

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
October 30, 2023
5:30 pm

Select Board Members Present: Glenn Caffery, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Liz Kidder, Nik Adamski, Ginger Robinson, Ken Medvetz, Dave Pomerantz, Dave Vreeland

Glenn called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Select Board signed FY 24 warrants and read correspondence file.

Discussion

Minutes

Motion: Katherine moved the October 16 meeting minutes as written. Erica seconded the motion with minor amendments: Open session reconvened at 6:33pm. Glenn amended Hunt Hill Road update second line Glenn *exchanged text messages with* Bob Penfield. Another amendment under Social Media Policy 5th sentence, Erica researched the *description and this is consistent with our social media policy*.

Katherine accepted the amendments. Unanimous vote.

Motion: Erica moved the minutes of October 23 as written. Katherine seconded with amendments; she added municipal assistant minutes that were omitted. Erica accepted the amendments. Unanimous vote.

Hunt Hill Road Contract Review

Glenn shared an email from town counsel with the other members to read prior to the meeting. Included was the agreement sent to Attorney McLaughlin, Penfield's lawyer. Katherine shared some edits she would like to see in the final agreement, our address is wrong for one and should be corrected. She will send her suggested edits to Glenn. Erica asked what the baseline report entails for the conservation restriction (CR). Does it include maps, photographs etc. Glenn plans on contacting the land trusts around us to see if they have advice on how to proceed with a baseline report. Katherine feels there needs to be a baseline report and maybe our Conservation commission can complete one. The scope of the baseline report can be whatever we feel is important to document. If it can't get done soon the construction of the road will have to wait until spring. The agreement will also have to be signed before proceeding with work on the road by our highway crew. Members agreed. Katherine asked if the CR should be in perpetuity or is it 30 years? Glenn will try and find this answer. There was much discussion on the agreement and how to move forward and replying to Donna on the seven items Attorney McLaughlin replied to Donna with.

Public Safety Efficiency and Regionalization Grant update

Liz shared that she is waiting for an updated quote from ADT for the town hall and town office building. She sent an updated budget by email to all members prior to the meeting. Both the fire and police departments are asking for more equipment to be funded by the grant. Not all their requests will be able to be funded by the grant. Erica reminded us that the MIIA grant which is up to \$10,000 a year is available if there were recommendations from the fire department about what the money would fund. Michele can work with Nik and Tom to submit. Erica urged Michele to keep track of the timing for this grant so next year we can be prepared earlier to submit. It was noted that the Fire Chiefs Association has information on grants. Liz is meeting with Tom and Nik of the fire department tomorrow.

Trails Grant and Woodland Partnership

Katherine stated a committee needs to be formed and a public hearing will need to be held for the Mass Trails grant. An in-kind match of 20% of the total value of the grant is required. Someone would need to

be hired to map out the trails. In essence more upfront work is required and community outreach is needed to move forward on this grant. The state does want people to apply but she is not so sure we have the capacity to move on with this unless more residents are involved. There also needs to be a leader of this project and Katherine is not sure she has the time to do it.

Liz shared the Woodlands Partnership grant will be open next July. They have trail grants, economic development, and eco-tourism grants. She also shared what the state may be doing to increase the payment to cities and towns for Payment in Lieu of Taxes Land (PILOT).

Katherine shared that to go for a Complete Streets grant more work needs to be done prior to submission just like the Mass trails grant.

Town Coordinator update

Michele shared the COA has changed the dates and times for the Tai Ji Quan classes. Glenn said he has received an email on this and will be available to set up equipment for them. Michele asked if the Select Board had read the email request from the Recreation committee on having a play group at the town hall. Glenn replied he will put this topic on the next agenda. The Assessors would like to set the tax classification either on November 13 or 20th meeting. Glenn will put it on the agenda.

Building Needs Study Committee

Ken Medvetz had sent by email what the committee has been working on for the past year and a spreadsheet of recommendations and priorities for the next several years on all town buildings. Each recommendation has an estimated cost associated with it so planning can be done – total \$351,000 The committee is highly recommending solar panels be put on the rooftop of the town office building since the roof needs replacing soon. The deferred maintenance on all town buildings is beginning to show their age and before equipment and structures start failing the committee feels the custodian/maintenance person can start on some of the minor repairs such as wicking water away from the bottom of building and cleaning the gutters. The committee will come up with a priority list for the custodian. Dave Vreeland offered to contact solar companies to acquire estimates on solar panels. Dave will also look at the salt shed roof plates that are rusting to estimate the structural integrity of the roof. He will report back. Ken reported the projects will be ongoing for the next few years. He asked if the Select Board had the money for some of the repairs. There is ARPA money for some of the items and there is some possible grants Michele will investigate. Green Communities grant could help with cots. After the town qualifies, we get \$130,000 and then can apply for additional funds each year for the specific list of work under the grant. Applications are due by December. There is also MA Clean Energy grants and USDA grants. What we have now: \$100,000 from AARPA; \$50,000 from Building Stabilization; \$281,000 from Free Cash; and \$60,000 returning from the school.

Priorities agreed upon: New roof and insulation then solar panels, and lighting in parking area of Town Offices; also, salt shed and Fire Station repairs.

MVP Contract Issues and Next Steps

Dave Pomerantz reported that state Ethics stated section 19 supersedes section 20 of the state ethics law. Since Dave did not fill out section 19 paperwork and submitted it to the Select Board for approval prior to writing the grant he cannot manage the grant as the project manager. Dave stated he and John cannot volunteer their time to complete this project. If the town can hire a project manager to manage this grant going forward Dave will try and volunteer some of his time only. Glenn stated he cannot let Leyden take on this project due to the huge time constraints. We need to discuss the future of this grant with Andrew Smith. Erica stated to give up on this grant, I hope it does not give a negative viewpoint of others towards Leyden but I'm not sure we can move forward with this grant. Erica felt resubmitting the grant in the future from the town is a potential way to complete the wildfire mitigation. Liz Kidder mentioned a

regional Woodlands Partnership grant that Leyden can be part of – the focus, however, is on carbon sequestration, not fire mitigation. Dave replied, he would love to find a way to get this grant work done in the future. Erica offered to connect with Andrew Smith, Regional Coordinator of MVP and let him know what Leyden has been discussing.

It was decided to cancel the November 20th meeting.

Next agenda will include report from PVRS, winter use of Town Hall, Personnel Policy, other items.

A Complete Streets discussion will be scheduled for Select Board meeting on December 11th and a public hearing of the program on December 18th. Katherine will contact Beth Giannini from FRCOG to ask if she is available to present.

Motion: Katherine moved to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso