

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday March 4, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Jackie Sullivan, Cynthia Sommer, Nick Jorge, Lawrence Rubin, Tom Mazza, Marty O'Shea, Bronwyn Monahan. Peter Nassar, William Sceery, Robert Humbertson, Andrea Schultz, and James Ryan.

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

**Announcements:**

- Citizen of Year nominations are being accepted until April 10, 2019.
- March 14th at 6:00 pm in The Community House retired United States Army Specialist Craig Hall, a combat veteran, will be giving a speech about his experience. This is a free event. The Springfield Vet Center and VA Health Care outreach will also be there to meet and talk with Veterans.
- There is a joint meeting with the Select Board and School Committee March 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. to appoint School Committee members.
- Trash is delayed one day this week due to the snow storm.

**Select Board Comments:**

Mark Gold announced that due to the Schools being closed today because of the snow storm LCTV is also closed today (3/4/2019) and this meeting will not be televised.  
Tom Lachusua stated that the Board received a letter in their packet from Columbia Gas. It is good to hear of all the steps they are taking to enhance system safety.

**Resident Comments:**

Cynthia Sommer of 57 Farmington Ave spoke regarding the metering station being proposed. Ms. Sommers stated that a few years ago she was diagnosed with asthma. She was given some pamphlets and articles about asthma control and was told to always use the range hood when cooking with gas to avoid exposure to substances in the gas that could make the asthma worse and to avoid chemicals and particulates in the air. This is the reason she is concerned about the metering station proposed for Hazardville Road. Ms. Sommer stated that metering stations control pipeline pressure by releasing gas into the surrounding area when the pressure is too high. This process is controlled by sensors and happens automatically, we have no idea of how often this happens because the gas company will not tell us. These events release gas and the fracking chemicals that are present with it, including methane, nitrogen oxides, (NOx), carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (VOC's), sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, hazardous air pollutants and heavy metals. Ms. Sommer had a preview of what this could be like last summer when riding her bike past a metering station in East Longmeadow across Shaker Road from the Bay Path campus. She stated there was a horrible, foul chemical stench that made her throat and lungs tighten. When Ms. Sommer later told Kinder Morgan about the gas release they tried to deny it and also tried to convince her that it came from somewhere else. Ms. Sommer is concerned that when this happens at the Longmeadow metering station the neighbors, the golfers and the children from Wolf Swamp School would be exposed to random toxic gas releases. Children and seniors with respiratory diseases could be especially affected. The people who will be affected deserve some straight answers, as well as our town officials. Ms. Sommer stated that the December filing of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline 261 projects, which includes the Longmeadow metering station is very short on detail, there is no data on emissions and environmental or health impacts on people in the neighborhood. Cynthia Sommer urges the Select Board to do everything they can as public officials to get full information out to the public and to support a new metering station bylaw to protect public safety by regulating emissions, noise and other health concerns, also to include severe penalties for violations. Ms. Sommer thanked the Select Board for their ongoing efforts to make sure that Columbia Gas keeps repairing and replacing leaky pipelines around town to prevent explosions and the loss of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Mark Gold stated that when he read the letter they received from Columbia Gas it did not address some of the issues here in Longmeadow. Mark is going to reach out to Columbia Gas again.

### **Quarterly Board and Committee Interviews:**

- Peter Nassar Jr. of 1 Druid Circle is applying for a position on the Audit Committee. Mr. Nassar is an auditor and hopes to use his expertise in any way the committee may need.
- William Sceery of 217 Lynnwood Drive is applying for a position on the Audit Committee. Mr. Sceery is a Senior Financial Analyst at Health New England and works with internal and external auditors and was a municipal auditor for five years in public accounting.
- James Ryan of 117 Crescent Road is applying for a position on the Conservation Commission and on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. He is a teacher in the Springfield Public Schools. Mr. Ryan feels with his background in public policy he would be a good fit and would like to serve the community in which he lives.
- Robert Humbertson of 84 Burbank Road is applying for a position on the Cultural Council. Mr. Humbertson is a former trustee and past President of Storrs Library, he is on the Investment Committee for the Springfield Museums and Storrs Library. Mr. Humbertson is also a former Distribution Committee and grant reviewer for Community Foundation of Western Mass. and is quite active in cultural things. Mr. Humbertson has grant and endowment experience as well as experience in Art.
- Andrea Schultz of 669 Converse Street is applying for a position on the Cultural Council. Ms. Schultz is employed at American International College as an adjunct instructor of English Composition and Literature. Ms. Schultz enjoys Arts and previously served as a community board member on a council where one of the duties included selecting programs for funding, including educational and recreation. Ms. Schultz would like to be involved in her community, she has enjoyed all the different opportunities she has been involved in.

Mark Gold thanked all the applicants and informed them that they would be making appointments at the next meeting.

### **Town Managers Report:**

Stephen Crane announced that Longmeadow and East Longmeadow were selected by PVPC to receive District Local Technical Assistance in the amount of \$6,500 for the requested "Shared Health Department Services Implementation Effort. Paul Pasterczyk received notice from the Massachusetts Libraries Board of Library Commissioners stating that at their regular monthly meeting on February 9, 2019 the Board of Library Commissioners granted a waiver of the FY2019 Municipal Appropriation Requirement and certified Longmeadow to receive the FY2019 State Aid to Public Libraries. The packet received by the Board includes the Departments monthly reports.

Stephen Crane announced that they have hired a new Facilities Director, Nick Georgantas. Mr. Crane thanked Tom Mazza for his participation.

Mark Gold expressed his concern about there not being a Principal Assessor, he feels it is a disservice to the people in town and is very concerned that they have a part time consultant that does not show up to the Board of Assessors meetings. Lawrence Rubin, member of the Board of Assessors was present and stated that the consultant is doing the same work the Principal Assessor did. Mr. Rubin indicated that he feels things are going very well and has not received any complaints. Stephen Crane also stated that things are going very well. Mark Gold asked if there has been a measurement analysis on the speed bump and if there was a report. Stephen Crane stated he has not seen one and they will take a look at it in the spring. Marie Angelides feels that the 35 per mile sign by the speed bump, heading towards East Longmeadow should be taken down. Marie Angelides asked about the valve station Public Hearing, Stephen Crane informed her he has been communicating with Columbia Gas and they are working on it. Marie Angelides expressed her disappointment that the Select Board was not informed about the Grand Opening at the new Baystate facility on Dwight Road. Tom Lachiusa also stated he feels the same way as Ms. Angelides.

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. Approve Minutes:**

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2019 Special Meeting, Mark Gold had some corrections. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed** to approve the minutes with the corrections.*

*Richard Foster made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2019 Special Meeting. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Richard Foster made a motion to approve the February 4, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Richard Foster made a motion to approve the February 25, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Richard Foster made a motion to approve the February 26, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. William Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstention (Tom Lachiusa).*

**New Business:**

1. **IT Review:** Nick Jorge, Technology Director was present to answer any questions or concerns. Mark Gold stated the reason they asked Nick here tonight was to go over security. Mark Gold stated that he had recently attended a meeting at MMA about internet security. Nick Jorge stated that the IT Department is very proactive, and they encourage everyone to report any problems to the IT Department. The most common way people try to steal information on the internet is through phishing attempts. Mr. Jorge stated that they meet quarterly with neighboring IT Departments and also that MASS. IT is offering some phishing training for free they will be looking into. Nick Jorge also made mention that the virtual server is backed up regularly and has a backup that is stored elsewhere. Mr. Jorge recommends using different passwords for everything, he noted there are still some improvements to be made with password security.
2. **School Committee's Budget Presentation:** Mary O'Shea and Bronwyn Monahan presented the budget and gave a power point presentation. Bronwyn Monahan stated that the budget is sustainable and fiscally responsible. The School Committee unanimously approved the budget on February 14, 2019. Marty O'Shea expressed his appreciation for everyone's help and believes that the budget is responsible and reflective of some of the conversations he has had with the Tax Ceiling Task Force. Mr. O'Shea thanked the School Committee and the Administrative team, Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk and particularly Tom Mazza. Most important he would like to thank the residents of the Community.  
Tom Lachiusa asked about the Special Ed. Programs, are there additional costs for training? Mr. O'Shea stated that it is usually integrated into the existing Professional Development. Mark Gold asked about the student population. Tom Mazza said it was about 2,970.
3. **Town Manager's Budget Presentation:** Stephen Crane and Paul Pasterczyk presented the budget and gave a Power Point presentation. Stephen thanked Superintendent O'Shea and Tom Mazza on their work. Stephen also thanked Paul Pasterczyk. Stephen Crane is pleased to report that they only increased the levy by 2 percent. The Budget maintains level services and the budget is balanced without the use of reserves. Mr. Crane reported that the School Department is just over 50% of the budget and that the Library is the one department that has changed the most. The FY 2020 General Fund operating budget of \$62,354,018 is an increase of \$1,542,271 or a 2.54% increase over the FY 2019 General Fund operating budget. Nearly half of the increase is directly attributable to the increase in the Employee / Retiree / Liability Insurance sections of the budget. The all funds operating budget represents a 2.79% increase over the FY 2019's operating budget. Funding towards the Town's commitment to the OPEB liability met its goal of adding an additional 0.25% of its allocation to the line item. The Town's commitment to the capital budget was increased at a 3.00% level allotment. The Town Manager's recommended capital budget was fully funded with usage of unspent capital funds. Additional funds from FY 20's Free Cash could be added in the capital plan in the fall to make up the 0.25 shortfall. The Budget is balanced without the use of reserves and balanced with the use of only 2.00% of the 2.50% allotted by Proposition 2 ½. The FY 2020 unused taxing capacity is approximately \$240,000 and equates to just 11 cents on the tax rate or a property tax savings of \$38.50 on a home valued at \$350,000.  
Mark Gold questioned if the use of MGM's revenue is considered ongoing revenue, Paul Pasterczyk stated that to some degree it is. Mr. Gold also questioned the expenses taken out of the DPW what is the change and why did they go up? Paul Pasterczyk will get Mr. Gold a summary fund by fund. Marie Angelides asked which projects were being funded with the Storm Water fund? Paul Pasterczyk informed her Willow Brook drainage improvement, Morningside and Magnolia Circle.
4. **Set Special Town Meeting Date:** *Richard Foster made a motion to hold the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday March 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Longmeadow High School. Marie Angelides seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*
5. **Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant:** *Marie Angelides made a motion to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Richard Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*
6. **Set Budget Forum Date and Special SB Meeting to Review Budget:**  
Mark Gold announced that the Budget Forum date will be Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the High School. A Special Select Board Meeting will immediately follow to review the Budget.
7. **Review and Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant:**  
*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 1. William Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*

03 04 19 Regular Meeting  
04 01 19 Approved

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve article 2. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 3. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 5. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 6. William Low seconded the motion with the amounts to be adjusted. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 8. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 10. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **This motion was not voted on, the motion was withdrawn pending further information on the Article.***

*Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve Article 14. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 16. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 17. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 18. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Articles 20 through 30. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 31. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve Article 32. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

**Subcommittee Reports:** None

*Marie Angelides made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by William Low. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm. There will be a Special Select Board Meeting on Thursday March 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Longmeadow High School, Room A15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Sullivan

**Documents:** Agenda, Citizen of the year memo, Board Committee Interviews, Applicant interview schedule, Town Managers report, Board of Assessors minutes 1/10/19, Capital Planning Committee minutes 1/22/19, Capital Planning Committee minutes 2/5/19, Capital Planning Committee minutes 12/18/18, Conservation Committee minutes 10/24/18, Energy and Sustainability Committee minutes 2/5/19, Energy and Sustainability Committee minutes 4/24/18, Energy and Sustainability Committee Minutes 7/11/18, Energy and Sustainability Committee minutes 9/12/18, Finance Committee Minutes 1/9/19, Historical Commission minutes 1/24/19, Park Board minutes 1/22/19, Planning Board minutes 1/2/19, Columbia Gas letter, FERC 261 projects, FERC data request, FERC Geo engineers, FERC line 261 projects DR-2, Line 261 projects DR-3, Tennessee Gas Pipeline AFDUC calculations, Letter from Cynthia Sommer, Shared Health Award letter, Mass. Libraries and State aide, Scantic Valley RHT 2018 FS, Scantic Valley RHT 2018 ML, Police 2019 Accreditation letter, Monthly reports from Board of Health, Building Department, COA, DPW, Finance Dept., Fire Dept., Library, Parks and Rec., Police Dept. and Veterans Services, Finance estimated receipts FY19, Finance Net Metering credits.