

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, May 6, 2024
9:00 am

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

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Janell Howard, Beth Kuzdeba Liz Kidder-remote

Glenn called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Discussion

Minutes

Motion: Erica moved the April 22 meeting minutes as printed. Katherine seconded the motion. Glenn had a few additions and changes and will email Michele the wording. Both Erica and Katherine accepted Glenn's amendments. Unanimous.

Green Communities Next Steps for Funding within 90 Days

Glenn reported he reviewed the Building Needs Committee spreadsheet as well as looked at what the Green Communities grant will pay for. Green Communities guidelines is broken into categories such as Energy Conservation, Energy Audit or Reduction and Support Services for Energy Reduction. Each category explains what the grant will pay for. For example: Door and window weatherstripping is covered but not new windows. Landscaping equipment for energy reduction and building envelope improvement with insulation. HVAC equipment such as heat pumps cannot be applied for before the building envelope improvement is completed. Glenn feels Leyden's biggest areas for improvement are insulating the town buildings and installing heat pumps. The energy review that was completed by an outside source to apply for Green Communities lacked some information but as Glenn looked at what Building Needs put on their spreadsheet and highlighted areas, he felt we could qualify for several. Maybe when the Building Needs committee meets, they can think more boldly about the priorities and come up with a long-term plan. Glenn will send Ken his thoughts and maybe we could have a joint meeting. Also, the ADA compliance that needs to be done maybe could come out of the reserve fund. Katherine stated that the Mass in Motion grant could pay for the ramp, but priority for the money is railings first. If the ADA construction cannot happen by June 30th Mass in Motion will purchase plastic recycled material park benches. Katherine wondered if we should consult with Jeff Baker first before making any decisions or starting construction. Glenn wanted to mention solar for the town, we should not forget this since Green Communities does not pay for solar, but we should still be considering creative ways to bring solar to the town.

Janell Check-in

Janell has time to take on other tasks. The Annual report is complete and came in on time. Janell stated she works with highway and fire departments as well as emergency management. She prepares all the bills for highway and fire but not payroll for highway. Katherine has been having Janell walk around town owned grounds at both sites to see what needs to be done outside of what we pay Snows and Sons for. If Jeff Miller could do some of the fall and spring clean ups for us that would be something Janell could coordinate, someone must be in charge of the plans and priorities that need to be completed. Another idea Katherine posed is having a community compost pile that residents can use. If we could use the Green Communities grant to purchase new landscaping equipment there are many possibilities. Another idea is Janell may be able to help with solar inquiries, she could do some research and leg work like lease to own, talk to solar companies and gather information. Janell mentioned she also works on the website. Glenn mentioned maybe Janell could write up a teaching tool for other town departments who want to use the website.

Janell said she likes the flexibility of her hours and likes working 19 hours per week.

Search for Co-Emergency Management Directors

Glenn reported Jeff Miller is prepared to step in the role as the sole EMD. He is ready to be interviewed. John Richardson can help out if needed or be a deputy. During an emergency Jeff will be the EMD and not the maintenance person or Janitor. The stipend will need to be worked on with the Finance Committee. Glenn will see if Jeff is available next week for an interview.

Review of Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants

Board members reviewed the updated warrant articles again before submitting them to town counsel for review. Special Town Meeting warrant- Article one is not just for past fire bills take out the wording fire dept. otherwise it looks okay.

Annual Town Meeting warrant- Michele to ask Donna for an update on the Hunt Hill articles, the curb cut bylaw- the fine was removed, if done properly the FRCOG should not give out a building permit and the Assessors article needs to be reviewed by Donna as DLS has given their interpretation.

Town Coordinator Updates

The MIIA insurance renewal came and needs to be sent back. Michele is in the process of filling out the forms.

Town meeting warrant articles will be sent to town counsel and Michele will work her to make changes as needed and report back to the board.

Select Board Updates

- PVRSD Meeting- Katherine was pleasantly surprised by the conversations. A lot of thought is going into the future and sustainability of PVRSD. The district is losing a lot of children to Franklin Tech. PVRSD is trying to add new programs and is considering what students may be attracted to. She went on a tour of the building and saw the new AUX gym which was very nice and supplied with new equipment. The administration is talking to Winchester NH to see if they want to send their high school students to Pioneer. The administration is trying to rebuild but they know it will take about 7 years to do. There needs to be larger conversations with the other 2 towns on some of the things the district would like to do.
- The Emergency Management Plan Event went very well, those that attended were are engaged.
- ToDo List before end of the fiscal year-Katherine brought up the email from the Tree Warden on cutting of trees on the town common. Select Board has no opposition to the cutting of the trees because they are dead and present a safety hazard.

Liz Kidder reported she is almost finished with the Woodland's partnership grant for a UTV and will work with Michele to send in the application.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn at 11:53am. Glenn seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso