

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, December 1, 2025
5:00 pm

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

Others Present: Michele Giarusso

Erica called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Accept Meeting Minutes

Motion: Katherine moved the 11/24/25 meeting minutes as written. Erica seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Sign Contract for Hackworth Systems

The board discussed the contract for the alarm system at the hut. Erica signed the contract.

Free Cash and E&D for Schools

The town's certified free cash is \$253,770. This was attributed to good budget management and collection of taxes. Franklin Tech School E&D certified amount is \$533,747. Erica questioned the use of E&D the schools receive, and the DLS email was confusing. Michele pointed out the email was not specific to Leyden.

STRPB email and Letters to Legislators

Katherine is in support of writing a letter to our legislators to allow for a ballot vote in the six-town vote for regionalization. The reason is the people who do not attend town meetings can vote at their leisure on a different day.

Action: Michele will compose a letter to send.

Town Coordinator Update

- Farmers Co-op Exchange updated credit policies-the highway personnel is on the list to purchase items for the town should anyone else be included. Erica mentioned contacting the Recreation Committee chair prior to sending.
- MassDOT grant is due on January 9, Michele will be working on this for West Leyden Road. She spoke with Gill Engineering and the costs for the permitting have gone over the budget by around \$7500. We had discussed possible overage and if so it would be taken out of the Fairshare money. Jeff had a question about the beaver overpopulation on this bog and was wondering if we could take care of them could we save a lot of time and money. The rest of the group replied that beavers are protected, and we have done all that we legally can to take care of them, but the culvert is undersized and needs to be replaced.
- FEMA maps meeting-Con Comm has replied they would like to come to a meeting on December 15 to discuss.
- Digital Equity Grants-There are two digital equity grants, Michele has spoken to Karin, and she is unaware of the contract details. Karin has shared the woman's contact information at GIC and Michele will follow up with her.
- GIC letter was amended with Susan and Erica over the weekend because it must be at GIC today.
- Beth Giannini has responded she will send a contract from the FRCOG for the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan work the FRCOG will be doing with Leyden. Katherine mentioned it was not a

great time to be working on this with snow on the ground. She discussed traffic safety improvements, suggesting additional signage and crosswalks in specific areas to enhance safety.

Select Board Updates

- Katherine mentioned the 2 town E&R grant meeting is next week here in Leyden. Hopefully they will be reviewing recommendations on a report the Collins Center is doing on sharing of various positions.
- She attended the PVRSD budget subcommittee meeting last week. There are no budget figures yet as they finalize the healthcare decisions with the unions. She noticed PVRSD had high absences in teachers in a report released by DESE. The Tech school did not.
- Mohawk is contemplating suing the state for lack of our fair share of money coming to western MA for schools.
- Erica mentioned the Conservation Commission wanting to be involved with springs on private property is not feasible. She had brought up private springs a while ago but realized it was unrealistic to know where all the springs are in town.

Agenda Planning

Meeting canceled for December 8, next Meeting December 15th evening meeting.

- Update on 3town meeting
- ? Pilot discussion
- Joint meeting with Con.Comm and Planning board on FEMA maps

Motion to adjourn: Katherine moved at 6:15 pm. Erica seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by: Michele Giarusso