

**Town of Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Remote Meeting January 5, 2022**

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held remotely using the Leyden Go-To-Meeting account at 6:00 pm, on January 5, 2022.

**Present:** Erica Jensen, Selectboard, Elizabeth Kidder, Chair  
Marcia Miller, Barbara Wallace, Jack Golden, Emily Yazwinski, Anders Ferguson, Candace Hope, Alternate..

**Audience:**

Beth Kuzdeba, Michelle Giarusso, Christine Brodeur (+1), Chris Larabee, Town treasurer Susan Bobe, Sara, David Pomerantz, Michelle Higgins, Ginger Robinson,

**Absent:** Michael Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm. Liz Kidder noted that the meeting started late due to everyone using the remote software for the first time for this meeting.

**Review of the minutes of Dec. 9, 2021**

Motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2021 was made by Emily Yazwinski, and seconded by Barbara Wallace.

**VOTE:**

Jack Golden: Yes  
Emily Yazwinski: Yes  
Anders Ferguson: Yes  
Barbara Wallace: Yes  
Marcia Miller: Yes  
Candace Hope: Yes  
Liz Kidder: Yes

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**Review correspondence** – Liz noted that no correspondence had been received by the Committee.

**Inter Municipal Police Agreements- Town Counsel, Interim Agreements, Personnel, Vehicles, Equipment, Final IMA, Cost Sharing Formulas, Regionalization grants, Collins Center for Public Management UMass Boston, How to get it done.**

Liz Introduced Donna MacNicol, Leyden's Town Counsel. Donna has served as the Town Counsel for the Interim Agreement for Police Services between Wendell and Leverett. She noted their final long-term Inter Municipal Agreement should be signed

within a few weeks. She reviewed how agreements are developed and resources available to towns in Massachusetts.

Collins Institute of UMass Boston works with small municipalities assisting with regionalization of services. They helped Wendell & Leverett determine their model, which is not a formal regionalization agreement, but rather an Inter Municipal Agreement.

Leverett received a regionalization grant that provided resources (\$87k) to create a substation in Wendell. Leverett has the Police Department, officers are employees of Leverett, but services Wendell as well as Leverett. There is an oversight committee that meets regularly, reviews budget, and adjusts over time to make sure financial contribution is equitable to usage. Wendell handed over personal property (cruiser) to Leverett, which will return to Wendell if the agreement ends. Both towns need to carry appropriate insurance coverage.

The Wendell / Leverett agreement gives us an outline for the decisions that need to be made. Big question: Does Leyden need a police department? Or are shared services enough for a town of this size? We need to understand the difference between Police & Fire—the two departments have different structures, doing both at once would be more complicated.

The interim agreement drafted by Donna & Liz was shared on screen, and Donna reviewed the details.

1. One big question is how often Leyden wants Bernardston to patrol; details of this agreement should be discussed in executive session.
2. Employment of Leyden Officers will need to be discussed with Bernardston. This is still being worked out with Wendell & Leverett.
3. Donna recommends each town carry their own liability insurance.
4. Donna recommends forming a committee to oversee the transition.
5. Leyden will need to have reports from Bernardston—numbers about how many calls they are covering in Leyden (and what kind of calls they are).
6. Wendell / Leverett full agreement should be available in about a week.

**Anders:** should formal supervisory plans be detailed in the agreement?

**Donna:** State legal statute clearly outlines the hierarchy of supervision; Selectboard provides oversight for the Police Department.

**Erica:** Bernardston would perform all administrative duties from Bernardston.

There was a brief discussion about the current situation of issuing gun licenses in Leyden. We may want something in the interim agreement touching on this.

**Jack:** What other arrangements are possible?

**Donna:** We could have no police. Some towns have attempted to share a chief with two different Police Departments (short term). It's difficult. Supervision is a challenge with a shared chief. There could be an agreement where one town only handles administrative work.

**Jack:** Is there anything in the agreement about response time?

**Donna:** No.

**Anders:** It seems like part-time officers aren't financially feasible (based on what Shelburne has said) is that accurate?

**Donna:** It's not too far off the mark, but communities could come together and say they each want a part-time officer (share training expenses).

Brief discussion of full-time & part-time officer hours. Discussion about Bridge Academy. FRCOG has provided a grant to help cover the expense of training two officers. Town budget has allocated money for training as well.

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Regionalization Grant application opens Jan. 10, and is due Feb. 10. 2022 (annual cycle)

**Liz:** What does it take for us to get the agreement in place?

**Donna:** We can apply for the grant, we can put the interim agreement in place, and attempt to do an MIA. We're still eligible for the grant if we don't get to the final MIA.

**Next Step:** Propose a draft interim agreement to the selectboard that they can present to Bernardston.

We can apply for the grant for up to \$100,000, if we apply with Bernardston we are eligible for up to \$200,000 (we can apply NOW).

Brief discussion about other options; should we have a PLAN B before we enter into the interim agreement? Or should we move forward with an interim agreement now?

Donna recommends entering an interim agreement—that will allow us to test the relationship. We can explore other options while the interim agreement is in place.

Going back to Collins Institute: they are part of UMASS, the project doesn't need to go out to bid if we want to hire them. It can move quickly. They have recent, relevant experience. We should ask if they offer mediation for towns entering into agreements (Donna thinks they do).

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Discussion:

If Leyden voted to adopt a Strong Chief, that carries over until town votes again.

**Erica:** Can Tina be hired as an EMT if she was not re-hired as a police officer?

**Donna:** Yes.

FRCOG offers a grant for technical assistance, regionalization qualifies. This committee can recommend to the Selectboard that we apply for assistance.

Brief discussion of the \$100k grant opportunity.

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1. **Motion to recommend the adoption of draft Leyden / Bernardston agreement** as reviewed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee on January 05, 2022, with the addition of FID licensing provisions, forwarded to the selectboard, and recommend that they pursue this agreement (or similar agreement) with Bernardston to provide interim policing services to the town of Leyden.

Marica Miller makes the motion; Emily Yazwinski seconds.

VOTE:

Jack Golden: Yes

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Anders Ferguson: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Marcia Miller: Yes

Candace Hope: Abstain

Liz Kidder: Yes

**PASSED.**

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Brief discussion of the committee choosing to have someone from the committee attend negotiations between selectboard & town of Bernardston. Everyone on the committee agrees that this is a good idea, doesn't need a motion.

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2. **Motion for the town of Leyden, through the Selectboard and Public Safety Advisory Committee, to work with Bernardston on a regionalization grant** to hire a consultant and other expenses to develop an intermunicipal agreement for the long-term provision of community policing. If Bernardston is unable to participate the Town of Leyden, through the Selectboard and Public Safety Advisory Committee, will apply individually for the grant.

Motion was made by Barbra Wallace, and Jack Golden seconds.

VOTE:

Jack Golden: Yes  
Emily Yazwinski: Yes  
Anders Ferguson: Yes  
Barbara Wallace: Yes  
Marcia Miller: Yes  
Candace Hope: Abstain  
Liz Kidder: Yes  
**PASSED.**

1. **Motion to request that the selectboard requests (DLTA) Local Technical Assistance from FRCOG for Fire and EMS services.** We request the selectboard makes this a high priority for the town.

Motion made by Emily Yazwinski and seconded by Barbara Wallace.

VOTE:

Jack Golden: Yes  
Emily Yazwinski: Yes  
Anders Ferguson: Yes  
Barbara Wallace: Yes  
Marcia Miller: Yes  
Candace Hope: Abstain  
Liz Kidder: Yes  
**PASSED.**

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**Status of Leyden Police Services - no information presented.**  
**Status of Fire, EMS and EMD in Leyden- no information presented.**

**Priorities and next steps:**

We would like to have Mike Aiken attend a meeting. Let's send him an email to see if he'll come to our next meeting.

**Public Comments and other business not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Nothing presented.**

**Public Comments: none.**

**Schedule Next Meeting -**

Liz suggested that the Board select either the first and third Tuesday or Wednesday as their regular meeting night.

**Moving forward: First and Third Wednesday of each month at 6pm.**

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Emily Yazwinski** and seconded by **Jack Golden**

Vote:

Jack Golden: Yes

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Anders Ferguson: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Marcia Miller: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Candace Hope

**List of documents:**

Draft Interim Agreement between Leyden and Bernardston