

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, October 20, 2025
9:00 am

Select Board Members Present: Erica Jensen and Jeffrey Baker

Others Present: Michele Giarusso; Marcia Provost, Bill Maguire, Sandy and Bill Yetter, Neil Ainsworth, Bill Brooks, Pam Brown and Don Vonner-rep. from Verizon

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

Pole Hearing

Erica called the Verizon pole hearing to order at 9:04 am.

Don Vonner explained the project contains approximately 15 poles that must be moved on Greenfield Road to shorten the span and raise the height of the poles to essentially strengthen the poles. He looked for the stakes this morning and did not find any. Bill Brooks reported he also looked for the stakes last week and there were none. Don explained he would have to come back after Verizon places the stakes and work with Bill Brooks.

Bill Yetter stated the pole on his property that is supposed to be moved to the new location on the map will create a hazard he feels. He has a new driveway there and the projected pole placement is on the corner of Kately Hill Rd. and Greenfield Rd. Don suggested he go to Yetter's property and look after the meeting. Don stated this is pole # 314 ½.

There was discussion that the poles should be far enough off the road for plowing. There were no further questions or objections.

Motion: Erica moved to accept the moving of 14 poles except for pole # 314 ½ and pending placement of stakes and approval from Bill Brooks, Highway Superintendent. Jeff seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously approved.

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn the pole hearing at 9:23 am. Jeff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Accept Meeting Minutes

Erica announced she was not in attendance at last week's meeting, and she would like to postpone approval of the minutes until next week.

Special Town Meeting

There was a brief discussion on the postponement of the Six Town Planning Board recommendation to postpone a meeting and vote.

Motion: Erica moved to postpone the November 15 Special Town Meeting. Jeff seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously approved.

Town Coordinator Update

- Michele shared a letter Katherine had written after speaking with town counsel to send to Adam Cormier about the abandonment of the bottom of Hunt Hill Road and land ownership as a result of the abandonment. Erica stated as the letter is written, it is not quite accurate. She raised concerns that some of the land is part of Bruce Dobias's property. Erica is also concerned about the plan for logging

and the need for a clear route for logging trucks, emphasizing the importance of town involvement in road maintenance after logging.

- Regionalization vote by ballot as a special election coordination with other towns-Michele explained the proposed process and the need for our Senator to file special legislation.

Motion: Erica moved to ask Senator Jo Comerford to file special legislation for a special voting day after a special town meeting if other towns are doing the same thing for the Six town regionalization vote. The vote is projected to take place in spring 2026. Jeff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

- Michele reported that the Franklin Conservation Commission will be mounting the sign near the perennial garden, they will be maintaining the perennial garden to prepare for winter and their request to remove bittersweet near the playground, which she approved.
- Erica inquired about the status of the air quality sensor. Michele has it and it will be set up sometime this week
- Michele has started the expression of interest for the Eco One Stop grant for the West Leyden Road construction of a bridge.

Select Board Updates

- Jeff addressed concerns about Kayla Bernard Rice's home baking operation being shut down. Erica stated if it was due to lack of proper permits, that this is a public safety issue and beyond the Select Board's jurisdiction.
- Jeff watched the School Committee meeting and the concerns the parents had on bullying amongst other issues. 15 children have been removed and more could be pulled out. Erica suggested bringing up this matter at the next meeting with Katherine, emphasizing the need for a neutral approach to conflicts between the school and parents. She also highlighted the close relationship between Melissa, the school committee chair, and Patricia, which hampers open addressing of such issues.

Agenda Planning

Next meeting October 27 in the evening

- Update flag policy

Motion to adjourn: Jeff moved at 10:34 am. Erica seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso