

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

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery via remote, Bill Glabach
Others Present: Mary Glabach, Liz Kidder, John Higgins, Michele Higgins, Robbie Milner, Andrea Zimmerman, Kathy Fritz, Bill Brooks, Karin Parks, Beth Kuzdeba

Bill called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Announcement from chair that the meeting was being recorded.

Council on Aging resignations

Katherine made note that Bill Glabach has a conflict of interest regarding the first agenda item – Council on Aging (COA) resignations - and should not participate, make recommendations, or vote.

Glenn asked Katherine to chair the meeting and Bill recuse himself.

Bill explained why he has put the agenda item about the COA before recusing himself.

Motion: Katherine made a motion, Glenn seconded to accept the resignations from the Council on Aging members with deep regret. Glenn yes, Katherine yes. Approved.

Katherine announced that since this is a working meeting, general practice is not to have public comment and we should proceed that way. However, members of the COA were insistent that they be recognized. In answer to a brief discussion about whether the Select Board would still consider the complaint. Katherine noted that the letter of complaint had given the Select Board two options: one to take action or if we did not, the members would resign. Since the members have resigned and publicly announced in the newspaper their resignations before the Select Board received the documentation of the complaint and held a hearing, the complaint will not be taken up.

COA members left the meeting at this point.

Bill resumed as chair of the meeting.

Discussion of FRCOG District Local Technical Assistance Priorities (DLTA).

Agreed on three top priorities: Municipal and Regional Capacity Building; Shared Services; Zoning, Policies and Plans. Also agreed on items under each priority. Michele will put the Select Board responses together then circulate to committees for their input.

Report from Public Safety Advisory Committee: Colrain Ambulance is listed as the fourth service to call by the Shelburne dispatch. Dispatch calls each service in order, first one available responds to the call which in some cases takes time to get a responder to the emergency. For instance, a recent emergency on the west side of Leyden had Greenfield Ambulance Service respond but Colrain Ambulance was available and could have responded quicker. The committee requests that the Select Board request a change in the

order of calls for response. Bill noted that this was not on the agenda so a vote should not be taken, will be included on the January 17th agenda.

Highway Department Report: OSHA regulations have changed. Previously insurance companies came to inspect and asked for corrective action. Now the buildings would not meet OSHA compliance. The Building Needs Study Committee has gone through the buildings. Glenn asked if perhaps they should be there when OSHA does the inspection.

Water leak: Jeff Miller asked Bill if we were part of the Rural community water association. Water shut off for Fire Department, old police office, Highway so we don't drain the well. Water is on for the Town Hall. If repair is rather large, this will be on the agenda for Spring or sooner if weather allows, Bill will look into how to determine where the leak is. Bill knows where all the shutoffs for the water exist and to what lines. Bill has informed Jeff, AJ, and Erik so there are more than one person who knows.

Equipment: Constantly fixing equipment had to swap out plow lights for LED ones to replace lights that were old and not effective. Replaced drive shaft on the red truck.

Roads in winter: Dirt roads have been tough because the frost isn't deep, and the weather warms/cools the roads making for loose road surfaces. Saving \$1,000 a day to haul salt and sand ourselves. If it is delivered, we would have to go with a low bidder rather than pick the product ourselves. We use coarse sand that is washed that prevents clumping.

Trees: Eversource came and identified 2-3 years of trees that would have to be removed, subject to change. Need a tree hearing for all the trees. Then this would be the start of the vegetation plan and that could keep updated. Scenic roads act applies to all roads, and shade tree act. A portion of the north part of town is fed from Green Mountain Power in Vermont, Eversource leases that power – around 41 or 42 houses. Eversource will confirm so the residents can be told when asking about power outages in that part of town.

Random Drug Testing Program: Glenn noted the DOT requirement. Bill responded that since there are only two employees, they don't do the monthly testing. Did the waiver come from DOT? Insurance company might have information. AEIOU in Greenfield does the testing for us (pre-employment and CDL physical) and Leyden has an account there. This is part of the department budget. Michele noted records for health physicals should be kept in the office in a secure file, also licenses.

OSHA: discussed new OSHA law and how Leyden will have to comply. Michele mentioned the FRCOG may do some training for communities.

Knotweed: Our mowers chop up the plant very fine. But a leaf or stem could re-root. Along rivers, water breaks the plants and sends them downstream to re-root. Pilot using the sickle mower, following the New Hampshire plan, 300-foot area, it is not cost effective, and time consuming to cut and smother each section. The section that was covered did not grow back. Katherine will look into the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) for products that are compliant for organic production that works for

knotweed. Project will likely have to be done road by road because the invasion is extensive.

Bill G. asked about the winter maintenance budget. Bill Brooks said so far, so good but salt is very expensive this year. We use more sand with some salt, so it doesn't clump.

Library: Karin Parks stopped in and answered Bill G's question about how the library is doing. All's well there. Budget will probably go up 2% to keep up our eligibility for the State. Katherine asked if Library had interest in the Mass. Trails grant. Karin noted that a trail for story walks would be great. Karin wants to set up a little library.

The Select Board agreed to have a public event in the town offices for the Historical Commission. Karin noted that the library would be interested in working with the Commission for educational events. Michele will notify the Commission.

Personnel Policy Manual:

Work continued. Katherine will edit a draft to circulate to legal counsel and the Treasurer for their comments. Then a meeting with employees will be held to review the manual. Any further changes will be made at that time and the manual will periodically be updated.

Motion: Katherine moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 pm. Glenn seconded. Glenn-yes, Katherine – yes, Bill – yes. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant