



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Meeting Minutes

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Where : Leyden Town Office

When: October 5, 2026

In Attendance

Members: Erica Jensen, Jeff Baker, Katherine DiMatteo

Audience: Liz Kidder

Time meeting called to order: 5:00 pm

Review of Minutes:

Motion: Jeff moved to accept the minutes of 9/28/26 **Second:** Erica **Vote:** 2 yes, 1 abstain

Discussions:

1. EMS Regionalization: progress has been slow on the discussions with the EMS regionalization group. Leyden representatives have sent the current version of possible MOU to FRCOG and asked them to review and help move the project forward. The budget assessments have changed. For Leyden the cost would be around \$60,000 a year. Since there are lots of outstanding issues and opinions, Leyden will continue to contract with Colrain Ambulance Inc. next year although the cost may be higher. Next meetings for the EMS Regionalization group are 10/14 and 10/28.

Liz added that the Highland Ambulance region is a model to look at. In their model, the shortfall after insurance payment to the ambulance service is split among the towns based on population. Another model is South County although Hatfield is interested in having its own ambulance service associated with their fire department.

2. Select Board Updates

- Jeff asked a follow-up to the discussion of the number of poles installed by Eversource that was held at the 9/28/26 Select Board meeting. Erica responded that 39 poles were identified in the pole hearings held. However, an attachment fee has been paid for 62 poles. A pole hearing needs to be scheduled for the remaining 23 mid-span poles. Erica noted that we are in discussion with Eversource about where the project is currently and to check the status of any pole hearings.
- Jeff asked a follow-up to the concerns raised last meeting about the West Leyden bog project and is we will go ahead. Erica responded that we have a grant for \$1.639M and bids are coming in now for the construction work. If the bids exceed the amount we have been granted, then we will take up the decision about moving forward with the project. Katherine asked about Jo Comerford's intervention on our

behalf for more money. Erica clarified that we did receive additional money to cover the police detail that will be needed for the bog.

- Katherine asked about the wall calendar and why it is not filled in for the year. The purpose of the yearly calendar was so that the SB and Town Coordinator can plan in advance for deadlines, for instance the October 1 deadline for the new Solar Energy and Battery Storage permit process. Erica noted that she has been keeping the electronic calendar and will transfer information to the wall calendar.
- Katherine reported on the DOER meeting she attended on Sept. 30th about the new permitting process and raised concerns that Leyden is not ready if we receive any applications. The town should have a list of required documents that we would request of an applicant. This list should be given to the applicant when they pre-file with the town. Deadlines for responding to applicants are based on calendar days, not business days. The Local Government Representative (LGR) in the law is the highest paid municipal employee. The LGR's work is primarily administrative coordinating with the applicant and the town boards. Assessment and review work can be assigned to the boards or a consultant. Consultants can be used after the pre-filing although there is legislation pending to allow even pre-filing review to be done by a consultant. Fees can be set by the town to cover costs. They have to be reasonable and based on current rates, so some research needs to be done before we can decide.

The DOER regional representative, Doug Finn, is available to provide technical assistance and is willing to come to Leyden. Erica noted that we ask Doug Finn to come and present to SB, Con Com, Planning Board, Board of Health, and ZBA.

ACTION: Erica will ask Michele to plan this meeting.

- Katherine asked the SB to review the Mass in Motion (MiM) proposal. Erica asked about the edging of the path and how often it would be done. Snow & Sons would do it whenever they mowed the field. Erica noted that some of the weed problems are from the grass going on the path. Katherine will speak with our new contact at Snow & Sons about this. Katherine noted that other weed control was not included because a flame thrower was suggested as the best course of action, and in contacting Bill Brooks, the town has a portable flame thrower that can be used.

Sound proofing panels were suggested by the advisor group, but they are not included in the proposal because this should be discussed by the building needs committee and although the panels might not cost much to purchase, the installation would have to be budgeted. The SB should also consider how the panels would change the appearance of the Town Hall. The hearing assistance equipment in the proposal is the same as used by Bernardston and Ashfield. Katherine will contact them to find out more about their experience with the equipment.

MOTION: Katherine moved that the SB approve the MiM proposal. **Second:** Erica
Vote: unanimous.

- Katherine reported on her progress with the Annual Report. There will be some commissions that have not yet turned in reports so she will go ahead after the 15th to finalize the report.

- Erica reported that the Assessors have calculated the back taxes on the Lotreck property at approximately \$5100.00. An invoice will be sent to the Lotreck lawyer and receipt of the taxes will be entered as a miscellaneous item on the recapitulation sheets.
- Erica raise concerns about the Gill Engineering overage.
- Erica asked if there where any changes to the Jennifer van Pelt letter. No changes.
MOTION: Katherine moved that we accept and send the letter. **Second:** Jeff
Vote: unanimous.
- Erica reported that the Cummington MLP has asked for other municipal MLPs to meet about the plain old telephone system (POTS) issue. Senator Markey has sent a letter to Verizon expressing concern about removing copper wires that would support POTS without another alternative.
- Erica presented a letter of support for FRCOG to be the regional coordinator for the proposed Water Quality Management grant. No disagreement was raised by the SB members.
- Erica noted that a new Police MOU would by circulated to the SB and would be on a future agenda for discussion.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Agenda Planning

Next Meeting: October 19 at 9am followed by October 26 at 5pm.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Erica moved to adjourn at 6:25pm. **Second:** Jeff **Vote: Unanimous**

Submitted By: Katherine DiMatteo

Note: Jim Brodeur came to the meeting after adjournment and reported that the permit for construction of the roof over the shipping containers at the Highway Department has to gone to ZBA for approval because of the closeness to the neighbor's property line.