

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Leyden Town Office Building  
Regular Session  
Monday, September 29, 2025  
5:00 pm

**Select Board Members Present:** Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo; Jeffrey Baker  
**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso; Liz Kidder, Karen O’Neil, Evan Abramson, Ginger Robinson, Alice Wozniak, Jeff and Jolene Glabach via remote access.

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

**Bi-Weekly Warrant**

Katherine had a question about Cultural Council invoices in the warrant – had these been paid previously, the dates on some of the events were not clear which year they were or would be held. Michele explained, since it is a grant, the accountant allows invoices to be paid differently from the town’s fiscal year. Select Board members signed the warrant.

**Accept Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Katherine moved the 9/22/25 meeting minutes with a change to have Saturdays be a non-business day. Correcting a misinterpretation about Saturday town meetings versus office closures. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Digital Equity Grant Discussion**

The board discussed the digital equity grant. Katherine offered she could take on the planning and development of criteria to distribute devices in a couple of months. Erica would also be available. Discussion followed on the tablet procurement and noted that the project timeline allows for developing necessary criteria and procedures within the 6-month reporting period. They agreed to sign the contract as written, and to amend the term "iPads" to "tablets" to align with their purchasing plans. Chromebooks and HP tablets being the cheapest viable options. The board decided to begin work on the pavilion broadband hook-up as soon as possible.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to accept the Digital Equity Grant and to change the wording from “iPad” to “tablet” or “computer tablet” for device to purchase. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Conservation Commission**

Evan expressed interest in applying for a grant for the knotweed project. He would like to send an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the ECO One Stop Program. He discussed the effectiveness of cutting versus using herbicides, noting that manual cutting has been successful in reducing knotweed growth. Bill Brooks is supporting this project and has been actively cutting knotweed on North County Road that seems to be working. Evan also suggested pursuing a grant from the Deerfield River Watershed project, which received \$600,000-\$700,000 for their project. Knotweed is along the river also. The board agreed to allow the Conservation Commission to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for invasive species grant funding, with an estimated budget of \$100,000-\$120,000.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to allow the Conservation Commission to send an EOI to eradicate knotweed in Leyden. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### School Public Forum

Katherine has all the presentations; the agenda is set. Erica will introduce Katherine and the presenters. Michele reported the room is all set up and the food ordered.

#### Town Coordinator Updates

- Michele received paperwork for a pole hearing from Verizon along Greenfield Road to move approximately 13 poles.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to conduct a pole hearing on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Michele called Minuteman Pest Control about the amount of Rodenticide used. Minuteman said the amount used in their bait pest management is a very small amount and cannot kill a secondary animal. Katherine suggested Vitamin D3 might be suggested as an alternative.
- Michele suggested moving the November 15 Special Town Meeting to 9am or 11am so the Chair or Vice Chair of the Six Town Planning Committee could attend our meeting.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to change the November 15 meeting time to 9am. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### Select Board Updates

- Jeff asked about the flag being on the right to farm sign. Katherine replied, the sign had been taken down to repaint. After it went back up a flag appeared on the sign. It is a mystery as to who put up the flag. We have a town flag policy so the person who keeps putting up and taking down should also understand the policy. The Select Board should also know who has put the flag up on public property. If no one comes forward the Select Board will have to decide whether to take the flag down or not.
- Katherine had a Mass in Motion meeting today at Avery Field. They reviewed accessibility issues at the new path and pickleball court. They noticed the handicapped picnic table is near the pickleball court and should be under the pavilion. Katherine will ask Steve Richter and Bill about moving it. Rachel Stoler from FRCOG said the grant money should be used for things that are long term.
- Erica asked to put the two warrant articles the town clerk sent about Saturdays on the next town meeting warrant.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to add the town clerk's warrant articles and the FY25 ambulance bills to the November Special Town Meeting warrant. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Erica reported that Dan Nietzsche from the FRCOG will assist the towns to look at regionalizing the EMS services in west county.
- Erica asked about authorizing the town clerk to apply for a Roving Archivist Program fellowship.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to allow the town clerk to apply for a Roving Archivist Program fellowship from the State Secretary's office. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Alice Wozniak , Assistant Assessor announced that Kibilio is ready to agree to a pilot program. She will provide contact information to Michele.

### Public Comments

Jeff and Jolene joined the meeting via remote access.

- Jolene raised concerns about a turnaround at Streeter's property on Hunt Hill Road. Katherine clarified the turnaround was a pre-existing Select Board decision not influenced by Tony Streeter's recent conversation with Bill.
- Jolene asked if there were any consequences for the Penfield's for lowering the water bars. Erica responded there are no consequences, if any erosion occurs in the future the Penfield's will have to repair but they will have to come before the Select Board before doing any construction.
- Jolene asked how many sheds were on the property and Erica responded there are only two. Erica said everything checked out just fine during the annual conservation restriction walk through the property.
- Jeff asked if beet juice could be put on Hunt Hill Road like the town puts on East Hill Road to control dust.
- Jolene asked how many days Tony Streeter can stay in his cabin, he added a culvert below his property did the group allow this. Erica responded Tony can stay in his cabin for 45 days with a permit and the Conservation Commission will investigate the culvert.
- Jolene asked about residents using their own equipment to plow. Erica clarified that Hunt Hill Road is now a town-maintained road, and while residents like Tony have historically plowed the road in emergencies, this should no longer be necessary as the town will handle plowing. The discussion revealed that similar situations exist on other roads in the area where residents have temporarily taken on road maintenance until town services could be established.
- Jolene is also concerned about increased traffic speed on the road since new signage was installed. Erica reported that she had spoken to Bob about reminding his family to adhere to the 25-mph speed limit, especially when school is in session.

### Agenda Planning

Next meeting October 6 in the evening

- Kibilio and pilot payment
- Debrief school forum
- Debrief legislative breakfast
- Debrief walk with Allison Wright

**Motion** to adjourn: Erica moved at 7:33 pm. Jeff seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso