

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, June 23, 2025
9:00 am

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen, Jeffrey Baker

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Bill Brooks, Liz Kidder

Erica called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
The Select Board signed the biweekly financial warrants.

Accept meeting minutes

Motion: Katherine moved the minutes of 6/16/25 with minor amendments. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Credit Card Policy

Motion: Katherine moved to accept the latest version of the credit card policy dated 6/10/25. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

STM Warrant

There was discussion on whether to have a bylaw or article each town meeting on warrant articles that require a 2/3 vote. The board agreed that having a bylaw is the best way to go. All in agreement to ask Donna for bylaw wording.

Orientation for New Appointees

Discussed when to have the new appointee and elected official orientation. Last year we advertised that all chairs of committees should attend. This year we should ask all committee members to attend as the orientation was well received. There was a suggestion last year that if food was offered more people may attend. Decision was made to have the orientation on September 16 and add the Bernardston-Leyden Efficiency and Regionalization grant update.

Highway Worker FY26 pay rate

- Erica reported that AJ's pay rate was correct this past year. Susan has the correct amount and is working on pay rates for everyone starting July 1.
- Since Bill Brooks was in attendance the Select Board asked for an update on Hunt Hill Rd. Bill reported that three of the water bars have been removed on the statutory private way without any communication to him or the Select Board. The extra road material has been pushed to the sides of the road which could make erosion worse if we keep receiving heavy rains because the rain will run down the middle of the road as there is no place for the water to run off. This could deteriorate the road rather quickly. In November the agreement was to lower the water bars.

Action: Michele will email Donna and ask her opinion.

Town Coordinator Updates

- Susan left paperwork for the board to sign on the MLP loan. Select Board signed all loan paperwork. Jeff had Michele sign for him.
- The Conservation Commission left a check for a Notice of Intent and Evan wanted the money to be deposited in a Wetland's fund. They do not have such funds. Select Board stated they do not have a revolving fund, so this check has to be deposited in the general fund.

Select Board Updates

- Jeff stated Samantha Barton was supposed to attend this meeting about her not receiving a reply from the Select Board regarding her concern on the Tubergan property. Discussion followed on how the Planning Board is an autonomously elected board. The Select Board has no control over them, and they can make decisions on their own. Jim Brodeur emailed Samantha about his oversight and sent her the Planning Board decision and what is required to appeal the decision. Any issues the two residents have with each other is not in the Select Board's purview.
- Erica reported that Jeff Miller sent out a RAVE 911 message about the impending heat wave and the Town office will be a cooling center over the next few days. The policy is the Select Board is supposed to approve all RAVE messages except in a declared emergency. Erica will remind Jeff.
- The office will be closed on Wednesday due to Michele attending the Small Town Administrators Meeting. Erica suggested the office could be staffed by volunteers. Katherine can cover from 9a-11:30a, Erica will volunteer from 11:30a-2:30p and Jeff or Cheryl Baker from 2:30p-5p.
- Katherine has a meeting with the Mayor of Greenfield on Wednesday at 12 noon.
- July 18 the FRCOG is traveling throughout Franklin County to show interns and residents who will be working at Franklin Medical Center what Franklin County looks like. Katherine will meet them and introduce them to Leyden.
- Katherine reported she spoke to Allison Wright Hunter, State Forester about the aftermath of the logging done on Hunt Hill Road. Allison plans on coming sometime in July and will be walking the bottom of Hunt Hill Road where the loggers compromised the road. She will evaluate to see if sediment is getting into the stream or if there is any destabilization of the road. Katherine said that because of the erosion the loggers would not work on water bars as they would be too expensive. Allison said all the other work was completed by the loggers to restore the land. Permission will probably be needed in advance of the walk from both the Cormier's to access Hunt Hill through their property and the Penfield's to walk their land.
- Katherine also discussed the logging operation on the McCloy property next to the Penfield's that is going on now. Allison knew about this and said there are a lot of wetlands on that property. Erica will email the Conservation Commission to see if they were consulted on the logging.
- Select Board will have to submit an application to the ZBA for the placement of the storage containers near the highway garage.
- Katherine spoke to Janel about monitoring the Special Town Meeting. She will be out of town. Michele will do.

Agenda Planning

- Board of health-air quality monitors
- Representative Natalie Blais
- STM warrant

Motion to adjourn: Katherine moved at 11:25 am. Jeff seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso