

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, April 1, 2024
5:30 pm

Select Board Members Present: Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery-remote
Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Ginger Robinson, Jerry Lund, Amy St. Clair

Glenn called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Discussion

Meeting Minutes

Motion: Erica moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 11 as written. Katherine seconded the motion. Roll call vote- Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn abstained.

Motion: Erica moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 18 as written. Katherine seconded the motion. Glenn thanked Katherine for accurate and detailed minutes of a complicated meeting. He had a minor amendment under **Town Counsel Beaver Control**. Erica accepted the amendment as well as Katherine. Roll call vote: Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes.

Motion: Erica moved the meeting minutes of March 26 as written with a minor word correction. Katherine seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-abstained.

Opioid Update

Jerry Lund reported the town voted the Opioid money to go into a stabilization account at the annual town meeting last year highly recommended by the state. This past December the state changed the law and is now recommending new language that this money be put into a special revenue account. The Select Board will be able to spend the money once we change this and not have to go to the town meeting for approval. The total amount for the state is around \$900 ml in settlement money. 60% of this settlement money goes to municipalities and 40% to the state. Leyden currently has about \$570 in the account with more to come but very little amounts over the next 10 years. The Board of Health recommends this wording change.

Jerry would like to put up Narcan boxes at several sites around the town. He suggests putting one outside the town office building and another outside the town hall. One or two doses nasally is all someone needs to give. Any more than that the person has the chance to flee after coming to. Jerry stated it is important to have access to Narcan right away if a person is in crisis. Right now, we should let residents know where these boxes are located within the town. He suggested coordinating with the town of Colrain for putting a box up near 10-mile bridge for the summer months when there are many people along the Green River.

Motion: Katherine moved to have the Narcan boxes mounted to the outside of both the town office building and town hall buildings. Erica seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Katherine-yes, Erica-yes, Glenn-yes.

Appointments

Barns and Animals

Motion: Erica moved to appoint Sean Berthiaume for another year to the Barns and Animals representative for the town. Katherine seconded the motion. Roll call vote; Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes.

Council on Aging

Motion: Katherine moved to appoint Becky King to the Council on Aging for 3 years. Erica seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glen-yes.

Public Comments- None

Fy25 Stipends and Wages

Stipends-Katherine stated the Select Board has discussed stipends before and how to equalize or not stipends, also does the stipend get paid on hours worked. Glenn wanted to clarify if it was decided whether or not the Board of Health members would be compensated for their training hours. Board members agreed the new training for the Board of Health is a huge commitment from volunteers and should be put in the budget under "training". The Finance Committee will decide on elected officials' compensation and the Select Board will do the appointed officials compensation.

Salaries- Katherine reported except for 2 positions all positions in the town are in alignment with other towns. The two positions are the Town Coordinator and Librarian. In looking at some of the individual budget requests some have asked for a 5% salary increase this year. Katherine does not want to set a precedent just because last year 5% was given. 3% is more realistic. Glenn agrees the two positions should be reevaluated based on position comparisons and 3% is realistic for all others. The people that put in for the 5% increase may be thought since last year was 5% this year would be the same. Glenn would like to look at all the comps for the Town Coordinator.

Motion: Katherine moved 3% increase across the board except for the Librarian this should be 5% increase as recommended by the Library Trustees and to hold off on the Town Coordinator until there is more information. Erica seconded the motion. The Board discussed one flat rate for Highway Per Diem Hourly wages. Katherine will discuss with Bill Brooks in an upcoming conversation. There was discussion on why the Select Board does not know what the departments are asking for in salary increases. The Select Board supervises these people and should have their budgets before they go to the Finance Committee. Glenn does not feel salaries should even be on the form. Ginger suggested the Select Board meet with the individuals they supervise and talk to the employees about their salary and budget request and let the Finance Committee set the rest of the budget. Michele will ask Susan to send out the payroll information to all Select Board members. Katherine will attend the Finance Committee tomorrow if she can. Select Board to attend the Finance Committee meetings on April 16 and 30.

Hunt Hill Agreement-no further information. Passed over.

Town Coordinator updates

Michele asked the board to vote on her applying for the DER grant for the West Leyden Road culvert.

Motion: Katherine moved to have Michele apply for the DER grant for the West Leyden Road "bog" grant. Roll Call vote: Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes.

Meeting with the PVRSD and FCTS business Managers

Invitation to the next meeting.

MLP Update

The MLP budget is done. The retained earnings should be spent to pay down the loan. Also, the board was thinking \$79,000 could be taken out of the CAF II money to help pay down the loan.

Select Board Updates

Erica reported the curb cut draft is with Donna.

There are tree limbs on some electrical lines if owners have agreed to cut down why do we need a public hearing. Katherine replied Eversource does not have carte blanche to cut whatever trees they want. We may need an informational hearing and maybe not a public hearing.

Katherine reported Mass In Motion committee met last Thursday they are thinking of purchasing railings for outside town office building and town hall with the grant money. The Council on aging would like to purchase pots and pans since they were removed from the town hall. Katherine suggested they purchase with their expense account.

Katherine reported the annual report is almost done. There needs to be a decision on the dedication. Glenn would like to dedicate it to the Public Safety Committee who really did a lot of work for the town. Erica feels public safety had a lot of people and a nice section of residents on the committee. Glenn will write a paragraph for the report.

Agenda Planning

Decided the next meeting will be on April 10 in the am. Bill Brooks should be invited to this meeting as his quarterly meeting and to discuss the beaver situation and declare an emergency.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn at 8:23pm. Katherine seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Erica-yes, Katherine-yes, Glenn-yes.

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso