

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Leyden Town Office Building  
Emergency Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2024  
12:00 pm

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

**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso, Carey Barton

Glenn called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

**Motion:** Erica moved to accept the resignation of Nik Adamski as Fire Chief effective as soon as another Fire Chief is appointed. Katherine seconded the motion. Glenn added with great appreciation for his service. Both Erica and Katherine agreed. Unanimous vote.

**Discussion**

Glenn stated he asked Carey Barton to join the meeting this am. He asked Carey to share his fire experience with the board.

Carey: I have 20 years' experience with the Leyden Fire Department. I would guess it has been 13 or so years since I was in the fire department though. I have experience on the Northfield Fire Department and with Vermont Yankee Fire Brigade. I have had training in the past, but I have not kept up with it. I am doing first responder training with Leyden now. I have signed up for the EV course. I do not have my basic training nor CPR yet. I hope to go to basic training in the spring. I do not have a CDL license. Carey continued that he would like to see Leyden's Fire Department continue to work to get current with all equipment and to make sure the maintenance of trucks is up to date.

Katherine asked Carey if he had the time to be chief. The Fire Chief position takes a lot of time, and we would want someone to continue working as a team with Tom Raffensperger and others outside of the department. We are trying to create a team approach including the Select Board to help the fire department rebuild.

Carey: I have learned I cannot do everything on my own. I need others to help. I would create a list and prioritize what needs to be done. There is a need for more reliable fire trucks. An all-terrain vehicle would also be useful to have in town, but I know there are others in town who have them. Erica mentioned the EMD has reached out to the snowmobile club, and they are planning for long range needs.

Carey: Having reliable radio communication is important and learning from others. I think we should have after action meetings.

Erica asked about mentoring others to train up. Carey replied he has no problem training others to keep them learning. They currently train every other Tuesday.

Glenn asked about attending the fire chief's meetings and networking with other towns to work out "deals" that may be advantageous to Leyden. Carey replied he would be willing to attend meetings and training in other towns.

Katherine asked Carey what certificates he needs. Carey replied he needed to do all firefighting training.

Glenn asked if Carey had incident command training. Carey replied that he did not have.

Discussed how to move forward

Erica: We need someone with leadership experience and incident command training and experience. Leyden has made progress as far as mutual aid goes. Having an open search for a new chief who lives in close proximity to Leyden is important. We need someone who is local with experience. Katherine shares Erica's opinion and feels an open search has benefits. Glen favored posting the position internally for 5 days. If we were going to search externally, we would need to have a really good process. Erica would like to add to any contract that if a CDL license is required we put that in the contract as well as all certifications are met within a certain time. Nik is chief until a new chief is appointed so a conversation should happen amongst the current chief, assistant chief, and captain to plan for the next week or more.

Next meeting: Friday, January 26 at 9am.

**Motion:** Erica moved to adjourn at 1:42 pm. Katherine seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Michele Giarusso