

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday, January 7, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

**Present:** Chair Mark Gold, Marie Angelides, William Low, Richard Foster, and Thomas Lachiusa

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Jackie Sullivan, Deborah Levy, and Rebecca Townsend

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Select Board Chair Mark Gold.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Announcements:**

Mark Gold announced there will be a Special Town meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Longmeadow High School.

Stephen Crane announced that the Solarize Springfield/Longmeadow program will have another event, Meet the Vendor, at 7:00 pm at the Library on Wednesday, 1/9/2019. It's a great program that is fully vetted through a knowledgeable panel, he hopes people will go out and meet the team.

Stephen Crane also wanted to remind residents that it is pot hole season if you would like to report a pot hole you can call the DPW or use the your.gov app. and take a picture of the pothole.

**Resident Comments:**

Deborah Levy of 162 Williams Street wanted to voice her concern around the plans for a Compressor/Metering Station on the grounds of the Longmeadow Country Club. Ms. Levy stated that she has vivid memories as a child growing up during the Cold War, of hiding under desks at school waiting for the piercing sound of the air raid warnings to cease. The fear that was felt came from an unknown foe, far away but to the children it was real. More recently unbalanced people with guns have brought the same fear to classrooms all over the country. And now tragically, she thinks Longmeadow School children specifically Wolf Swamp Road Elementary students may face another source of danger, one they cannot see or smell, but it is as deadly as we can imagine. That danger comes from the proposed gas pipeline metering station, which will be located less than ¼ mile from Wolf Swamp Road School. These stations release raw methane as the gas is transferred from Tennessee Gas Pipelines to the Columbia Gas Pipeline at the Longmeadow city gate/metering station. In the process raw methane is released. Though odorless and colorless natural gas releases carcinogens, heavy metals and particulates like nitrous oxide that result in increased levels of asthma and COPD. We know that young children's bodies are particularly sensitive to the effects of neurotoxins and respiratory irritants. Can we afford to add these dangerous pollutants to our air? In the town and particularly in high concentration near an Elementary School? Adults have the capacity to understand complex issues such as those raised by the prospect of a Metering Station in town. They have the power to vote to approve or deny such structures, based on a multitude of factors. But five and eight-year old's get up in the morning, brush their teeth, get dressed, eat breakfast and happily go to school to learn and play and develop the decision-making skills they will need as adults. They do not have the power to make their surroundings safer by limiting harmful by-products released into the air they breathe. That is our responsibility as their parents, neighbors and teachers. Ms. Levy asked how do we protect the little ones who cannot advocate for themselves? We do this by educating ourselves, asking hard question, and not allowing secrecy to defeat us in the most important task we have, to protect our children until they can advocate for themselves. If we do not do this, who will? Ms. Levy thanked the Select Board for their time.

**Select Board Comments:** None

**Town Manager Reports:** Stephen Crane stated that the big news is that all the approvals needed to get the DPW project back on line have all been received; work has started on the road to the landfill. They had to spend a little more money to repair the road and they will have to take a different route than they first expected to. Largely because, fortunately Amtrak is now engaged in repairs at the Tina Road crossing. Both things are very positive for the Town. Moving the soil from the new DPW site to the landfill will take between 30 and 60 days.

**DPW Change Order/Amtrak Crossing:**  
Pursuant to the Change Order Policy, I approved a change order for \$9,900 that will allow WJM/Saltmarsh to make improvements to Birnie Road in the Meadows (the road that runs through the leaf disposal site and around to the landfill). The road repairs are needed immediately to continue the work of preparing the landfill for the disposal of the soils from the new DPW site under the emergency order issued by the Conservation Commission. Currently, the dirt road is plagued with deep potholes and is prone to flooding; it would be extremely difficult for heavy equipment to pass over it. Additionally, after a year and a half of waiting, Amtrak is finally making the upgrades to the Tina Lane crossing. This project is expected to last until March and will likely require the use of the Emerson Road crossing and West Road to truck the soils to the landfill. While the timing of Amtrak's work is disappointing, it is also long overdue, so the Town could not reasonably ask them to delay it. Once the hauling of soils begins, the trucks will travel down Converse Street to Longmeadow Street, from Longmeadow Street to Bark Haul Road, and along Pondsides Road to Emerson Road. This will minimize disruption to non-arterial residential streets.

**WESTCOMM Legislation:**  
The special legislation that was filed on behalf of the district by Rep. Ashe that would make WESTCOMM a part of the Hampden County Retirement System was approved by both the House and Senate on the last day of the legislative session and is pending the Governor's signature. The legislation was significant because it will allow WESTCOMM to allow retirement benefits comparable to other Massachusetts dispatch centers and help attract highly qualified candidates to perform this essential public safety function. Additionally, it will allow current Longmeadow dispatchers the opportunity to work for WESTCOMM with no change in their retirement benefits. Once the bill is signed by the Governor and notification has been received by the Hampden County Retirement Board, WESTCOMM is prepared to make an offer of employment to the selected candidate for executive director.

**Fire Department Grants:**  
The Fire Department recently received correspondence from the Governor and Lt. Governor awarding the Town of Longmeadow \$10,386 for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and \$3,200 for the Senior SAFE programs. These programs are administered in partnership with the Fire Department, School District and the COA. This year's award is approximately double last years. These funds support several public education programs and public events. With the re-organization of the Fire Department there is increased capacity to deliver these important programs. The success of last year's programs allowed the Department to qualify for additional funding. Here is a list of some of these programs;

- In school fire safety classes
- Safety programs at COA, Emerson Manor and Genesis House
- Allows the purchase and installation of Smoke and CO detectors for seniors and residents in need
- Supports our Public Education Booth at Longmeadow Days
- The purchase of Public Education Materials
- Partially Supports Public Safety Day

With the additional funding this year, the Department plans to add more school programs and COA classes as well as conduct more home safety inspections for seniors or vulnerable residents.

**Police K-9 Kai Receives Grant:**  
Longmeadow Police Department has been awarded a grant for Police K-9 Kai. The 'Healthcare for K9 Heroes' grant is from Vested Interest in K9s. Vested Interest in K9s is a nationwide charity located in East Taunton, Massachusetts, whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies through the country. Since 2016, the charity has donated more than \$30,000 towards medical reimbursement programs for self-funded K9 units.

Kai is among other police dogs in western Massachusetts to receive a grant from Vested Interest in K9s. Those police dogs include, Ware police dog Sampson, and Great Barrington police dog Titan. The 'Healthcare for K9 Heroes' grant is awarded to departments who have to raise funds to support their K9 unit, who have no more than three police dogs, and who have previously been awarded a vest through Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Law enforcement dogs ages two through seven are eligible. The annual medical reimbursement insurance policy will cover illnesses, injuries—including those sustained in the line of duty—diagnostic testing and therapies. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided more than 3,100 law enforcement dogs with bullet and stab protective vests in 50 states, at a value of \$5.7 million.

- Marie Angelides asked if the government shut down has affected us? Stephen Crane told her no. Marie Angelides also asked if they had heard anything regarding the plastic bag by-law, Stephen Crane informed her they are still awaiting word from the Attorney General's office, the Attorney General's Office has 90 days to respond which would be sometime in February.
- Marie Angelides stated that the Williams Street speed bump has nothing reflective when you are going over it at night. Maybe they should relook at it for night issues. Stephen Crane informed her that by the end of the week they should have some flashing speed radar lights mounted to the posts.
- Marie Angelides questioned the Bliss Park deed issue? Stephen Crane thought Town Counsel was working on it, he will check with Town Counsel to see where they are at.
- Marie Angelides also asked what are our rights with the Tennessee Gas Pipeline issue? Stephen Crane informed her he asked before the holidays, but it is still not clear yet. As soon as he has something, he will communicate it with the Board. Marie Angelides asked where they were with the street light audit? Stephen Crane informed her that Chad Thompson is putting together the contract, once the contract is signed the audit should begin within a matter of days.
- Tom Lachiusa noted that he has also been pondering the issue of the speed bump on Williams Street, maybe they should consider putting rumble strips down because with the snow coming all the markers will be covered. Tom Lachiusa also asked if the dispatchers here in Longmeadow are civilian employees? Stephen Crane informed him yes, they are.
- William Low commented on the speed bump that it might be easier just to even the speed bump out a little bit rather than install rumble strips and flashing lights. Stephen Crane noted that everyone saw the complete streets plan the engineers presented. It is where it is supposed to be. There are issues with the drivability of it that were not reflected in the design. He hopes the radar speed signs will give people more of a visual cue. The reason the speed bump is there is inattentive drivers going too fast. They will keep working on it to improve the drivability.
- Mark Gold had a question about one of the projects in Community Preservation minutes, it stated that they were going to abandon the Riverfront Conservation Docks project and return the \$11,515.76 to the CPC account from which it came. Mark Gold wanted to know if they had to go back to Town Meeting and let the people know they are taking the money back since it was approved at Town Meeting? Mr. Gold would prefer that they do that. Marie Angelides suggested that maybe CPC could give a report to Town Meeting as to what projects did go through and which ones did not get done. Ms. Angelides can understand Mr. Gold's concern about the information not being passed on to the legislative branch. Tom Lachiusa thinks it would be nice for the people who voted on it to know where the obstacles were. Stephen Crane stated that one of the things with CPC is that citizens come up with projects for municipal land without understanding the level of engineering, permitting prevailing wage etc. and they give the money without knowing it may be 2 years' worth of permitting. The citizens receive an estimate for a project, but if the project is on town land the Town must also go out to bid and usually, they receive a higher bid because of what is involved. Mr. Crane noted that it is not all that uncommon for this to happen. Mark Gold may call Steve Weiss and have him come to a meeting to explain further so that everyone can have a full understanding about why the project is being abandoned.

**Old Business:**

1. **Approve Minutes:** *Richard Foster made a motion to accept the December 17, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Lachus with an amendment. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed to accept the minutes with the amendment.  
Richard Foster made a motion to accept the December 19, 2018 Hearing Continuation minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Lachus. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*
2. **Charter Review Discussion/Action:** Mark Gold would like to follow up on the Charter Review Committee recommendations. The recommendations of the Charter Review Committee are being separated into six sections for consideration by the Select Board. Mr. Gold would like to separate the different sections into two or three different warrant articles for the Spring 2019 Town Meeting. Section I is administrative recommendations. Mark Gold is recommending that these ten items under Section I of this summary be accepted by the Select Board as proposed by the Charter Review Committee and be proposed for adoption by the Town Meeting. The ten items are as follows: Section 6-5(b), Section 1-7, Section 2-5(a), Section 2-8(a), Section 3-1(b), Section 4-4, Section 6-3(b), Section 8-7(j), Section 8-8, and Section 9.

*Marie Angelides made a motion to direct the Town Manager to add one or more as necessary warrant articles that include those 10 recommendations of the Charter Review Committee on the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The motion was seconded by William Low. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

Richard Foster asked which section would Mark Gold like to take up at the next meeting? Mark Gold informed him Section 2, Capital Planning. Mark Gold asked that if anyone had any comments on Section 2 to please get them to him. Richard Foster stated that he feels that the improvements that have been made in planning are significant compared to what they were, and he feels a lot of that falls under Stephen Crane's leadership. Stephen Crane would like to commend the CPA and the Capital Planning Committee.

**New Business:**

1. **Set Annual Town Election Date** – The Town Clerk is recommending June 11, 2019 for the Annual Town Election with a preliminary election if needed to be held on April 23, 2019. *Marie Angelides made a motion to set the date for the Annual Town Election on June 11, 2019. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***
2. **Special Town Meeting/Moderator** – Rebecca Townsend the Town Moderator went over the procedures for the Special Town Meeting that will be held on January 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Longmeadow High School. Rebecca Townsend noted that in the event of bad weather Mass General Law does permit the Town Moderator in consultation with Public Safety officials and the Select Board to recess the meeting without having people come out. Ms. Townsend expects this meeting to be highly attended and encourages people to sit toward the front of the room and fill up those seats first.

**The following are the Town Moderators procedures:**

*Some procedures are different than usual Town Meetings. Town Meeting is governed by Massachusetts General Laws, our Charter, bylaws, our Town Meeting Rules of Procedure, and Town Meeting Time, the handbook for procedure published by the Massachusetts Moderators Association. Check-in time starts at 6:00pm. The Department of Public Works will illuminate the parking lot. The front lot is designated for people with mobility challenges. Hearing assistive devices are available upon request. Participation in Longmeadow's Town Meeting is for Longmeadow voters to serve as the legislature for the town. The main room is the Gymnasium. All those who enter the High School from 6:00pm onward must check in with someone from the Town Clerk's staff. Voters may go to any table, where staff will ask for their name and address, or they may present a driver's license or state-issued ID card. Voters will be handed a voting card (for visual and hand-counts) and ballot. Non-voters (other than infants or very small children) will register with the staff and receive a sticker identifying them as non-voters. Since this*

*meeting is likely to be well-attended, nonvoters may sit in the auditorium or cafeteria. Nonvoters include people under the age of 18 and town employees who are not registered voters of the Town of Longmeadow. Only voters may speak.*

*Speech Articles 1 and 3 both concern proposals to amend the Charter to add a recall provision. Town Meeting, as our town's legislature, has traditions, rules, bylaws, Charter and Massachusetts General Law requirements that guide its conduct. The Moderator has a legal duty to ensure decorum in the deliberations. Especially for participants unfamiliar with Town Meeting, the Rules of Procedure as printed in the warrant, as explained further here, and as applied at Town Meeting, can help keep order at the meeting. Your following these, and encouraging others to do the same, will help ensure the democratic process is smooth and responsive.*

*The scope of what may be discussed during most articles is fairly narrow, restricted by the wording of the motion under the article. The articles we shall discuss on January 17 are no different. On Articles 1 and 3, for example, voters may ask questions about the recall process they specify, and they may offer arguments in favor of, or opposed to, its merits. No discussion about the use of a recall provision in a particular case is warranted, however, since there is no recall provision that has been adopted. As always, our bylaws and rulebook prohibit the use of names in Town Meeting, with the exception of the Moderator recognizing a person to speak. Therefore, speakers shall not refer to particular people by names. We may not speculate on motivations, nor speak about the character of a particular person or persons. Consequently, no comments in praise or blame are in order.*

*Following a motion on Article 2, Town Counsel will offer his official opinion regarding the unlawfulness under relevant state statutes of this article, and a chance for the Finance Committee, Select Board, and School Committee to offer their recommendations will precede floor discussion. This article will require a simple majority. Positive motions on Articles 1 and 3 require a two-thirds majority. The lead petitioner on Article 1 plans to make a motion to take no action on Article 1 and would prefer the meeting address the concerns identified in Article 1 instead via Article 3. A motion to take no action requires a simple majority. At this meeting, the vote on the main motion under Article 3 may be conducted by ballot following a properly made motion to fix the manner of voting by ballot if that motion were then to pass by majority vote of the meeting.*

*The Moderator will instruct voters to follow the directions of the Assistant Moderators and Ushers. Voters from the overflow rooms will vote first, followed by those in the Gymnasium. The Assistant Moderators for the overflow rooms will direct voters in the Auditorium and Cafeteria to enter the Gym, proceeding up each side aisle to vote. People may hold signs outside the high school, but not inside. No signs may be left in the ground unattended. Literature may be distributed outside the High School and not inside the building. If anyone has any questions, they can contact the Town Moderator Rebecca Townsend at [rtownsend@longmeadow.org](mailto:rtownsend@longmeadow.org)*

Ms. Townsend also noted that the gymnasium will be the main speaking room, the Auditorium will be overflow room number one and the Cafeteria will be overflow room number two.

Ms. Townsend stated that Town Counsel had shared his official opinion on Article 2, his opinion is that it is unlawful. Mark Gold expressed his displeasure that the Select Board had not received an opinion from Town Counsel. Stephen Crane noted that in the past Town Counsel has reviewed citizen petitions in anticipation of providing legal guidance directly to the legislative branch, it may have been just an oversight not an intent to keep the board in the dark. Rebecca Townsend is asking that the School Committee, the Finance Committee and the Select Board make a recommendation on Warrant Article 2. Marie Angelides said they traditionally do not comment on supporting or going against a citizen petition, however she would see nothing wrong with the Select Board saying they do not recommend this article after hearing they could not enforce it based on the opinion of Town Counsel.

3. Dwight Road Project Percent Capture DIF –

Paul Pasterczyk stated as a result of the District Improvement Financing (DIF) Program established by the affirmative vote of Article # 13 at the May 9, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, several procedural steps must be adhered to on an annual basis dealing with the valuation, taxes, the use of the taxes generated and any third-party contributions that are part the Dwight Road Improvement District.

For FY 2020, the Select Board again will need to establish a “Percent Capture” of the tax increment in which to build its next year’s budget upon. Longmeadow’s budget dollars will be used for the repayment of the debt service on the \$2.50 million bond issued in August of 2018 for the infrastructure improvements within the improvement district. The FY 2020 debt service for the Dwight Road Improvement District is \$183,625. This would require, using the FY 2019 tax rate of \$24.09, an updated assessment of roughly \$8.0 million. The FY 2019 assessment was just under \$4.3 million. The additional year of development within the district should realistically achieve the \$8.0 million valuation. Paul Pasterczyk stated to make sure the FY 2020 incremental taxes are ample to cover the debt service he is recommending we again utilize the 100% capture.

Mark Gold asked what happens if extra money is captured? Mr. Pasterczyk said at some point there would be a vote to get the money out of the DIF fund and put it into the General Fund or capture less the next year.

*Tom Lachiusa made a motion that they move with a 100% capture of the tax revenue for the DIF at Dwight Road. The motion was seconded by William Low. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

Stephen Crane also announced they are looking at temporary traffic signals at Converse and Dwight, they are working with the contractor and hope to have them in by the end of January.

**Subcommittee Reports:** None

The next Select Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

*Richard Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Sullivan

**Documents:**

1. Agenda
2. Town Managers Report.
3. Draft minutes from 12/17/2018 Select Board meeting.
4. Draft minutes from 12/19/2018 Select Board meeting.
5. Memo regarding 2019 Annual Town Election dates.
6. DIF % Capture document.
7. Audit Committee Minutes 9-27-2018.
8. Cable Advisory Minutes 11-13-2018.
9. COA Minutes 11-15-2018.
10. Community Preservation Minutes 9-27-2018.
11. Park Board Minutes 11-19-2018.
12. FERC Notice 12/19/18-Environmental Data Request
13. FERC Notice 12/19/18-Environmental Data Request
14. FERC Notice 12/19/18-Granting Late Interventions
15. FERC Notice 12/28/18-Schedule for Environmental Review
16. Resident Deborah Levy Comment.
17. Warrant for the Special Town Meeting 1-17-2019