

**Town of Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting March 16, 2022**

A duly posted meeting of the Leyden Public Safety Advisory Committee was held in the Leyden Municipal Office Building at 6:00 pm, on March 16, 2022.

Present: Elizabeth Kidder (Chair), Marcia Miller, Jack Golden, Emily Yazwinski, Barbara Wallace, Anders Ferguson, Michael Morgan, Candace Hope (Alternate).

Absent:

Audience:

Chris Larabee, Michelle Higgins, Mary Glabach, Beth Kuzdeba, Bill Glabach, Glenn Caffrey

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.
Review of the minutes of March 2, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022 was made by Jack Golden and seconded by Emily Yazwinski.

VOTE:

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

Review of correspondence -

- Community Policing & patrolling messages have gone to the selectboard, not for our committee to address at this time. If members of the community have input, they should write to the public safety email address (publicsafety@townofleyden.com)
- Chief Palmeri is interested in adding mental health clinicians to the patrol staff, which addresses concerns brought up by Candace Hope and Sara Seiberg in emails to the committee earlier this year. CSO in Greenfield (Clinical Support Options) have received a grant to work with local police departments.
- RAV Alert System, Beth K. of Board of Health has expressed concern about privacy with this system. The matter is being reviewed by the selectboard.
- Municipal Vulnerability Planning Effort with FRCOG. March 22 from 2-6pm, people can stay for as little or as much time as they are able. Any and all input is welcome.
- Barbara Wallace expressed Billy and David Brooks were excellent to work with

Efficiency and Regionalization Grant- Public Safety Feasibility

- Committee reviewed the proposal, highlighting the expertise of the Collins Center team who will be part of the project.
- Official announcement from the state is forthcoming.

Police: Interim MOA for Police Services with Bernardston

- We are in final negotiations for the interim agreement, details are being ironed out.
- For interim agreements, it's not appropriate for us to turn over the vehicles to Bernardston. We shouldn't give up our vehicles until a long-term agreement is in place.
- Foley suggested one vehicle could be used for emergency purposes.
- Interim agreement will be finalized in executive session.
- Donna Nicholas, town council, has asked us to research town meeting archives to find what the Town of Leyden voted on for warrant articles regarding establishing the police. Discussion ensued about when the police department may have originated. Bill thinks it may have been around the late 1950's to early 1960's, that's around when he recalls first seeing a police officer in town.

Communications

- Jack and Emily are spearheading the effort to plan an information session with the town. Collins Center will be able to help us with this effort if the grant is approved. We're looking at late April or early May.
- There will be an announcement in Leyden Life. Meeting will take place at Town Hall. This will be an opportunity for our committee to hear from the town about their hopes for public safety. Not a place to gather complaints (they can be directed to the selectboard).
- We would like to hand the floor to Collins Center so they may help people in town understand the big picture (impact of Police Reform Act on small towns) and clarify how we are working together, before gathering input from the town on their preferences and desires for emergency services. The Collins Center representatives will be here to listen to the needs of our town, and advise our process based on their expertise.
- Visual aids will be important to help explain / illustrate (handouts, display, presentation), and to capture suggestions from the town as people share their ideas or concerns. Historical data can be useful.
- Anders asked for clarification: Bill Glabach mentioned the lack of feasibility for the Town of Leyden to afford having an independent police department. Bill said he hopes the Collins Center can help the town understand this.

EMD: draft Local Emergency Management Plan

- Barbara Wallace has reviewed the draft and is developing her assessment. The plan provided has 2010 census data—it's being updated. The draft plan has many responsibilities outlined; an inquiry has been sent to relevant town officials to clarify who is taking responsibility for each position within the town.
- The plan should be updated annually.
- Each town should be participating with the FRCOG emergency preparedness program; nobody from Leyden has attended in several years.

- Bill Glabach commented that we've fallen off on EMD responsibilities since VT Yankee closed, and we need to do something.

Fire and EMS

- EMS trainees are getting onboarded with the fire department.
- Another First Responder class is starting soon.

Public Safety Budget

- Update of summary Public Safety Budget, reviewing remaining budget to make sure we have resources for the interim agreement, and to understand if our annual budget will be sufficient to cover a long-term agreement. If the budget is not sufficient, we will discuss it with the finance committee.

Priorities and Next Steps:

- Prepare for Public Forum (inform Chris Larabee so he can announce put an article in the Recorder before the meeting)
- Liz will continue communicating with the Collins Center, and touch base with Bernardston on interim agreement.
- We need to start historical research
- Develop EMD plan and job description
- We need to find copies of mutual aid agreements for Fire & EMS for emergency management plan

Next meeting: April 6th, at 6:30pm. In person at the town office.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anders Ferguson and seconded by Barbara Wallace.

Vote:

Jack Golden: Yes

Emily Yazwinski: Yes

Anders Ferguson: Yes

Barbara Wallace: Yes

Marcia Miller: Yes

Candace Hope: Yes

Michael Morgan: Yes

Liz Kidder: Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Candace Hope

List of documents: