

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, June 24, 2024
5:30 pm

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen, Jeffery Baker
Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Emily Yazwinski-remote

Katherine called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Select Board reviewed and signed the FY24 warrants. This is the first time the warrants have been scanned into email for review. It is a work in progress.

Meeting minutes

Motion: Erica moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 28, 2024, as written. Katherine seconded the motion. Vote: Erica-yes, Katherine-yes. Jeff abstained.

Discussion

Agreement with Penfield Trust

The agreement cannot be finalized for signatures waiting on attorneys.

Public Comments

No public comments. Michele noted that correspondence has come in about knotweed coming in the gravel that the highway department puts down on South Schoolhouse Road. Erica responded that clean gravel is too expensive, and that knotweed is already here.

MassTech Collaborative

Katherine is Leyden's representative and attended a meeting. She reported once this contract is signed, we have one year to complete a written plan and implement the plan. Michele will do the grant and speak with Jack about the plan.

Motion: Erica moved to approve the Digital Equity Implementation Funding Agreement. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous.

2014 Ford Explorer Purchase

Erica reported Bernardston is retiring their cruiser and this would make a good vehicle for our Emergency Medical Responders to use now that the Tahoe has been sold. The Fire department is asking to purchase this vehicle. Jim Palmeri has taken the vehicle to a dealer and there some minor repairs needed.

Motion: Erica moved to approve the purchase of a 2014 Ford Explorer from the town of Bernardston for \$2500. The money will come from the Fire/EMS development fund. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous. Michele will speak with Bernardston, Angelica and Susan to work out the details.

Appointments

Motion: Erica moved to appoint:

- Carol and Beth Kuzdeba to the Agricultural Commission for 3 years. The term expires in 2027.
- Pat Little to the COA for 3 years. The term expires in 2027.
- Patricia Williams representative from the Cultural Council, Janel Howard from the Conservation Commission, Jim Brodeur from the Planning Board, Pam Brown from the Finance Committee, Karin Parks from the Recreation Committee, Al Woodhull and Michael Dobler to the Open Space Committee for 1 year.
- Pat Little, Trish Saline Amy St. Clair, Jerry Lund, Merry Lein and Karin parks to the Mass in Motion Advisory committee for 3 years. The term expires in 2027.

Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Select Board Calendar Planning

Erica has completed a draft of the yearly Select Board calendar. She has added to contact the VA 2 months in advance to have someone come to Leyden for Memorial Day services and quarterly ambulance service check in an

Town Coordinator Update

- Michele mentioned the IG Jeffery Shapiro's office contacted her about coming to Leyden to see the new fire truck procured under an emergency waiver. The Select Board would like Michele to reach out to the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief to coordinate some dates in July, maybe August. Michele stated Jo Comerford also said to invite her and we may as well invite Natalie Blais and Anne Gobi.
- Financial policies should be coming next week.
- Bill Brooks would like the Select Board to sign a statement of intent to purchase a new loader in FY25 to send to the company so they will hold the loader for us.

Motion: Erica moved to sign the intent to purchase a 2024 John Deere 544p Wheel Loader for \$228,000. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous.

- The Assessors would like the board to sign the pilot letter to Greenfield so they can mail before July 1.

Motion: Erica moved to sign the bill to the Town of Greenfield as payment in lieu of taxes for property in Leyden. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous. Erica and Katherine would like the Assessors to explain how this amount is calculated.

- The Treasurer would like a signature on her FY 25 Wage and salary calculation sheet he has completed to start on July 1. Erica found several typos; she will correct and send to Treasurer.
- There are 41 gallons of oil remaining in the bid for FY24, we can leave in there and not do anything with it or pay 5 cents per gallon per month for a storage fee. The issue is the same company did not receive the bid. Select Board decided to not pay the storage fee.
- The landline through Verizon for the fire alarms has been down for at least 3 days. Many residents in Leyden also did not have phone service and were not happy about it. Michele would like to switch the fire alarms to wireless if possible because this happens more frequently.
- Reconciling of grants is almost complete. There are a few outstanding reimbursements Michele is waiting on.
- Ann Gobi is coming by town office tomorrow around noon. Katherine will be available to meet with her.

ADA compliance Issues-Michele shared the kind of opening mechanism other town halls have used. Katherine mentioned she attended the last Building Needs Committee meeting, and they will be deciding on what should be done with doors, ramps and other equipment.

Scanner: Finance team met and discussed. Angelica is willing to use our copier to scan warrants, so no purchase of a new scanner is needed at this time.

Select Board updates

- Erica would like Janell to be the point of contact for Bound Tree Supply, which is the EMS supply company we are trying to set up an account with.
- BOH training expense-Beth Kuzdeba had sent an email on how she will receive reimbursement for training completed in FY24. She understands the FY25 budget has money for training in it but paying for the training she already did has never been resolved.

Motion: Erica moved to pay Beth Kuzdeba \$480 from the BOH expense account for training modules completed in FY24. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous.

- Erica reported that the EMD set up a cooling center last week it was staffed by volunteers, there was good communication for power outages and tornado warnings.
- Katherine asked about replacing the flags on the flag poles. Michele reported that that has recently been done. Agreed that replacing the flags will happen annually before Memorial Day – add to SB calendar.

Agenda Planning

Next meeting July 1, at 9am. Maybe have MLP Manager attend. Sign Penfield agreement

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn at 7:57pm. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso