

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Jackie Sullivan, Steve Weiss, Beverly Hirschhorn.

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 on December 14, 2018 Lieutenant Robert Stocks graduated from the FBI National Academy, he would like to congratulate Lt. Stocks. It is a great achievement and a lot of work on his part, it really represents the work of the Longmeadow Police Department.  
Stephen Crane would like to remind people, with the inclement weather we just had and the potential for a significant amount of rain that is coming, to check their storm drains and make sure the fire hydrants are clear.  
Stephen Crane also announced trash pickup is delayed by one day this week because of the weather and the cold.

**Resident Comments:** Gary Levine of 207 Williams Street spoke about the placement of a gas metering station by Tennessee Gas Pipeline at the Longmeadow Country Club. Mr. Levine stated that as a retired dentist, retired college instructor in anatomy and physiology, and a retired AP biology and chemistry teacher, he is concerned about the health and safety risks of gas metering stations in residential areas. The proposed metering station would be located in a residential area, within blocks of Wolf Swamp Elementary School. "Metering stations release methane and other pollutants. Transform into formaldehyde which irritates the respiratory tract and has been linked to many forms of leukemia. Nox and SO2 have been associated with lung distress. VOC's act as toxins to the brain, liver reproductive system and to fetal development. Particulate matter has been associated with brain lesions, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. In August of 2018, Matthew Beaton, Massachusetts Environmental Secretary, ruled that environmental impact reports must be prepared for the Pipeline Project containing information about the health and safety risks of the projects. In an earlier filing from Tennessee Gas, they did not explain why alternatives to the project, including creating higher efficiency levels for current infrastructure, were not considered and in fact, were rejected by the gas company. Tennessee Gas has argued that the Longmeadow metering station does not meet the threshold for a state environmental review. According to the state certificate, Tennessee Gas must consider the Longmeadow metering station in its pipeline analysis. In 2014 a proposed pipeline project by Tennessee Gas to bring fracked gas into New England was halted due to pressure from environmental groups and public officials. The state certificate requires that a draft report from the Pipeline Project must be filed and this opens the window for public participation and input from state agencies. Tennessee Gas has asked for permission to skip this report requirement. As of today, 91 Municipal Boards of Health, including the Longmeadow Board of Health, have sent letters to the governor expressing their concerns about the health and safety risks of natural gas and gas infrastructures. We are all painfully aware of the gas explosions that occurred in the Merrimack Valley last September. It seems that the work orders given by Columbia Gas to its employees were at fault, leading to this disaster. Longmeadow has a firm commitment to reduce our carbon footprint through recycling and through the single use plastic bag ban. Given the track record of the two gas companies, the reluctance of Tennessee Gas to conduct environmental studies and the Environmental Secretary's concerns, about the project, I respectfully ask that you use your offices to investigate the need for the project, the safety and health risks of the project and the impact of this project to all of us living in Longmeadow."  
Mr. Levine thanked the Board for their time.

**Select Board Comments:** Tom Lachiusa announced that the Select Board attended the MMA conference this past weekend in Boston and there were a series of workshops. One of the things they talked about was the formula for school funding, Chapter 70, they said it was based on the 1993 reforms. There is a bill that is going to be processed and they are asking for people to support it. Another interesting thing that was talked about was a property tax deferral program for seniors. Mr. Lachiusa stated that it was good that they attended this and to see that all towns are pretty much in the same boat trying to get by with a fairly tight budget and to keep them thinking about new ideas. Mr. Lachiusa also stated that it was encouraging to see the leaders and it gives you a good feeling that we are in good hands living in Massachusetts. Paul Pasterczyk noted that currently the town does offer a tax deferral program if there are questions people should contact the Assessor's office.

## **Town Manager Reports:**

### **Program Coordinator Position**

The Adult Center Program Coordinator is being changed from a part-time, non-benefitted position to a full-time benefitted position with the goal of expanding programming to meet the needs of the growing older adult community. A full-time Program Coordinator would be able to efficiently plan, organize and develop a wide range of creative social, recreational and educational programs. With the new Council on Aging facility in the near future, the programming expectations will rise, and the full-time Program Coordinator would be responsible for numerous programmatic tasks to accommodate the growing demand. When the vacant part-time Program Coordinator position was advertised, there was a small number of applicants and none met the experiential requirements for the position currently, not to speak of the pending increase in demands once the new Center is built. Based on hiring experiences in other departments, offering a full-time position will attract a larger, possibly more qualified, group of applicants.

### **DPW Project**

The removal of the ACM soils from the new DPW site to the former landfill is underway and has been going well. With bad weather in the forecast, it is possible the effort will be delayed.

### **MVP Workshop**

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Workshops will be held on February 25 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fire Department. Key stakeholders from our management team and Town boards/committees/commissions have been identified and we are asking for ONE member from the identified boards/committees/commissions to attend as a representative for the project. Please see the memo from Chief Dearborn in the packet for the list of invitees and RSVP process.

### **Ongoing Projects**

- Bliss Park/Article 97: Town Counsel needs to research parcel information at the Registry of Deeds to ensure that the certified copy of the vote is attached to all of the recorded land in Bliss and Laurel Parks. This is a significant effort that has been delayed by the work on the Special Town Meeting. Under our agreement with DPWM, the Town has limited hours to use on legal work before incurring additional fees.
- Library Operating Agreement: Town Counsel is reviewing the letter received from the Library Board of Trustees as well as other relevant documents (Charter, MGLs) and is preparing a response for Select Board consideration.
- Town Energy Projects: the work at the Fire Department was completed on December 31 and paid for directly by Columbia Gas. Contractors were not available to do the work at Greenwood before the end of the year. Eversource is also proposing no-cost lighting upgrades for Town buildings similar to what is being done in the Schools.
- Streetlights: a contract proposal has been sent to Realterm for the audit and design work needed to move forward with the purchase and conversion. The field work for the audit is expected to take place the week of January 28. Green Communities has approved the use of the grant for this purpose. Once the existing grant funds are expended, the Town will apply for the next round of funding in March. A warrant article to fund the purchase of the lights may be proposed for the Annual Town Meeting. Once the audit and design are complete for Longmeadow, the next phases will likely include partnering with Agawam, West Springfield, and possibly Springfield.
- Meter Station: No updates have been received from Kinder Morgan or Columbia Gas. The Town has been receiving communications from FERC about the project and should continue to assert its status as an intervener.

### **Chairs in Chairs**

The second edition of "Chairs in Chairs" is now posted online featuring Carolyn Reed from the Board of Assessors. She was asked to participate because of the feedback the Town has received from residents about the increase in property taxes. Carolyn did an excellent job explaining the valuation and abatement processes.

Stephen Crane informed the Board that he does have a conference call with the Governor Wednesday 1/23/2019 at 3:30 p.m. about Chapter 70, and another one on Friday 1/25/2019. Paul Pasterczyk will cover the call on Friday as Stephen Crane will be at a meeting off campus.

With regards to the metering station, Marie Angelides stated that her understanding is that the EIR came out and they have until February 9<sup>th</sup> to respond, she spoke to Murphy Hess and asked if we should bring in an energy and utility Attorney, they told her yes, comments are very important at this time, in order to reserve your rights down the line. Ms. Angelides told Mr. Crane she has some names for him if he would like and that she would like him to look into this as we have until February 9<sup>th</sup> to respond to the draft EIR. Mark Gold stated that given the fact that we have a February 9<sup>th</sup> deadline and the town Attorneys are working on a few things right now, is it possible to ask them to move this issue up, so they can submit

something prior to February 9<sup>th</sup>. Marie Angelides encourages working with an energy utility Attorney. Stephen Crane will look into it.

Stephen Crane also announced due to the resignation of the current Assistant Town Accountant, the Assistant Town Accountant position would be advertised as Assistant Town Accountant/Assistant Finance Director and that they did not need to change the grade.

Marie Angelides stated that the MVP workshop needs a Select Board representative, Mark Gold asked if Marie was interested in attending. Marie will see if she can get someone else to be the Energy representative and she will let Mark Gold know. Tom Lachiusa asked about the vulnerability plan he wanted to know if they drill for plane crashes. Stephen Crane informed him yes, they have done it in the past. Tom Lachiusa noted that the Mom's club raised almost \$5,000 through a road race for the library and he would like to thank them. Mr. Lachiusa also congratulated Lt. Robert Stocks on his recent graduation from the FBI Academy he is really an asset to the community, we are lucky to have him.

### Old Business:

1. Approve Minutes: *A motion was made by Tom Lachiusa to accept the December 28, 2018 Special Meeting minutes. Marie Angelides seconded the motion. **The vote was 2 in favor 0 opposed, Mark Gold abstained, as he was absent from that meeting.**  
*Tom Lachiusa made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2019 Select Board meeting. Marie Angelides seconded the motion. **The vote was 3 in favor 0 opposed.****
2. Charter Review Capital Planning – Mark Gold asked that this be deferred this until the next meeting when Richard Foster is present so he can lead the discussion.

### New Business:

1. Shared Health Program – Beverly Hirschhorn spoke regarding the shared Health Department between Longmeadow and East Longmeadow. Beverly Hirschhorn noted that she has been a Health Director for a very long time and she has been one person who does all in terms of administration and inspectional services to the Board of Health. That may not be the way it always has to be in the future, Ms. Hirschhorn has brought it to the Town Manager's attention that she would be retiring within the next couple of years and they might want to do some planning and research whether you want to go the single Board of Health or whether you want to explore a different route, like regionalizing or sharing of Public Health Departments. The Governor has convened a special commission of Public Health and one of the things the commission is looking into is regionalizing Public Health Departments. They have had meetings with the Town Managers of both towns, the Health Directors of both towns, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and a representative from the Mass. Department of Public Health and have come up with broad outlines of a draft plan. To Ms. Hirschhorn's knowledge both the Longmeadow Board of Health and the East Longmeadow Board of Health have endorsed the draft plan as was written. The working group is ready to move on and apply for an additional State grant to really look into implementation which would involve doing a Community Health assessment of both towns to make sure the ideas they have line up with the needs of each community. Also, they would need an intermunicipal agreement drafted, this grant might help them pay for some of the services of the Pioneer Valley Commission and would help with some of the expenses. Beverly Hirschhorn is hoping they will be able to get an agreement in place by FY2021. Stephen Crane would like to reinforce the fact that if everything goes accordingly they will be able to time this just right. Mr. Crane also stated that the working group feels that the intermunicipal agreement is the best way to go about this. Stephen Crane is asking that the Select Board endorse the draft report. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that the merging of the two Boards of Health would be more efficient and could possibly allow them to apply for more State grants. Stephen Crane noted that from a budgetary stand point there would be some savings. Mark Gold said it may be helpful to hear from some of the communities that have gone through this. Mr. Gold would like it if when the intermunicipal agreement comes before the Select Board it includes resolutions to issues that maybe were not issues in the earlier agreements.  
*Marie Angelides made a motion to accept the Shared Local Public Health Draft Report. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 3 in favor 0 opposed.***
2. **Community Preservation:** – Steve Weiss, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee was present to answer questions. Mark Gold stated that at the last meeting there was a question as to whether they would have to go back to Town Meeting to un-approve money that was approved at an earlier Town Meeting for one of the projects (the docks on the river) that was being abandoned. Steve Weiss informed the Board that the applicant abandoned the project, it was a lot more work than the applicant anticipated. Paul Pasterczyk stated the Town Accountant can close out that account without going back to Town Meeting or they can recommend using it for

something else. Mark Gold said the major topic, the reason he asked Mr. Weiss to come in tonight was Wolf Swamp Road fields. About a month ago the Select Board was presented with a master plan to redo Wolf Swamp Road fields under four phases. The issue became how do we best pay for that? At the time it was suggested that the Town ask to bond through a debit exclusion bond. They found out that there have been instances, not in Longmeadow but in other parts of the State, where the Community Preservation Committee has recommended and bonded against future Community Preservation funds. Those two options, one is to add it to the tax bill which is bonded through tax revenue, and the other is to not add to the tax bill and reduce available CPA funds in a certain number of future years while this bond is being paid off. Mark Gold would like to get the sense on the Community Preservation Committee on these two options. Steve Weiss informed the Board while they have discussed this issue they have not decided on a policy basis or on anything dealing with the field specifically. There is no request for bonding before them. Under the Community Preservation Act they can bond for specific things. Steve Weiss noted that Paul Pasterczyk attended the last Community Preservation Committee meeting and was able to give them some information on bonding and what it would cost to bond the Wolf Swamp Road project. Mr. Weiss noted that one of the great benefits of the Community Preservation Act is that it allows for funding for projects that would never get done under the general town budget, again this is his own personal feeling, the Committee has not taken a vote on this. Mr. Weiss feels like the real concern about bonding is partly it restricts what they can do now, and it would tie the hands of the committee 10 years from now. There was some sense from the committee that a project like the Wolf Swamp Road Fields would be funded over a long period of time, maybe seven, eight or nine years. Mr. Weiss feels that the sense of the committee is that if this is something that is going to benefit the entire town maybe it would be appropriate for the entire town to share the burden. Steve Weiss is not saying right or wrong, those are just some of the reservations the committee has. Marie Angelides asked what percentage of the money can be used for park land? Mr. Weiss informed her that 70% is undesignated, 10% is for Historic Preservation, 10% is for Community Housing and 10% is for Open Space and Recreation. Marie Angelides noted it would wipe out the park money for many years and would have to be pulled out of the undesignated fund if they were to bond it. Mark Gold is concerned that at a Town Meeting this could pass as an override and taxes will go up. Stephen Crane noted that if CPA decides that they want to bond this, Town Meeting gets to vote on it, if it is done as a debit exclusion all voters get to vote on it. Marie Angelides suggested the question should go to the ballot either (1) Bond the project or (2) Pay for the project out of the operational budget. Mr. Crane stated that the second ballot issue would not work because the budget has already been done, it would have to be put off another year. Stephen Crane also stated that the Board has already voted to support the project conditioned on the debit exclusion. Mark Gold said that was before they knew there were options, such as CPA funds. Stephen Crane informed him they can undo the vote and they can look at other ways to pay for it. Mr. Weiss would like to clarify that the Community Preservation Committee has not taken a vote on this project yet and no decision has been made. Mr. Weiss also stated that under the bylaws the committee is required to hold a Public Hearing once a year and there is a Public Hearing tomorrow night, Wednesday 11/23/2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging, the public can come and make comments and suggestions. The Board thanked Mr. Weiss for coming in.

3. **MGM Annual Payment** –Stephen Crane stated that under the surrounding Community agreement with MGM they received an \$850,00.00 upfront payment to make improvements to intersections that were referenced in the traffic study. The other funding stream from the surrounding community agreement is the guaranteed annual minimum payments within 90 days of the opening day Longmeadow is to receive \$275,000.00 which they have received and then each year there is a 2 ½% increase in that amount. The DOR directs that the towns treat it as estimated receipts. Under the surrounding community agreement, it falls under Public Works or Public Safety. Right now, they have that money being ear marked for the new fire truck. Mr. Crane would like some direction going forward what areas the Board would like to see the funds allocated. Stephen Crane would recommend using the money on long term expenditures. The Board can go year to year and decide how they want to spend the money each year. Mark Gold asked should we come up with something and vote on this at the next meeting? Paul Pasterczyk said they would come up with something and get back to the Board. Mr. Pasterczyk also mentioned that they could put in the budget message as to where they are going to spend it.
4. **Special Town Meeting Follow-up:** Mark Gold announced that the Town Clerk has sent the approved Town Meeting Article from the Special Town Meeting that was held on January 17, 2019 to the Speaker of the House, the State Senator, the State Representative and the President of the State Senate. This was sent on Friday, January 18, 2019. It has been filed. It may be a while before we hear back, the town will receive updates throughout the process. Marie Angelides has a docket number if anyone would like to keep track, HD3957, Ms. Angelides also noted that it will be assigned a bill number once it moves to committee.

5. **Set the Annual Town Meeting Date:** The proposed date is May 14, 2019 – Citizens petitions would be due at noon on February 25, 2019 to the Select Boards office. All articles from Departments and Boards would be due by 4:00 p.m. on February 25, 2019 to the Select Boards office.

*A Motion was made by Tom Lachiusa to set the date for the Annual Town Meeting for May 14, 2019. The motion was seconded by Marie Angelides. **The vote was 3 in favor 0 opposed.***

Mark Gold stated the information will be available on the Town website.

6. **Annual Town Meeting Article Submission Deadline** –

This was taken care of in item 5. The deadline for citizens petitions for the Annual Town Meeting (May 14, 2019) is February 25, 2019 at noon. Articles from Departments and Boards deadline is 4:00 p.m. on February 25, 2019.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

- Tom Lachiusa announced that himself and Paul Pasterczyk attended a Scantic Valley Regional Trust Health meeting on January 16, 2019. It was Tom’s first meeting, Mr. Lachiusa noted that something that will be on the horizon is the Health Savings Account and it will be interesting to be part of that discussion.
- Marie Angelides stated they did not get a quorum for the Tax Ceiling Task Force meeting therefore could not vote on anything; the next Task Ceiling Task Force Meeting is at 4:00 p.m. on March 26, 2019.
- Marie Angelides also spoke about the Energy Committee. The committee still has not heard from the Atty. General’s Office about the Plastic Bylaw ban. The committee has also come up with goals for the hazardous by-law.

*A motion was made by Marie Angelides to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Lachiusa. **The vote was 3 in favor and 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next Select Board meeting will be on Monday, February 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Sullivan

**Documents:** Agenda, Town Managers Report, Community Preservation Minutes 12/19/18, Demolition Committee Minutes 12/14/18, SVRHT Minutes 10/3/18, FERC Enviro. Data, FERC MA AGO Scoping comments, FERC response to Enviro. Data request, FERC transmit contact list, shared local Public Health draft report, memo for Annual Town Meeting articles submission, Speak out from resident Gary Levine.