

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday July 1, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

**Present:** Chair Marie Angelides, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachusua, Richard Foster and Marc Strange.

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Jackie Sullivan, Beverly Hirschhorn, Dr. Robert Rappaport and Mary Toye.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Select Board Chair Marie Angelides.

**Announcements:** Marie Angelides announced that there will be a reception for Town Manager Stephen Crane on July 25th from 2-3:30 pm at the Community House. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Adult Center will be on July 11, 2019 at 11:00 am.

Tom Lachusua announced that the Longmeadow 2019 Vision Task Force will hold a public forum on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Longmeadow High School, 535 Bliss Road, meeting room A15 to hear residents' comments to help direct the Town Manager search process. The Vision Task Force will develop a statement which will articulate the Town's needs. This Vision statement will be used as information for the Town Manager Selection Committee and provide direction for the future. We seek your active engagement in this important process.

Marie Angelides reminded residents that there are 30 days before the plastic ban bylaw goes into effect. Ms. Angelides also noted that the Select Board presented former Select Board Member William Low with a plaque and thanked him for his service.

Richard Foster welcomed Marc Strange to the Board.

**Resident Comments:** None

**Town Managers Report:** Town Manager Stephen Crane reported on the following:

**EV Charging Station at Town Hall**

The Town is taking advantage of a program being offered by Eversource to pay 100% of the cost to install the infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall. The charging stations are the first step in a planned reconstruction of the parking lot (see attached plan) but need to be installed now because the incentive program expires on June 30. The Town will then procure at least two EV charging stations and will receive a 50% subsidy for the equipment from Eversource as well. The cost for the charging stations is being developed and the project is being reviewed by the Historic District Commission.

**Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Grant**

Under the leadership of Fire Chief Dearborn, all of the required tasks for the MVP certification have been completed and submitted along with all of the required documentation to obtain MVP Certification. This process was a labor-intensive but very valuable process and certification is anticipated after July 1. The MVP grant application is substantially complete and will be ready for submission when the next round of MVP grants is announced in late July or August. The draft application will seek \$450,000 in project work including an assessment and management plan for Town trees, an assessment of all drainage infrastructure, and engineering, design and permitting for the drainage area adjacent to the "new" DPW site. This grant will require a 25% Town match.

**Bliss Park ADA Project**

The parking lot paving and accessible pathways project at Bliss Park achieved substantial completion by the June 30 deadline. The project, which was approved and funded by the Massachusetts Office on Disability, has greatly improved the parking area, including drainage and access for all park users but especially those with mobility issues. This successful effort was coordinated by Town Engineer Andy Krar and included contributions from the Tree Warden, David Marinelli, and the Conservation Commission.

**Dwight Road Project**

The Dwight Road reconstruction project is nearly complete with final paving and pavement markings finished. The new signals are fully operational, but adjustments will be made as real time traffic conditions are assessed in the new road configuration. These adjustments are part of the 30-day trial period that is built into the project agreement. The initial bid price for the project was about \$2.1 million, which was funded by a \$2.5 million appropriation. The total project cost was \$2.4 million as a result of increased traffic signal costs, the need to excavate a Verizon duct bank, the replacement of a storm drain pipe, and additional police details.

Tom Lachiusa asked about the charging station, Stephen Crane noted that it will be available to the public, and he does not believe it will be a fast charge station.

Paul Pasterczyk announced that they received the MIIA rewards for \$32,000.00, those are direct credits for FY19 against our insurance premiums. Paul Pasterczyk also announced that they received the GFOA certificate of achievement for the 2018 comprehensive financial report.

Marie Angelides asked if the pools were all up and running. Stephen Crane informed her that all the pools are ready with the exception of the kiddie pool at Bliss.

### **Old Business:**

**1. DPW Collective Bargaining Agreement** - Richard Foster made a motion to approve the DPW Collective Bargaining Agreement Contract. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

**2. Approve Minutes June 17, 2019 Regular Select Board Meeting** -Richard Foster made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2019 Select Board Meeting with a correction. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstention** (Marc Strange).

**3. Town Counsel/Labor Counsel FY20 Appointments** - Richard Foster made a motion to approve the appointments of the Town Counsel and Labor Counsel for FY20 as presented. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.**

**4. Change of Local Election Hours** - Mark Gold made a motion to change the June 2020 Local Election hours from 8:00 am to 7:00 am through 8:00 pm. Marc Strange seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.** Tom Lachiusa made a motion to develop a By-Law that will be voted on at Town Meeting to permanently change the voting hours for the local elections for the opening of the polls from 8:00 am to 7:00 am through 8:00 pm. Mark Gold seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.**

**5. Town Manager Search Committee Advertisements** -Marie Angelides stated that there were a couple of issues to be decided, one was the committee and the other was the advertisement. Ms. Angelides stated that Bernie, the search manager, sent out a letter requesting that we keep it below 13 people and right now we are at 8. Mark Gold feels that we should have the larger number. Marc Strange stated that in his experience going beyond 9 people would be a disservice to the people on the committee limiting their ability and time to contribute.

Marc Strange made a motion to appoint Rebecca Townsend as the 11th person on the Town Manager Search Committee. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed and 1 present (Richard Foster).**

Mark Gold made a motion to appoint Arlene Miller, Ryan Shanks, Liz Bone, Marybeth Bergeron, David Russell, Phil Hallahan, Armand Wray, Paul Pasterczyk, Bruce Colton, Rebecca Townsend and someone to be appointed by the Finance Committee to The Town Manager Search Committee. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.**

Marie Angelides stated that Bernie recommended two things for the advertisement, the first being the years of service, it should say five plus years of experience with a master's degree in public administration or equivalent and the second is the suggested salary should be posted at \$145,000 plus or minus.

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

Stephen Crane announced that they did get a draft agreement for the interim Town Manager. There are some discussions on what authorities under section 5.2 of the Charter the interim Town Manager has versus delegating some of the authorities to other town employees. Marie Angelides asked Paul Pasterczyk to put a list together stating which authorities they wanted to delegate.

### **New Business:**

**1. Shared Health Service Agreement Draft** - Beverly Hirschhorn, Dr. Robert Rapaport and Mary McCoy attended the meeting. Dr. Rappaport stated that some of the concerns they have as a Board are that East Longmeadow is a much bigger municipality and there are some provisions where Longmeadow would have to pay East Longmeadow, they are also concerned that services would drop. Dr. Rappaport stated that East Longmeadow has a fully functioning Board of Health and Longmeadow does not. Dr. Rappaport does not feel that this is a fair deal for Longmeadow at this point because the boards are not similar. Dr. Rappaport stated that they would be interested in seeing if there was a way that they could get some financial help for Beverly, so they could get some services that they are lacking, that way when they do talk with East Longmeadow they are comparing similar Boards. Beverly Hirschhorn stated that she will not be working for the Board of Health forever. Beverly Hirschhorn stated that additional clerical help might be helpful. Ms. Hirschhorn is informed the Select Board that it is really a problem because the administrative side of things takes up a lot of her time and she is not getting out to do the inspection services and it becomes a judgement call as to how to allocate her time. Ms.

Hirschhorn stated that a shared health service would do away with some of the inefficiencies. Beverly Hirschhorn would not suggest replicating the staffing the same way as it is now. Stephen Crane gave a brief background as to why they were looking into the shared health services with East Longmeadow. Stephen Crane believes that this can really work for us. Richard Foster asked Dr. Rappaport if he had concerns going into this agreement, Dr. Rappaport stated that there are a lot of uncertainties. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that operationally it may be a challenge. Mark Gold asked that the Board of Health go back to their committee and find out what they might change or adjust in this draft proposal and bring it back to the Select Board. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that operationally it is going to be a challenge. Ms. Angelides asked that they send her the document and she will send it to the rest of the Select Board. Stephen Crane was hoping the Select Board would vote on this at the July 15th meeting.

2.. **Communication Plan** - Marie Angelides announced that as chair she is putting together a communication plan she will be writing up a little blurb of everything that the Select Board has done so that it can get out to the community. There will be a link to this newsletter on the Select Board page and also, she will do an email blast. This is an evolving plan, she may also add a list of things that are happening in town.

3. **Tax Ceiling Legislation Draft** - Paul Pasterczyk explained how proposition 2 ½ works and how it is impacting the Town of Longmeadow. Mr. Pasterczyk stated there are two constraints with proposition 2 ½ the first one being an annual increase of the levy limit by 2 ½ percent. The second is once the levy limit gets up to 2.5 % of the assessed valuation or a tax rate of \$25.00, at that point they would not be able to raise taxes beyond that. They want to make sure they do not hit that \$25.00 tax rate. Paul Pasterczyk stated by 2024 they may hit the 2.5 valuation limitation and if that happens they would not be able to raise roughly 1.2 million dollars' worth of taxes. Marie Angelides stated that the legislation is going to take us the longest to get done. Marie Angelides would like the board to look at S-1694 it is legislation by Senator Eric Lesser. Ms. Angelides wanted a consensus if the rest of the Board supported her sending out the letters she has drafted. One letter goes to the Senate and the other to the legislature. Tom Lachiusa supports sending out the letters. Ms. Angelides stated that the task force is recommending that the town do a clear removal of the \$25.00 cap and if the Select Board agrees with this legislation then they can go around to other towns in Western MA who are also having the same problem and they can try to submit legislation.

*Mark Gold made a motion to accept the legislation recommendations. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed and 1 present (Richard Foster)***

**Subcommittee Reports:** None

1. *Mark Gold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session for the purposes of approving minutes and 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. This will include, but not limited to, the DPW and Chapter 61B first right of refusal. Open session not to reconvene. Richard Foster seconded the motion.  
Roll call vote - Mark Gold-YES, Richard Foster- YES, Marie Angelides-YES, Marc Strange-YES and Tom Lachiusa-YES.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm. There will be a Special Select Board meeting on July 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the High School Room A15.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan

**Documents:** Agenda, Town Manager Report, Comcast letter 6/17/2019, Comcast letter 6/24/2019, Plan 6/21/19 line 261 upgrade projects, TGP 261 expansion project comments of the Mass. Atty. General, Plan 6/14/19 comment on environmental assessment, CP19-7 response to comments, Planning Board Minutes 02/06/2019, Planning Board Minutes 04/03/2019, Planning Board Public Hearing minutes 05/07/2019, Planning Board Regular meeting minutes 05/07/2019, Rules Comm. Minutes 06/06/2019, Historic District Comm. minutes 06/11/2019, COA minutes 05/16/2019, Recommendations for Improved Effectiveness and Efficiency of Local Public Health Protections in the Commonwealth Executive Summary Draft.