

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Working Session
March 6, 2023
9:00 am

Select Board Members Present: Bill Glabach, Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery
Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Erica Jenssen, Liz Kidder, Sara Seinberg, Ginger Robinson, Natalie Blais, Corinne Coryat

Katherine called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Katherine announced the meeting is being recorded.

Katherine mentioned there are several things she would like Natalie to know. Leyden is not a small town. We are a tiny town. The town has been staying afloat with grants over the last couple of years. We always are in need of more money. We have been focused on public safety. We have a lot of senior citizens.

Glenn shared Town government is a challenge. There are expectations and needed skill sets. We cannot afford to have 2-3 full-time people so we settle for one but this is not sustainable. People are putting a lot of time. We are relying on our residential tax rate to support everything. Our median income is high, so we do not qualify for USDA grants for one. It is difficult to receive support because people look at our median income.

Bill went on to add, we have tried to avoid taking on huge debt due to the aging population. This was an old school, and we did a great job making it offices without having to spend much money. The maintenance is great on all our buildings. They are aging. Some of the residents are old aging Yankees and do not participate in town functions. We have a strong group of volunteers though.

Liz Kidder explained our E& F grant and what we hope to accomplish with it. She shared our shared police department's success and how the long-term agreement is just about finished. We need to revive our EMS services but the paperwork is daunting. We have had help from the Collins Center consulting services. As we try to build our fire department to become a good mutual aid partner, the procurement laws get in the way. We cannot purchase a used truck quickly.

Sara Seinberg mentioned communication ns town is also something that is being worked on. She congratulated Natalie on being on the Agricultural Commission for the state. The idea of free community college is great, but she was wondering if there could be forgiveness loans offered and have some of these people work for municipalities since there is such a need. Natalie thought this was a great idea.

Ginger Robinson asked for more money for special needs and money in general for the schools. We are fighting for the same pool of children. She thinks we need larger school districts. A single payer healthcare system would also save the state money.

Natalie replied she is putting a bill forward for rural schools, working with the Healy-Driscoll team and the rural policy commission should be looking at tiny towns. She wants to know about any grants we are applying for so she can advocate for us.

Bill took over as chair.

Motion: Katherine moved to Appoint Sara Seinberg for three years to Cultural Council. Glenn second. Unanimous.

Reviewed memo to chairs, made edits,

Motion: Glenn moved the memos Katherine second. Unanimous.

The departure memo was approved. Needs to be sent out.

Special Town Meeting warrant reviewed and approved.

Motion: Glenn moved, Katherine second. Unanimous.

Katherine will take on notifying and scheduling evaluations. Glenn and Katherine to work on an evaluation form. Clarified steps involved in pre-evaluation requests and content of evaluations.

Job descriptions will be discussed during the evaluation.

We had a 2 hour review with Donna McNichol of the new Personnel Policy Manual. Donna made edits with more to come. She will be back for another working session until finished.

Bill left meeting at this point.

40 minute meeting with Frank and Ted from VADAR to discuss additional training for Tax Collector.

Motion: Katherine moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. Glenn second. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant