



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Meeting Minutes

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Where : Leyden Town Office

When: August 3, 2026

In Attendance

Members: Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo, Jeff Baker

Audience: Michele Giarusso

Time meeting called to order: 9:00 am

The board signed the biweekly warrants.

This was a working session as the agenda was not posted to the website, no votes taken.

Discussions:

1. Digital Equity Grant

The board discussed and set up a timeline to implement the grant. Other items discussed were:

- There are 10 iPads and covers for this program.
- Post information on website and in Leyden Life
- Michele will send out post cards to everyone 62 or older
- Applications are due by September 28th
- Requirements to be eligible in addition to age and income are willingness to attend 3 trainings, keep iPad for one year, and purchase of a data plan.
- Michele to find out from other towns about low-income criteria
- 3 training sessions in October and November and who will run them-Michele will talk to the librarian and GCC
- Ask librarian to be the lottery puller if we need a lottery due to over 10 people applying. Two drawings may have to be done to ensure that 5 iPads go to low income and 62 or older and 5 iPads go to those 62 or older

2. FY 27 Appointments

Michele reported Ella Muka does not want to be reappointed to the Recreation Committee. Town clerk will follow up with all appointed/elected folks, including the school committee members, to remind them to do the conflict of interest training.

3. Town Coordinator Updates

Michele reported:

- Ongoing discussions regarding our designation funds from the Green Communities grant. She spoke with our new representative and an Eversource representative who suggested window inserts. Michele forwarded the information to the Building Needs Committee.
- Fire dept administrative assistant has asked that the email be disabled, she will not be reading, and she will not be doing the bills. Michele has offered to do the bills.
- The computer for the fire admin. assistant, if no longer being used will it come back to the office because that was purchased for the town admin assistant.

- Only three responses so far for the orientation

4. Select Board Updates

- Katherine reported the Mass in Motion next meeting is August 19.
- Jeff reported the walkway at Avery field has tall grass growing in the walkway and the behind the backstop needs cutting.
- Jeff reported on the PVRSD strategic plan that the district needs to bring back creative writing courses.

Action: Michele will ask Jeff Miller to look at it to see if he can cut the grass with his weed whacker.

- Erica and Katherine will be attending the Bernardston Select Board meeting this week.

- Katherine asked about how to avoid a conflict of interest/favoritism in the interviews for the administrative assistant since Erica is one of the applicants.

Action: Michele will call our legal counsel and check with Ethics Commission.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Agenda Planning

- Vote on Attorney Costa and possible litigation
- Regionalization of ambulance services cost-Liz Kidder
- Finalize orientation

Next Meeting: August 10 at 5pm

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Jeff moved to adjourn at 11:41am **2nd Katherine Vote:** Unanimous

Submitted By: Michele Giarusso