

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Leyden Town Office Building  
Regular Session  
Monday, September 8, 2025  
9:00 am

**Select Board Members Present:** Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo; Jeffrey Baker via remote access  
**Others Present:** Michele Giarusso; Liz Kidder via remote access

Erica called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**Accept Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Katherine moved the 8/25/25 meeting minutes with minor amendments. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Electrical Aggregation**

Katherine, Michele and Erica had a meeting with Colonial Power last week. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with Colonial Power to discuss the rates provided by Colonial. Everyone questioned whether to push back the aggregation timeline due to other town priorities, but decided to wait for the rate meeting before deciding. A contract can be signed to begin in January. Discussion will possibly continue at the next meeting.

**September Orientation for Newly Elected and Appointed Officials**

Katherine and Michele are prepared for the September 16<sup>th</sup> orientation. Michele will ask the town clerk to attend. The meeting will focus on topics like budget management, public records, and state laws. Katherine discussed the need to remind committee chairs to inform their members about the orientation and to get a headcount for food ordering. Michele will arrange for the food and beverages.

**School Public Forum**

Katherine sent an outline of the evening by email on her suggestions for the September 30<sup>th</sup> forum. Katherine will moderate the meeting. The board discussed providing light refreshments. Also, the forum should take place at the town hall. Katherine explained there will be presentations followed by moderated Q&A sessions, with a goal to keep each session between 10-15 minutes. The agenda was structured to start with state summaries, followed by presentations from specific districts, and ending with potential future plans.

**Strategic Planning Representation for PVRSD**

The board discussed concerns about Patricia Kinsella, Superintendent of PVRSD approach to forming a committee for strategic planning for the school district. The towns were not given adequate notice to decide on representation. They agreed that each town should have its own representative on the planning committee, rather than having a single representative for all 3 towns. Erica emailed Patricia expressing this. Jeff suggested reaching out to Patricia for more regular communication, but Katherine noted that previous attempts at public-facing meetings had been unsuccessful. Before the meeting was over a reply email was received by Patricia that the towns could each appoint one representative.

**Motion:** Katherine moved Jeff Baker to be appointed as Leyden's representative to the PVRSD Strategic Planning Committee. Erica seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Grants**

- Michele shared a printout of all the grants she is aware of with dates they are due. There was discussion on the list of grants and the status of individual grants. Erica asked about the Woodlands Partnership grant, which Liz mentioned could cover up to \$25,000 per individual town. Liz will inquire further and report back.

- Digital Equity grant discussion. Michele is on the contract as the grant administrator. She has not seen the original grant which would include the deliverables. There are questions that need to be answered by Jack Golden, the MLP manager. There should also be a joint meeting with Jack the COA, Librarian and Steve Richter, chair of the Recreation Committee, who are all mentioned in the grant.

#### Complete Streets

Michele emailed all the documents prior to the meeting to the board outlining the requirements of the Complete Streets grant. The money asked for will go to the FRCOG for their assistance in setting up a prioritization plan.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to indicate our interest to contract with the FRCOG for their assistance in completing a prioritization plan for the Complete Streets program through MADOT and the Town of Leyden.

Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### Town Coordinator Updates

- Michele shared she is prepared to testify via remote access tomorrow before the state legislature joint committee. The MMA has asked her to testify for small rural communities. She will be testifying for H.3311.-equity for rural communities receiving grants that include regionalization.

#### Select Board Updates

- Jeff reported he attended the Planning Board meeting where the board received an inquiry from some residents to change the zoning bylaw setbacks.
- Katherine reported:
  1. The Efficiency and Regionalization Advisory group will be meeting tomorrow and will receive updates from the Collins Center.
  2. The board needs to finalize a solicitation policy and the Wage and Compensation plan policy.
  3. The Town Clerk needs a 6-month review at end of this month.
  4. Set a town meeting date for the Six Town Regionalization plan vote.
  5. H.56 hearing is Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm should we testify on anything? This is the modernization act to update some archaic laws.
- Erica asked how the dedication to the town employees in the annual report is coming. Katherine replied she is working on it and needs some clarification.
- Erica asked the board if they wanted Susan to reply to the GIC that we are interested in speaking with GIC to possibly switch health insurance.

**Motion:** Katherine moved to contact GIC to set up a meeting to speak about their health insurance plans. .

Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### Agenda Planning

Next meeting September 15<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

- Senator Jo Comerford
- Town orientation update
- Digital Equity grant
- Update 3 town meeting

**Motion** to adjourn: Katherine moved at 11:53 am. Erica seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso

