

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, May 19, 2025
5:00 pm

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen, Jeffrey Baker

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Susan Bobe, George Stephan, Andrea Rasmussen, Bruce Dobias, Elwin Barton, Jean Dobias, David Annear

Katherine called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Accept meeting minutes

Motion: Erica moved the minutes of 5/5/25 as amended by Katherine. Katherine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Erica moved the minutes of 5/12/25 as amended by Katherine. Katherine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Appointment to the Deerfield River and Scenic River Study Committee

Motion: Erica moved to appoint Arthur Tuttle to the Deerfield River and Scenic River Study Committee for the duration of the committee meeting. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. .

Employee Remote Access

- George Stephan said he needs software purchased to work remotely as was discussed when he was hired.
- Michele had shared a quote for the purchase of this software.

Motion: Erica moved to approve the purchase of LogMeIn software for \$314.99 annually for remote access software for the Town Clerk. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- George sent an email previously to the Select Board stating he could not find a constable to work at the annual town election for the open polling hours. Ginny Rockwood has come forward and stated she would be willing to be a constable.

Motion: Erica moved to appoint Ginny Rockwood as an emergency constable until June 30, 2026. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Gill Engineering's Question on an Easement During Construction of the West Leyden Road Bridge

- Michele had shared an email from Gill Engineering on questions for construction of the bridge over the "bog" they would like to put in the plan. Select Board asked Michele to contact town counsel as the town has not had any previous experience with this according to the highway superintendent.

Review and Approve the FY 26 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant and Budget

- Select Board reviewed the warrant one last time before posting.

Motion: Erica moved to approve the amended ATM warrant. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Erica moved to approve the FY26 Operating Budget warrant. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Town Coordinator Updates

- Michele shared the Select Board is invited to attend a ceremony on May 27th at the Bernardston Elementary School for a dedication of their Moon Tree. Cady Coleman, Astronaut will be the guest speaker. Michele and Jeff will attend.
- Michele reported the new handicap signs have been installed in various town buildings by the highway department.
- New flags will be put up by custodian for Sunday before Memorial Day.
- There have been several reports by residents of dogs running loose in the middle of the road. Michele called the regional dog officer to report.

Select Board Updates

- Erica would like Michele to investigate the question by AG's office of the Curb Cut bylaw we passed at town meeting last year.

Action: Michele will contact Paul, former Town Clerk.

- Katherine reported on the Mass in Motion meeting she attended in Erving last week and how impressed she was with Erving's Facilities-Senior Center, Library, and elderly housing.
- Katherine also attended the Franklin County Tech open house for their new Veterinary Medicine program.

Public Comments

- Andrea Rasmussen introduced herself and her intent to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Motion: Erica moved to appoint Andrea Rasmussen to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2028. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Bruce Dobias representing the Beaver Meadow Cemetery Association asked for money to mow Beaver Meadow Cemetery.

Katherine responded this is not a town cemetery, it is a private cemetery run by a Board of Directors, and they collect fees for plots. Katherine explained she did the research several years ago on the cemeteries in town and only one is a public one that is East Hill Cemetery. Beaver Meadow filed with the state as a private cemetery years ago.

David Annear mentioned the stone wall is in disrepair and on the town's right of way and asked who is responsible for the repair.

Katherine replied with explaining the town's right of way is from the middle of the road. She also explained that the association can dissolve and ask the town to take over the cemetery if they feel they can no longer operate.

- Susan Bobe, Treasurer, shared her concern with the FY26 MLP budget. She reviewed their budget and there is not enough money in her opinion going towards the MLP loan. Interest rates are higher than the savings interest on the stabilization account and we should be paying the loan off faster. She would have liked to attend an MLP meeting before the decision was made.

Next meeting

- June 2, at 4pm at town hall.

Motion to adjourn: Katherine moved at 7:43 pm. Erica seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso