

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday May 6, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Jackie Sullivan, Michele Marantz, Eileen Leahy, Ray LaBorde, Attorney Robert Schmitt, Christine Gendron, Arlene Miller, Elizabeth Bone, Marybeth Bergeron, James Russell, William Sceery, Nehal Patel, Barry Izenstein, Albert Laasko, Clifford Scott, Kathryn Kucab, David Lavenburg, and Suzanne White.

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 reminded everyone of the Town Meeting May 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Longmeadow High School. The warrant is available at the Town Hall and Library. Mark Gold announced that there will be a Planning Board Public Hearing at 6:30 pm tomorrow May 7, 2019 on one of the Warrant articles.

**Resident Comments:** Michele Marantz of 117 Rugby Road spoke tonight as a resident and as Chair of the Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group. Whose members have grave concerns about the Tennessee Gas Metering Station proposed for Longmeadow Country Club property and the high-powered Columbia Gas Pipeline that would attach to it. Though our members have addressed concerns at previous speak outs, Ms. Marantz would like it noted that one of those concerns, the issue of transparency continues to frustrate them. Ms. Marantz believes that there is something fundamentally wrong about the fact that two private entities, the Longmeadow Country Club and Tennessee Gas can engage in a transaction that profits them but could potentially damage not only a town neighborhood but the Town itself without any public discussion of the matter. Once again Ms. Marantz is requesting that Select Board members and our Town Manager extend the courtesy of apprising us of the status of this project. As a reminder Longmeadow is not the only community in Western Massachusetts facing gas expansion, in fact Columbia Gas's plans are area wide, targeting Northampton, Easthampton, Holyoke, Springfield, West Springfield and Agawam. Though the specific plans differ all communities have faced the same non-response to questions and shifting reasons for the need for such expansion. One of the reasons for changing those rationales is the fact that two of the seven communities have now publicly opposed gas expansion, thus eliminating markets. The first to do so was Northampton whose City Council unanimously passed a resolution rejecting fossil fuel expansion in favor of a policy that promotes renewables. Three weeks ago, Holyoke Mayor, Alex Morse joined the opposition by stating that he has a duty to oppose pipeline expansion projects. What these decisions have meant for Longmeadow is that Columbia Gas is now upgrading its pipeline plan for our town. At a recent meeting with outgoing CEO Stephen Bryant they learned that Columbia now plans to build a 16" pipeline down Shaker and Laurel Streets with gas running at a pressure of 200 psi, quite different from the original plans. In the interest of transparency and in light of their concern about Columbia Gas's new plans Ms. Marantz asks that members of the Select Board find answers to the following questions. Answers that she hopes you will share with your constituents.

1. IS THE SELECT BOARD AWARE THAT THE TENNESSEE GAS METERING STATION WILL BE HOUSED IN ONE BUILDING ON 1/4 ACRE OF LAND, AND THAT THE REMAINDER OF THE TWO-ACRE LOT WILL BE OCCUPIED BY COLUMBIA GAS BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT?
2. HAS THE SELECT BOARD PUSHED FOR TENNESSEE GAS TO GUARANTEE IN WRITING THAT ADDITIONAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE—SUCH AS A COMPRESSOR STATION, AN ADDITIONAL METER STATION, AND/OR ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT THAT INCREASES THE SIZE OR POWER OF THE FACILITY— WILL NOT BE ADDED TO THE STATION?
3. IS THE SELECT BOARD AWARE THAT, EVEN THOUGH TENNESSEE GAS CURRENTLY IDENTIFIES THEPROPOSED STATION AS NOTHING MORE THAN "A PIPE AND A FLANGE," ITS PRESENCE WILL PERMIT A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF GAS PIPELINE IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD? REMEMBER THAT THE NEW PLAN IS TO HAVE A "16" BACKBONE HIGH-PRESSURE (200 PSI) MAIN COMING OUT OF THE INTERCONNECT AT THE LCC METER STATION THAT WILL PASS NORTH THROUGH TOWN TO SPRINGFIELD. THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT COLUMBIA GAS PROPOSED MONTHS AGO.
4. FINALLY, IS THE SELECT BOARD AWARE OF THE NOISE, ODOR, AND METHANE EMISSIONS EMANATING FROM THE COLUMBIA METERING STATION LOCATED ON EAST LONGMEADOW'S SHAKER ROAD? HOW CAN OUR RESIDENTS BE GUARANTEED THAT THE LCC METER STATION WON'T DEVELOP THESE HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS?

“WITH THIS LAST QUESTION IN MIND, I'LL END BY CALLING ON THE SELECT BOARD AND THE TOWN MANAGER TO VOTE AT THE MAY 14 TOWN MEETING IN FAVOR OF ARTICLE 42 THAT CONTAINS ZONING BYLAWS ESTABLISHING

05/06/19 Regular Meeting

05/20/19 Approved

STRINGENT EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR ANY GAS FACILITY BUILT IN OUR TOWN. SUCH AN ACTION WILL GO A LONG WAY IN REDUCING THE ANXIETIES OF MANY TOWN RESIDENTS, WHO HAVE BEEN LEFT TOO LONG IN THE DARK ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.”

**7:10 P.M. Comcast Hearing:** Reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Eileen Leahy and Ray LaBorde returned to represent Comcast. Ms. Leahy stated they did look at other alternatives as requested. Unfortunately, there are no other alternatives they would not be able to trench it underground. There is a gas line under the ground and the Gas Company is not sure if it is an active line or not. Comcast has customers losing service. Richard Foster stated he is surprised that the Gas Company cannot tell them if it is an active gas line. Mark Gold asked how service getting to the customers right now. Mr. Labroad stated it is coming from an old easement. Tom Lachiusa asked if they can negotiate with the home owner, Mr. LaBorde informed him that the homeowner will not speak to them and does not want them on his property. *Marie Angelides made a motion to close the hearing at 7:15 pm. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve the original petition that was presented on April 1, 2019. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

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

Council on Aging: James Russell applied for a three-term expiring in June of 2022.

Audit Committee: Chris (William) Sceery, incumbent and Nehal Patel applied for positions on the Audit Committee. There are two positions open, one associates term expiring in June of 2020 and one three-year term expiring in June of 2022.

Cultural Council: Nehal Patel applied for the three-year term expiring in June of 2022.

Board of Health: Dr. Barry Izenstein, incumbent is applying for one more term on the Board of Health.

Building Committee: Marybeth Bergeron, incumbent applying for the three-year term expiring in June of 2022.

Conservation Commission: Albert Laasko, incumbent is applying for the three-year position on the Commission expiring in June of 2022.

Historic District Commission: Clifford Scott is applying for the three-year term, expiring in June of 2022.

Tree Committee: Kathryn Kucab is applying for the three-year term, expiring in June of 2022.

Zoning Board of Appeals: David Lavenburg and Suzanne White both incumbents applied for the positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals there are two positions, one three-year term expiring in June of 2022 and one five-year term expiring in June of 2024.

Mark Gold thanked everyone for coming and announced that they will make appointments at the next Select Board Meeting.

**Select Board Comments:** Richard Foster announced that residents may have noticed people around town digging near the power poles, Mr. Foster just wanted residents to know that the company that is doing this are under contract from either Ever Source or the Cable Company to inspect poles for termites and soundness. Mark Gold congratulated Stephen Crane on his pending position in Concord MA. Tom Lachiusa announced that he had attended a birthday party for Venessa O'Brien who turned 100 years old and is still working over at the Senior Center. Mr. Lachiusa stated that Ms. O'Brien is an inspiration and was very pleased he was able to attend the birthday party.

### **Town Manager Report:**

Stephen Crane reported on the slope issue at the new DPW site. It was discovered last week that parts of the slopes are collapsing, in large part this is due to drainage work that was done on Dwight Road that has accelerated some of the washouts of the dingle that runs on the North side of the site. They believe that once the new facility is constructed, that by itself should improve the situation, however some work may need to be done now in the short term. Mr. Crane stated that long term it will be a significant project that they will have to address. Stephen Crane apologizes for not having a written report they are still trying to figure it out and he does not like to speculate on cost until he has something he can look at.

Richard Foster stated that he did not find any evidence of any abnormal wash water going down. Mr. Foster noted that they did find significant evidence of slopes that have become saturated and there was slippage. Mr. Foster also stated that there has been a significant amount of rainfall. Richard Foster noted that it is a separate project and it is going to be expensive. Stephen Crane stated that they are looking into an action plan.

**Liquor License Amendments Hearing 8:00 pm:**

**Longmeadow Hospitality LLC d/b/a The Meeting House**

*William Low made a motion to open the hearing at 8:00 pm. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion.*

***The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed (Richard Foster stepped out temporarily).***

Attorney Robert Schmitt who is standing in for Dan Kelly was present to represent The Meeting House. Attorney Schmitt announced that they would like to table the request to add outdoor patio service portion of the hearing because it has to come before the Planning Board and Attorney Kelly is going to deal with it at a later time.

The Meeting House is requesting a change in manager, they are requesting that Christine Gendron be named the new manager of record. Attorney Schmitt stated that Christine Gendron has extensive experience in management and no criminal history. *Tom Lachiusa made a motion to accept the request for the transfer of manager contingent upon the TIP certification being turned in to the Town for the new manager. Richard Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*

The Meeting House is also requesting a change in hours. They are requesting that they be open until midnight Sunday through Thursday and until 1:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays. Attorney Schmitt stated that the establishment has not had any issues with their license and is a very responsible establishment.

Tom Lachiusa stated that he is not in favor of extending the hours, he believes if they do so other places would want to do the same and it would change the character of the town. Mr. Low stated there was a letter in their packet from the Police Chief. Mr. Gold read a portion of a letter submitted by the Chief of Police, Chief Stankiewicz asks that the Select Board maintain consistency of the operation of hours currently sanctioned for all other licensees. All the other establishments in that area end at 11:00 pm with the exception of one that is open until 11:30 pm on weekends. In response to that Attorney Schmitt asked that The Meeting House be granted the opportunity to stay open until 11:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. *Richard Foster made a motion to close the hearing at 8:15 pm. William Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*

*Marie Angelides made a motion to extend the hours until 11:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*

**Old Business:**

**1. Approve Minutes: April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting:**

*Richard Foster made a motion to approve the April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstention.*

**2. Endorse Uniform Container Trash Collection- Vote:**

Marie Angelides asked what would happen if the Town does not get the grant, Arlene Miller assured them that they will definitely get the grant. Ms. Angelides also asked what do residents do with their old barrels, Ms. Miller stated that they can reuse them for recycling or the Recycling Committee will make arrangements for them to be picked up. *Marie Angelides made a motion that the Select Board endorse the standardized 35-gallon trash barrel DEP grant application and we direct the Town Manager to move forward with its implementation, recognizing that this program is consistent with our current curbside trash collection program and will save the Town money on disposal and enforcement. William Low seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor and 2 opposed, Richard Foster and Tom Lachiusa opposed.*

**New Business:**

**1. Quarterly Cash Investment – Town Treasurer Cheryl Cudnik reported on the Treasurers Investment Report from January 2019 through March 2019 as per the Investment Policy:**

- The Town held no long-term investments that exceeded the five-year limit.
- The individual bank balances were under the five-million-dollar balance provision except for Newburyport Savings that hold the bond proceeds which allows for eight-million-dollar balance provision according to the Investment Policy.
- All banks again received the highest safety rating of green from Veribanc.
- All accounts are fully insured / secured.

We transferred the proceeds from an OPEB CD that matured in the amount of \$408,073.95 with Belmont Savings Bank along with \$481,000 FY 2019 budgeted amount to the State Retire Benefits Trust Fund. Since inception, the State Retire Benefits Trust Fund showed an increase in investment income in the amount of \$60,701.75.

We had a twelve-month Stabilization CD's mature in March with Belmont Savings Bank paying a rate of 2.50% in the amount of \$781,065. We renewed this twelve-month Stabilization CD with Belmont Savings Bank at rate of 2.75%.

We had a few banks increase their rates in this quarter. After reaching out to Peoples Bank and United Bank about reconstruction of several of our low interest operating accounts Peoples Bank increased our Student Activity Accounts and a General Fund account from .25% to 1.29%. United Bank increased our School Lunch, Gate Receipts, Ambulance Accounts and a small Bond Proceeds Account to a rate of 1.88%. The previous rates ranged from .05% to .19%. United Bank also increased our DPW/DIF Bond Proceeds account from a rate of 1.9% to 2.35%. We had several other banks increase their rates, Newburyport Saving Bank increased from 2.25% to 2.55%, Monson Savings Bank from 1.60% to 2.00%, and Belmont Savings Bank from 1.50% to 2.25%.

The interest accumulating on the bond proceeds will be allocated into the Town's General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund. For the quarter ending March 31<sup>st</sup>; interest earned on all bond proceeds was \$84,895.51.

The net decrease of \$2,456,357.24 in cash and investments for the quarter was a result of warrants payable and payroll. There were commitments issued to collect for water/sewer, excise and real estate, however there were three bi-weekly payrolls in January and the DPW Facility and DIF warrants payable alone exceeded just over three million dollars. As Treasurer, I will continue to seek the best possible interest rates; fund our accounts payable and payroll accounts timely with funds from bank accounts earning the lowest interest rates when possible. The Treasurer's office will continue to monitor all funds in accounts and move funds to achieve the highest yield available and will continue to practice safety, liquidity and yield when investing and paying the bills on the warrant.

2. Review Fiscal Year Fees- Paul Pasterczyk stated that they asked the Departments Heads to look at the Fiscal Year based fees none of the departments made a recommendation to change any of the fees, with the exception of the ambulance. Mr. Pasterczyk noted that the Fire Chief will be coming in on the 20<sup>TH</sup> to recommend an ambulance increase.
3. One Day Liquor License Request/St. Mary's dinner – *Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the one-day liquor license for St. Mary's on June 12, 2019 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***
4. Sign Request/ First Church Tag Sale- *Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the sign request for the First Church Tag Sale for two signs, one to be placed at the North end of Town and the other to be placed at the South end of town May 11, 2019 through May 18, 2019. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***
5. Street Closure Request/Center School Field Day – *Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the Street closure request for Center School Field Day from Longfellow Drive to the gym driveway on May 31, 2019 from 9:00 am – 3:15 pm with a rain date of June 3, 2019. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***
6. Referendum on Chapter 61B- Mark Gold explained that there is an agreement in place between Tennessee Gas and Longmeadow Country Club to purchase land on to which to put a metering station and a connection system to Columbia Gas. The Select Board discussed putting a non-binding referendum on the June 11, 2019 ballot. The Select Board is asking for your opinion on this **non-binding question** related to Tennessee Gas Pipeline's plan to procure an easement on four parcels of land from Longmeadow Country Club. These land parcels on Hazardville Road between Shaker Road and Fairway Drive total approximately 2.4 acres in area and would be used as the site of a pressure step-down and gas transfer facility by Tennessee Gas Pipeline and Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. The cost for the town to exercise 61B rights over these parcels has not been precisely determined but may be as much as \$2,700,000. *William Low made a motion to put the following non-binding referendum question on the June 11, 2019 ballot: "Shall the Town of Longmeadow consider exercising its rights under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61B for first right of refusal relative to Tennessee Gas Pipeline's agreement to purchase an easement over four parcels of land currently zoned for recreational use. This pursuit of 61B rights will not guarantee the use of the land for open space." Marie Angelides seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***
7. Debt Exclusion Ballot Question/ Wolf Swamp Fields – Paul Pasterczyk explained that Article 16 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as is currently written is contingent upon a successful debt exclusion which must be voted on at a town election. *Marie Angelides made a motion to approve the debt exclusion ballot question for Wolf Swamp Fields to be placed on the June 11, 2019 ballot. "Shall the Town of Longmeadow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issue in order to make improvement to the Wolf*

05/06/19 Regular Meeting  
05/20/19 Approved

*Swamp fields and parking area? and provided, further, that said question shall be deemed approved if a majority of the persons voting thereon shall vote "yes". William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

8. **Town Sewer Regulations**- Richard Foster explained that he was approached by a citizen to look into the town sewer regulations. While researching the Town's sewer regulations Mr. Foster found that the Select Board never actually approved rules and regulations governing public sewers in town. The main item deals with the maintenance on the lines. Mr. Foster wanted to inform the board that they will have to act on a policy. And that he is going to gather some more information to present to the Select Board at a future meeting.

**Subcommittee Report:** None

*William Low made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:26 pm and enter into executive session and possibly reconvene into open session. For the purposes of 1. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2019. 2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel particularly an Interim Town Manager. 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the Chair hereby declares an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body – Clerical Tentative Agreement. Richard Foster seconded the motion. Roll call vote Mr. Gold – yes, Ms. Angelides – yes, Mr. Foster – yes, Mr. Lachiusa – yes, Mr. Low – yes.*

**The Select Board reconvened into open session at 10:21 pm.**

*Marie Angelides made a motion to approve the tentative agreement (TA) between the Town of Longmeadow and the Clerical Union contingent upon the TA being ratified by the union and with the clarification that the pay increases are 2% effective 7/1/19; 2% effective 7/1/20, and 1.5% effective 7/1/21. The motion was seconded by Mr. Low. There was no further discussion on the motion which passed by a vote of 5-0.*

*Mr. Low moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.

The next regular Select Board Meeting will be on May 20, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Sullivan

**Correspondence:** Letter to Mark Gold from Columbia Gas, Affidavits, FERC Letter to TN Gas, Line 261 Projects DR-4 Response April 23, 2019, Line 261 projects DR-4 transmittal letter April 23, 2019, Supplemental Information re 4-15-19 FERC Data request, TGPCP19-7 EFSB Comments 4-24-19

**Documents:** Agenda, Applicant Interview Schedule for boards and committees, Application Mary Beth Bergeron, Application Barry Izenstein, Application Kathryn Kucab, Application Albert Laakso, Application Dave Lavenburg, Application Nehal Patel, Application James Russell, Application William Sceery, Application Clifford Scott, Application Suzanne White, Licensing checklist, ABCC signature page, Application change manager, Application change premise, change of hours vote, Change of Hours –ABCC hours allowed, comment from Board of Health, Comment Police Chief, Floor Plan, Hours of operation for other restaurants, Lease, Meeting House minutes 12 -18-2017, Town Manager DPW Capital Project status report, 4-16-2019 draft minutes Select Board, Investment Policy quarterly reports, Fees list, One Day Liquor License, Sign Request, Street closure request, Referendum draft wording, Ballot Question 2019 General Election, Longmeadow Sewer Rules and Regulations, Conservation Commission Minutes 2/13/2019, Cultural Council Minutes 1/3/2019, Letter to Mark Gold from Columbia Gas, Affidavits , FERC Letter to TN Gas, Line 261 Projects DR-4 Response April 23, 2019, Line 261 projects DR-4 transmittal letter April 23, 2019, Supplemental Information re 4-15-19 FERC Data request, TGPCP19-7 EFSB Comments 4-24-19, 4-16-19 Exec Session Minutes, signed TA 4-30-19, Document from resident Michele Marantz.