the meeting minutes of August 1 as written. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Motion: Glenn moved to have Town Counsel attend the Executive session meeting on August 22, 2022. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION

Town Clerk-Gilda gave Bill the State Primary warrant to sign. All 3 Select board members signed. Katherine explained she contacted the Secretary of State's office and asked about having Registrars. They replied there should be 3 plus the Town Clerk. Each one should represent a party. Katherine thinks she may have 3 potential candidates willing to serve in these positions, Martha Hopewell, Pamela Brown and Al Woodhall. She is waiting for the Secretary of State's office to reply to her that she has 3 people representing two parties and if the Town Clerk serves as the third party is this acceptable. During the meeting Katherine stated she did receive an email back from the Sec.of State's office and we did need 3 Registrars one from each political party. Katherine will work on this further and come back to select board with recommendations for Registrars.

Continuation of FY 23 appointments-

Planning Board alternate-Glenn moved Sarah Bartholomew. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

Fire Dept. -Bill moved Brian Pelletier as Fire Chief. Katherine seconded. Unanimous. Katherine stated since he is a strong chief Brian can make the appointments for his department.

Select Board rep to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority- Bill moved Katherine. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Katherine moved to rescind the vote taken earlier by the Select Board for the **Franklin Regional Planning Board** representative as the wording on the nomination clearly states the Chair of the Select Board with the town Administrator as the alternate. Katherine moved to nominate Bill. Glenn seconded. Bill-No, Glenn-yes, Katherine-yes.

Building Needs Study Committee-Bill moved David Vreeland, David Pomerantz and Richard Parks. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Historical Commission-Katherine moved Vanessa Russell be appointed to the Historical commission. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Council on Aging-Glenn moved Mary Glabach be appointed to the Council on Aging. Katherine seconded. Katherine and Glenn-yes. Bill abstained.

Public Safety Advisory Committee Update- Liz stated August 25 will be the next task force meeting in Bernardston. Leyden's members are Liz, Bill, Michele Higgins from the Finance Committee. The meeting is available remotely. Steve Foley is meeting with Fire and EMS depts for long term equipment needs. The Emergency Management (EM) Subcommittee met and came up with an organizational chart for the structure of EM. They are recommending Erica Jensen and David Pomerantz as Co Emergency Management Directors (EMD).

Motion: Katherine moved Erica and David as Co EMDs. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Motion: Katherine moved Sara Seinberg as Public Information Officer for EM. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Conservation Commission-Evan Abramson spoke on behalf of the Con. Comm. with Bill Brooks our Highway Superintendent about cutting with a sickle saw blade the knotweed along our roads instead of using the roadside mower. He explained the roadside mower will just spread it from one area to another. The highway crew is willing to test a portion of North County Road with AJ's blade. If this works Evan is asking the town to purchase a used small tractor and sickle blade to cut the knotweed for future years in hopes of stopping the spread. He went on to say once cut it must be burned or buried to eradicate. Erica stated this sounds like labor intensive work and the labor cost may outweigh the benefit, we need to hear from the highway crew.

Municipal Assistant Update-Michele explained the need for a handyman person to change light bulbs and do minor repairs for all town buildings.

Motion: Katherine moved to post a handyman position. Anyone interested should send their qualifications to Michele. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Michele mentioned that David Pomerantz has reached out for us to join the Franklin Conservation Pollinator (FCP) grant project for a grant through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to put in pollinator gardens on town owned property. David is here to present as he is on the Board of Directors. David stated the grant is for several towns to have pollinator gardens. If the board approves, he will put Leyden in as willing to have landscape designers design a garden or maybe two on town owned property. David said once in, the garden would require volunteers to weed and water the gardens to get started. They will be trained to do.

Motion: Katherine moved Leyden become part of the (FCP) grant to design gardens and supply materials and have David Pomerantz speak on our behalf. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Public Comments-Bob Anson stated his wife was mauled by a dog in town. Bob wants to know what a resident has to do to declare a dog dangerous. There are 5 dogs at this residence, 2 dogs have stalked them on their property. This is a public safety issue. The

owner admitted they cannot control the dog. Bill said we would probably need a dog hearing.

Other Business: Katherine has read through the draft of the personnel policies and has lots of questions. She will send her comments around to other members. On Monday when meeting with the consultant she hopes to have time to ask questions.

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

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant