

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
February 13, 2023
6:00 pm

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery, Bill Glabach

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, John Higgins, Liesel Nygard Liz Kidder, Beth Kudzeba, Mary Glabach, Nik Adamski, Elaine Brooks, Ginger Robinson, Emily Yazwinski virtually, Robbie Milner virtually, Mary Glabach.

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. The Select Board read correspondence file and reviewed and signed FY 23 warrants. Announcement from chair that the meeting was being recorded.

Motion: Glenn moved the meeting minutes of January 30, 2023. Bill seconded. Glenn amended Impala motion. The motion Katherine made was to declare the Impala as surplus property. Unanimous.

Motion: Glenn moved to appoint Abbi Pratt to the Recreation Committee. Katherine seconded. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION

Fire Department

Motion: Katherine moved to appoint Nik Adamski as Acting Officer in Charge. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Compensation discussion: Public Safety recommended to pay Nik a stipend of \$100 a week for his new role until there is another fire department leadership structure in place. Money already in the budget for Fire Chief, this stipend would be paid from that account. Katherine moved. Glenn seconded. Unanimous.

Update given by Glenn: Public Safety is working on the Fire Department with Steve Foley consultant, to assess options. Regionalization is down the road. Mutual aid has kept Leyden safe, and it is a quasi-regionalization. Leyden has depended on mutual aid for years but not filled our end of the mutual aid agreement. Creating a quick attack department is the priority. Getting equipment and personnel is a priority. Our department is now one person – Nik. New air packs are ordered. Getting out a campaign to get volunteers for the department. Need a chief because leadership and oversight are essential. Shared chief model is in place in other towns – could be the best option for us. Have spoken with Bernardston Fire Chief and other officials – waiting to hear their response. Lucky to have Nik in the meantime. Brian is supporting Nik in the transition. Special town meeting warrant articles will shift money to pay for the equipment needs. New equipment might help attract volunteers. Need to demonstrate to our neighboring towns that we are serious and taking action to get back in shape.

Katherine stated we are in a precarious position. I'm supportive of funding the right solution. It is important to have a substation here in Leyden. We need a mutually beneficial commitment.

EMS

We have two EMTs, Nik and the police department are first responders. We need to invest in EMS services. Two people are ready to join as first responders. There needs to be administrative support for EMS. OEMS would be an adjunct to the Fire Department so getting Fire Department structure in place would accelerate EMS.

Memos

Discussion of the need for more administrative support town wide.

Memos created by the Select Board include departure, records retention, official emails, password changes, other policies and procedures. Agreement to send the memos. Chairs are the link to the committees, orientation or meeting with chairs should be scheduled to give them an overview of the responsibilities and procedures. For newly elected appointed and elected in July when they are sworn in – already elected and appointed should be invited then as well. Electronic links and a binder in the town offices should be made available for all to review.

Municipal Assistant Updates

Second opioid settlement announced Michele has signed the town up for it.

The annual report will be right in the middle of the budget season and the start of road grants. Michele requesting Amanda help out with the annual report. Word documents are sent in from chairs of department heads or officials. Katherine volunteered to edit the reports that are sent in. There are other things that have to be generated for the report, pictures, table of contents, page numbering to get pdf ready to go to printer. The Select Board agreed to pay Amanda for any hours she spends on putting the annual report together.

Tahoe – all paperwork done to send to insurance company to reregister to the Fire department 4 or 5 documents had to be filled out and signed including transferring the title. Glenn signed.

Impala is sold, keys are gone, check received. \$3,150.00 was the selling price and deposited with the Treasurer. This will go the general fund.

U.S. Bridge warranty for Coates Road. Sent by Clayton Davenport. 35-year warranty. Mass DOT does annual inspection of bridges. Select Board Chair signed the warranty. Franklin County Regional Housing Authority would like Leyden to sign a 1-year extension of a HUD Loan. Before signing maybe, a representative should come in and speak to board.

Other Business

McGovern visit on Wednesday, he has one hour to visit. Topics to discuss with him: education, invisible poor in wealthy towns, tiny towns and public safety, financial support for towns that have agricultural and conservation land that get discounts on tax assessments.

Motion: Katherine moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant