

**Leyden Select Board Minutes  
Leyden Town Office Building  
Regular Session  
April 24, 2023  
6:00 pm**

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

**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso, John Higgins, Liz Kidder, Nik Adamski, Beth Kuzdeba, Robbie Milner, Liesel Nygard remote

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm and announced the meeting was being recorded.

The Select Board signed the warrant. Correspondence file read.

**Motion:** Katherine moved the meeting minutes of April 10 as written. Glenn seconded. Katherine noted there was no second on the motions for the fire truck in print and to move the agenda item up in the meeting for Bob Penfield. Glenn stated he seconded both motions. Vote to amend minutes unanimous.

**Motion:** Katherine moved the meeting minutes of April 18 as written Glenn seconded. Katherine amended to add the time the highway would like administrative assistant time to help to one day. Vote to amend minutes unanimous.

## **DISCUSSION**

### COA Appointments

Katherine asked the board members if they felt the appointments should be for now or wait until July 1? The board felt it was important to keep as an advisory committee until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** Glenn moved to appoint Amy ST. Clair, Nanette Rolstad, Anne Garvey, Merry Lein and Chris Maguire until June 30<sup>th</sup> to COA advisory committee. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Notice To Appointees For Committees for next year-Katherine would like notices to go out to committee chairs for reappointments. Michele will send notice to chairs.

### Rita Klaus-

Rita read a letter she composed. She said she asked to be put on the agenda as a resident of Leyden and not speaking for the United Methodist Church (UMC). She stated she does not think the church should be involved in the most recent issues that happened. She asked the Select Board to stop the controversy. Glenn responded the newspaper can print whatever they would like they are usually present at our meetings either in person or remote. They are listening in and watching this meeting right now. He said the Select Board was concerned the church would get dragged into this, we are not anti-church as you state, that is not true, we have very strict requirements on how to follow the law. The town has a history of theft and we do not have an accounting of where the missing items have gone. A church member donated a refrigerator to the town rather quickly and I am concerned how quickly it happened, I hope this was done on their own free and clear.

Rita replied they bought it for the town because they felt the church was being accused. Glenn replied if a person was feeling so bad this is upsetting to me. I don't know if the people who took the contents acted on their own or on behalf of the church and I am sorry this has made you so upset. Glenn asked who speaks for the church. Rita replied, the administrative board Gilda Galvis, Emily Herron-Clarke and Rita herself. Katherine stated when things change that historically have been done in the same way for many years it is hard for people to accept the change. She read the anti-aid amendment, waiving fees for the church and for all private institutions is against this law. We cannot waive fees for the church only if we do waive fees for the church, we have to waive fees for all non-profits, churches and religious organizations. It was communicated to the church prior to Easter about the fees. Katherine contacted the person who rented the space and believes that private people took advantage of the doors being open. Unfortunately, this has evolved into something bigger than it should have been. Katherine asked the person to wait on purchasing the refrigerator until we had time to meet. Now, we are forced to write up something to give to the person to sign that states the donation is for the Town and come up with a policy for donations. Glenn noted other people imposed this upon us, we did nothing. They took advantage of the situation instead of communicating with us.

#### Vote on changing first responder calls to Camp Lion Knoll

Randy Crochier from FRCOG is asking that Greenfield be toned out first for medical calls to this camp. This means changing the call list again with Shelburne Control. Michele will follow up with this.

#### John Higgins-Use of personal credit cards

John sent in an email requesting that he would like to have an exception for the Recreation committee to purchase items from certain vendors. Katherine replied that she would like to look into this further. Glenn will do the research with the vendors on John's list to see if they will set up accounts with the town.

#### Request from private citizen that he would like to cut vines on town common.

Michele received a request from a private citizen to cut down the vines that are growing on trees on the town common. She spoke to Bill Brooks and Bill said he would get to it as tree warden. We cannot have residents do this for liability reasons.

#### Municipal Assistant Update

Vote to apply for MVP grant for the planning and design only.

**Motion:** Glenn moved to have Michele apply for the MVP grant for planning and design only. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

FRCOG fire extinguisher bid-Michele requesting the town become a part of this county wide bid. We have not been part of this bid and it is coming up for renewal. She has asked FRCOG if we could join, and they said yes.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to have the town participate in the Fire extinguisher bid and Michele to be the contact person. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

The wheelchair lift in the town hall is not working. United Elevator sent a quote for \$3120 to look at the problem. Michele would like the ok to tell the company to move forward with diagnosing the problem. Katherine questioned the large amount just to

diagnose and where the money would come from. Michele replied there is still money for repair and maintenance of town buildings.

**Motion:** Glenn moved to have United Elevator diagnose the problem. Bill seconded. Unanimous.

Michele would like the select Board to set a date for warrants to be submitted to the Select Board.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to set May 19<sup>th</sup> as the last date for warrant articles to be submitted to the board for consideration for the Annual Town Meeting. Glenn seconded. Michele stated she has had in inquiry about Memorial Day and putting up flags. Bill replied he plans on doing on May 21.

#### Agenda for May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

Katherine suggested Brian McHugh from Franklin Regional Housing Authority, review fire chief applications, ATM warrant articles and town counsel to continue work on personnel policies.

#### Public Comments

Robbie Milner wanted to know the status of remote meetings. Glenn replied we are still working on things; we do not have all the equipment for it and are still only trialing.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Giarusso  
Municipal Assistant