



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Meeting Minutes

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Where : Leyden Town Office

When: August 31, 2026

In Attendance

Members: Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo, Jeff Baker

Audience: Michele Giarusso, John Carolan and Beth Giannini FRCOG reps for Complete Streets, Liz Kidder via remote access

Time meeting called to order: 9:32am

Review of Minutes:

Motion: Katherine moved to accept **Second:** Jeff **Vote:** Unanimous
the meeting minutes of 8/24/26 with
amendments that were discussed this am re: EMS services

Discussions:

1. Complete Streets

Beth Giannini and John Carolan presented their findings of a draft list of roads/projects that were identified as possible projects after interviewing various town officials' boards/departments and residents. They reviewed nine potential projects, beginning with safety concerns at intersections including Greenfield Road and South County Road, and Greenfield Road and Mid-County Road, where they proposed radar speed feedback signs, additional speed limit signs, high visibility crosswalks, and intersection modifications. The team also addressed the Old Town Hall/library area, discussing issues with wide roadways with no markings, vegetation blocking sightlines, and the need for better signage. Throughout the discussion, participants shared personal experiences with local traffic patterns and safety concerns, particularly noting problems with speeding vehicles and visibility issues at various intersections. The recommendations for transportation improvements will be reviewed next with the highway superintendent and others to prioritize what the town would like to apply to the for grants. Beth also went over the various grants available for improvements under the DOT that we may apply for once we have made more decisions. Michele is applying for an extension of this grant as it will end on September to give more time for public input.

2. Lotreck Property Right of first Refusal

The board has read over the information from Attorney Stobierski. They would like to hear from the other boards/committees who sent the same packet before deciding.

3. Vote for a Special Election on October 6, 2026

The board received the notice for a special election to form a new six town regional school. The ballot question is to accept the regional agreement to form this new district. Suggested date is October 6. The

governor has signed the special legislation. Katherine, while supportive of the new school district, does not think the vote should happen on the same day as the FCTS debt exclusion vote. She feels the voters will be confused about what they are voting for.

Motion: Jeff moved to hold the Great River Regional School District Agreement special election on October 6 with polling hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of submitting to the voters the question of accepting the establishment of the Great River Regional School District, in accordance Special Legislation S.3181 "*An Act Providing Equal Opportunity For Residents To Vote On Establishment Of The Great River Regional School District,*" enacted on August 25, 2026. **Second:** Erica **Vote:** Erica-yes, Jeff-yes, Katherine -no.

4. Plan for public forum for the FCTS and Six town Special Election

A public forum is scheduled for September 17, time is 6pm with light refreshments. The group discussed determining the timing and format for presentations from Franklin County Tech and Six Town representatives, with specific time allocations for each segment including Q&A. The group agreed to send out postcards about the forum as soon as possible, with Michele to coordinate with Adams Direct for mailing. Jack Golden to be asked to moderate. If he is not available, Katherine will fill that role.

5. Town Coordinator Updates

- Michele discussed that there is the WRAP reimbursement for winter snow overages and a WRAP grant which has caused some confusion. She said Bill has filled out the paperwork for the WRAP reimbursement.
- Michele has received the report for 62 and over residents and the report indicates 45% of our residents are over the age of 62.
- Michele has filed the extension for Complete Streets as mentioned earlier
- There will be a financial team meeting at 4:30pm today
- Ellen Coty would like to be appointed to the Cultural Council she has emailed Michele.

Motion: Katherine moved Ellen Coty for a 3-year term on the Cultural **Council Second:** Jeff

Vote: Unanimous.

6. Select Board Updates

- Erica asked Jane Dutcher to relook at the figures for the police budget after Ginger mentioned something to Michele about relooking at the numbers.
- Eric, Liz and Jason Tuell met with Tracy Rogers at the FRCOG about the Fire department budget. Tracy has DLTA funds that run out at the end of December. She will take a holistic approach on how to proceed.
- Katherine only has 3 annual reports she will send out another notice.
- Weeding is being done on the path at Avery Field by volunteers and is going well.
- Katherine will be researching towns taking over private cemeteries after attending the West Leyden Cemetery annual meeting where there was concern the trustees are getting older and who in the future will maintain the cemetery. Someone said it is automatic a town must take over. Katherine will report on her research when completed.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Agenda Planning

- Bill Brooks-Complete Streets and quarterly update
- Colrain Ambulance quarterly update-Gary Ponce

- Digital Equity update

Next Meeting: September 14 at 9am

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Jeff moved to adjourn at 11:54am. **Second:** Katherine **Vote:** Unanimous.

Submitted By: Michele Giarusso