

**Leyden Selectboard
Leyden Town Hall
Regular Session Minutes
October 22, 2018**

Selectboard Members Present: Lance Fritz, Bill Glabach, Jeff Neipp.

Others Present: Bob Hardesty, Bob Ryan, Michele Giarusso, Michele Higgins, Ginger Robinson.

Meeting Called to Order at 1:10pm

Minutes

MOTION: Lance moved to accept the minutes of October 10. Unanimous.

MOTION: Lance moved to accept the minutes of October 15 and to release Executive Session Minutes. Bill, yes; Lance, yes; Jeff, yes.

Broadband Update

Bob Ryan presented the Board with a Broadband update. We will soon be signing a contract with WG&E who will provide us with \$200,000 in surplus materials that we would normally have to purchase from another vendor. The advantage of purchasing the materials through WG&E is that we save on overhead, storage, and mark-up. At present, we're on track with construction costs. Sertex, LLC, will be hanging the wires at a cost of \$516,000. With the materials from WG&E, \$200,000, construction costs are about \$716,000. Through Connect America, we will also receive \$26,000 a year for ten years. This can help with any possible overages we may encounter. He also reported that the number of unacceptable poles has maybe dropped from 336 to possibly 20.

Tom Luck – Their Well is on Town Property

Tom Luck addressed the Board concerning their well currently being on Town property. He explained that, after the well was dug and the house was built, the road was moved over to more easily accommodate snow plowing. They are anticipating, in the foreseeable future, possibly moving to their house in Shelburne Falls. They want to get this resolved so it's not a problem in selling the house. They would like the Town to deed the strip of land over the well to them. Tom will have the deed drawn up. Discussion. The Board agreed to put an article on the next Town meeting warrant for Town vote.

Municipal Assistant Appointment

The Board discussed the Municipal Assistant applicants' resumes.

MOTION: Jeff moved to appoint Michele Giarusso as Municipal Assistant, effective November 13, with a six month probationary period. Unanimous.

Heart Committee Update

The Heart Committee presented a revision of the PVRSD Regional Agreement with regards to closing a school. (Copy of additions attached.) They explained the revisions and additions, and asked the Board if they had questions or additional input.

Highlights of Discussion

C(1)(a): Lance asked why was "ten (10) months" chosen. Michele replied that the reasoning is because the school year is actually 10 months long.

C(1)(e): Lance suggested that the "process" be defined. How are the Selectmen involved? Michele said that the consultants feel that each Town will look out for their own interests. Michele will take the suggestion back to the Committee.

C(2): Bill pointed out that the "ten months" criteria is repeated from above [C(1)(a)]. He feels that one may counteract with the other. Lance asked if it is 10 months concurrent or 10 months back to back. This could be interpreted as not being able to close a school until two years after a School Committee vote if they vote after approval at Town Meeting. Michele will take this back to the Committee also.

Bill mentioned that there is nothing in this revision that states that changes must be approved at Town Meeting. After further review, all agreed that this also should be discussed by the Committee. Jeff mentioned that there should be something in the lease agreement that states that the District maintains the school building for one year. We will have already had our ATM, and no funds would have been appropriated for maintenance of the building. This will be discussed further also. Jeff also mentioned that kindergarten and first graders, in particular, should be bused to Bernardston and not to Warwick.

Michele said that there will be a public forum, scheduled for November 15, for the consultants to discuss the agreement changes. She is asking them to reschedule the forum to November 19.

Adjournment

MOTION: Lance moved to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hardesty

Pioneer Valley Regional School District

Regional Agreement

(C) Process To Close A School

- (1) Closure of any school within the District shall not be done without the District's Central Office Administrators conducting the following:
 - (a) A feasibility study conducted at least ten (10) months in advance of the proposed closing to include the educational impact on students. Under extraordinary circumstances, this timeline may be modified by a majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3) towns voting to support the modified timeline.
 - (b) A complete fiscal analysis to determine the cost savings, the impact on the regional budget, and the individual assessments to the member towns.
 - (c) A review of educational organizational schemes and their financial impact.
 - (d) A review of population trends to determine the long-term impact of the closing.
 - (e) A process which includes the Selectmen of the town affected by the school being studied for closing.
 - (f) A public hearing held prior to the vote of the Committee.
 - (2) A vote by the Committee to begin the study must be taken at least ten (10) months prior to its vote to close a school and must pass with a two-thirds (2/3) majority.
 - (3) A school may then be closed at the first June 30th after the SC vote.
 - (4) A vote by the Committee to close the school shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3) towns voting to support closure. The vote shall be held at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting.
 - (5) Closure of a school is defined as no longer assigning District students to that particular school. The town affected by the Committee vote still maintains control and ownership of the facility and may utilize the facility as it sees fit.
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