

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, November 17, 2025
5:00 pm

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

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Bill Brooks

Erica called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Accept Meeting Minutes

Motion: Katherine moved the 11/10/25 meeting minutes as written. Erica seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Flag Policy

No need for further discussion on the updated policy as members had discussed at the last meeting and read the updates in advance.

Motion: Katherine moved to approve V8 of the flag policy. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Update and Vote Health Insurance

Michele discussed health insurance options in the GIC plan focusing on the comparison between Health New England and Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. She shared her personal experience with Health New England and noted its local doctor network, while acknowledging that Blue Cross Blue Shield offers broader access to Massachusetts hospitals. Bill Brooks sent an email to the members stating he and AJ would like to stay with BCBS but understand what is going on with the HCGIT and the rising health care costs. He and AJ are okay with whatever the Select Board decides but in general the potential rate hikes for GIC specifically the Health New England plans are concerning.

Motion: Katherine moved that the Town of Leyden move to the GIC health insurance as of July 1, 2026, and adopt CH.32B Sec.21,22&23. Jeff seconded the motion. . Motion was unanimously approved.

Action: Michele will type of a letter of intent for the board to sign next week.

Town Coordinator Update

- Letter to MSBA needs to be signed. Erica signed
- Parking lot solar lights have been ordered
- Orion from Kibilio replied he is not available until December to discuss PILOT.
- The AMC General truck title is being processed by our insurance company once received she will put on Municibid.
- The pavilion is now connected to Wi-Fi with a new password.
- She approved the purchase of Wi-Fi hardware and switches to update the Wi-Fi network in the town office building, and additional memory for George's computer.

Select Board Updates

- Katherine attended the FEMA flood Map online meeting the FRCOG sponsored. We will need to adopt the maps at a future town meeting once they are online to review.
- Katherine sent in written testimony to the state legislature on the Municipal Modernization Act as a private citizen since it had to be in before this meeting.
- 250th anniversary-Katherine has some ideas the town could do for July 4th next year. She is thinking of a small ceremony on the town common with people possibly reading the Declaration of Independence. The board agreed it may be something residents would attend.

- Erica mentioned the Neighbors to Neighbors working group that is helping families with food gift cards and possibly a food pantry of some sort that instead of using the town hall they use the town office building for food distribution for various reasons.
- Mass in Motion grant-Katherine shared the map of Avery Field with Bill to show him where the septic system and pipes are. The plan to extend the walking path to complete an almost circle will require an outside contractor. Bill stated the highway equipment cannot fit behind the fence. The highway crew can complete the rest of the walkway though.

Agenda Planning

November 24-morning meeting

1. Tax classification
2. Sign the LOI for GIC
3. Building Needs meeting update
4. MLP Advisory Board meeting update

Motion to adjourn: Kathrine moved at 6:11 pm. Jeff seconded the motion.

| Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso