

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday July 15, 2019
6:30 p.m. Executive Session 7:00 p.m. Open Session
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

Also Present: Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Jackie Sullivan, Michele Marantz, Laurie Robinson, Deborah Sirulnik, James Moynihan, Jamie Meadows, Jim Tourtelotte, Steve Marantz and Adam Dalessio.

Announcements: Stephen Crane announced the plastic bag ban starts on August 6th, there is an opportunity for businesses to request a 6-month waiver. He also announced that storm cleanup operations have gone very well, if people still have debris issues they should call the DPW. Marie Angelides announced there is a Town Manager's reception on July 25th from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. at the Community House to say goodbye to Mr. Crane. Ms. Angelides thanked Mr. Crane for all he has done over the years. Tom Lachiusa announced that there will be a Vision Task Force Open Forum on Wednesday, July 17th that will be held at the High School in Room A15. The discussion will be on the kind of skill sets the town should be looking for in the next Town Manager. Marie Angelides announced that sadly we have lost Jim Russell who was an important part of our town, Mr. Russell was on the Park Board for almost 30 years, he was an important part of the Senior Center and building the new Adult Center, he was very involved with our police dog and was always there to support the K9 program. Mr. Russell will be sadly missed.

Resident Comments: Jamie Meadows of 209 Prynwood Road stated that he lives right down the street from the proposed site of the metering station, he has two young children and would like to know what this metering station is going to do to this community and what is it going to do to his children's health. Mr. Meadows is asking the Select Board to do what they can and find a new location for the metering station.

Deborah Sirulnik of 92 Arlington Road stated as a longtime resident of Longmeadow she is trusting the Select Board to put the interest of our health, our homes, and our families above the interests of utility companies such as Tennessee Gas and Columbia Gas. To make sure her trust is not misplaced Ms. Sirulnik would like to request that each member of the Select Board make public their position on the proposed metering station at the Longmeadow Country Club before any further voting takes place. Ms. Sirulnik stated that she is confused as to where each Board member stands, and is even more confused as to why any Board member would vote to allow a known health hazard to be installed in a residential area.

Laurie Robinson of 53 Warren Terrace stated that she has lived in Longmeadow for 35 years and before joining the Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness group last year she has never attended a Select Board meeting and never got involved in town political activities. Ms. Robinson stated that she was unclear of the role of the Select Board so perhaps her comments are naïve and maybe even unfair. Ms. Robinson wants the Select Board to know that she is deeply disappointed by the way that the Select Board has approached the gas pipeline metering station. After all the speak outs and hearings she feels the Select Board has not stepped up to protect the health and welfare of Longmeadow residents. Ms. Robinson is asking that going forward the Select Board make every effort and take every action possible to protect the residents of Longmeadow and if not, who will?

James Tourtelotte of 64 Prynwood is concerned about the health, safety, and climate change issues that are involved with the gas metering station. Mr. Tourtelotte stated this is a big deal for the town and as leaders the Select Board has a duty to learn the risks involved and to make their positions known to the public. Mr. Tourtelotte feels this is especially true in the wake of the confusion surrounding the 61-B referendum question. The Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group has learned a lot about this subject. Mr. Tourtelotte is asking that the Select Board work with the Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness group to arrange dialogue sessions as soon as possible.

Michelle Marantz of 117 Rugby Road is speaking tonight as a resident and as chair of the Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group. Ms. Marantz stated that her purpose tonight is to comment on the Chapter 61 vote taken at last week's Special Select Board Meeting as well as to ask about future actions the Board may take regarding the Longmeadow metering station and pipeline project. Ms. Marantz reminded the Board that she participated in a speak out after the June town election to point out that more than 2-1 voted in favor of question 2. At that time Ms. Marantz asked that the decisive voter statement motivate the Select Board to be transparent in any future decisions attached to the metering station project. Ms. Marantz commented that she was confused when she heard about the last Wednesday's Special Select Board Meeting hours after it was held to vote on the future of question 2. Ms. Marantz stated that no member of the Pipeline Awareness Group had been called before the meeting nor was the rationale for the majority vote that evening clarified for them until two days after the vote. Ms. Marantz informed the Board that the members of the Pipeline Awareness Group were shocked, disappointed and angered by the vote against pursuing the Chapter 61 initiative. Ms. Marantz believes that the Select Board can do better with informing the Longmeadow community. Ms. Marantz is requesting transparency and stated that right now residents would like to know where each Board member stands on the metering station issue. Some residents are concerned that the Select Board members will simply accept the Tennessee Gas proposal without a robust effort to challenge it. Ms. Marantz said that for over a year the Pipeline Awareness Group members have been asking the Select Board to hold community wide meetings that would educate the residents about the metering station project and so far, these requests have gone unheeded. Holding such information sessions would be a real step forward in convincing residents that the Board cares about addressing their concerns. A community forum could be televised to a broad audience.

Select Board Comments: Richard Foster commented that there is complete transparency, all meetings are posted and televised. Tom Lachiusa stated that he has been very open as to where he stands on the metering station issue. Mr. Lachiusa also stated that he will not be here for Mr. Crane's reception and wished him good luck; Stephen always gives 100 percent and has a great knowledge base to do this work.

Town Manager Report: Stephen Crane stated that he spent some time this week on the shared work plan and made great progress. The Adult Center groundbreaking was held along with a very nice ceremony that was well attended. Work continues on the collective bargaining issues. WestComm has hired some dispatchers. A number of dispatchers that will be hired do not need to go through the certification process, which is very time consuming. New equipment continues to be purchased and installed and a transition plan is being worked on. Mr. Crane feels that they are on track to start taking calls at WestComm in October. Mr. Crane stated that the Shared Health Service Agreement has been put on hold as he has not had the chance to reconnect with Denise Menard from East Longmeadow. There will be an electronic vehicle charging station at Town Hall, the Dig Safe markings are done. Regarding the Wolf Swamp master plan, the amendment made on Town Meeting floor to add baseball somewhat destabilized the project. The project will now be either more expensive or less effective. The designer is reviewing the plan to see if they can figure it, but the designer is behind in other work so unfortunately it has been delayed due to availability of the engineer. The new DPW construction, things have been moving along with drainage work. Mr. Crane would like to thank the town employees for their part in the community clean up after the microburst that occurred on July 6th. Mr. Crane would especially like to thank DPW Director Mario Mazza and Chief John Dearborn for the way they handled the situation. The communication methods and communication messages that were used were a total success. Northern Tree was an integral part in all this. There was also a tremendous effort by town residents. Mr. Crane stated that it was an honor to be a part of that team and would like to commend the departments and the Select Board, who came out on Sunday, July 7th to hold a special meeting to declare the state of emergency, which will be essential to help manage our resources. Everyone involved responded so admirably. Paul Pasterczyk stated that they received a letter from the Department of Revenue, part of the process is it has to be approved by the Department of Revenue. Mr. Pasterczyk stated that they sent the information that the Department of Revenue requested. Mr. Lachiusa asked if Mr. Crane could have the DPW look into the drainage on Hazardville Road. Mr. Gold asked

about the INI study from the DPW, it has been months since the Select Boards has had any information on it. Mr. Crane will look into that.

Chair Report: Ms. Angelides stated that she attended an MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Plan) meeting at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission along with Chief Dearborn and Mr. Strange. Ms. Angelides said she learned about a new bill that is coming up, Senate Bill 10. Ms. Angelides will be looking for support for this. People were there talking about climate change and energy conservation projects.

Interim Town Manager: Ms. Angelides introduced the Interim Town Manager, James Moynihan. Mr. Moynihan stated that he has been in municipal government for over 30 years and is looking forward to assisting the community while the community goes out and gets a permanent Town Manager. Mr. Moynihan has worked in 11 different municipalities, he has a bachelor's degree and an MBA from Western New England University and also has a master's in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Moynihan stated that he retired in October of last year and is appreciative of the opportunity to be here. Mark Gold asked if Mr. Moynihan has set up a schedule yet. Mr. Moynihan stated that he would be in on Monday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's. Tom Lachiusa asked when his first day would be. James Moynihan informed him it would be Monday July 29th.

Old Business:

1. **Solarize Final Report:** Steven Marantz of 117 Rugby Road stated he is finishing up with the Solarize Springfield/Longmeadow program. This was an extremely successful program specifically for Longmeadow. There are 45 installations that are going on in town. One of the good things about this is that Solar Flair, the installer for the program, said that if the communities reached 400 kilowatts as a total sale they would donate a free system to the charity of our choice. Mr. Marantz believes that the Willie Ross School for the Deaf will be the beneficiary of the five-kilowatt system. The bad news is for all the environmentally positives that this program has brought to Longmeadow and the planet is, this will all be negated if the Tennessee Gas pipeline expansion project is permitted to happen. Mr. Marantz is asking the Select Board to remove this project from the residential neighborhood.
2. **Building Project** - Adam Dalessio from Colliers International presented the board with a two week look ahead schedule, and a site plan that shows the phasing of that schedule for the new Adult Center Building. Mr. Dalessio went over the safety and site logistics. They are getting ready to start putting some equipment on the field in the next couple of days. Mr. Dalessio stated they had a pre-construction meeting last Wednesday with the contractor and with Bari Jarvis as far as going over what the upcoming activities will be. There is a lot of activity going on at Greenwood Park now and they want to make sure that safety is the number one issue. Mr. Dalessio also met with Jim Leyden as well and let him know what is going on. There will be weekly meetings so that everyone knows what is going on. Richard Foster asked if the veteran's race would be cancelled this year. Stephen Crane stated that it would be. Mark Gold asked about the houses just to the west on Maple Road as far as what provisions have we made to discuss this with them to make sure they understand what is going on in their side yard or back yard. Mr. Dalessio stated that Colliers has not had any communication with them, he does not know if the town has communicated with them. Mr. Dalessio stated that they can make sure that they are notified as to what is happening. Ms. Angelides asked if these plans would be posted at the Adult Center and Parks and Rec. Mr. Dalessio did send these over to Ms. Jarvis and Mr. Leyden so they both have copies.
3. **Approve Minutes July 1, 2019 Regular Select Board Meeting and July 7, 2019 Emergency Meeting** - *Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2019 regular meeting. Marc Strange seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.** Mark Gold made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2019 Emergency Meeting. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

4. Transfers for the raised crosswalk – Mr. Pasterczyk stated that the Finance Committee voted not to authorize the transfer. Ms. Angelides asked for an update on the bids, Mr. Pasterczyk stated there were two bids received, the two bids came in at \$38,500.00 and somewhere around \$43,000.00 which was much higher than the original bid from the contractor who installed the raised sidewalk. Mr. Pasterczyk said that the Finance Committee’s concerns were that it appears that the complaints about the raised crosswalk have lessened and they were also very much in favor of the fact that it is slowing down traffic and serving its purpose. Ms. Angelides asked if we were going to do this would we have to transfer the funds from pavement preservation, Mr. Pasterczyk stated that Mario Mazza should be notified that this work should be part of the pavement appropriation.
*Mark Gold made a motion to direct the Town Manager to comply with their request to lower the raised crosswalk at Merriweather and Williams Street and pay for it out of available funds. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 2 in favor 3 opposed (Marie Angelides, Richard Foster and Marc Strange). Vote failed.***
*Mark Gold made a motion to direct the Town Manager to put this on the warrant for the next Town Meeting. Marc Strange seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 1 opposed (Richard Foster).***
5. Streetlight Purchase Update – Mr. Gold stated that the subcommittee has met a couple of times and they have had a really great teleconference with the folks from MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Commission). One of the conclusions they have drawn is that there are a couple of different steps in this process. MAPC stated to them that it is important to get a consultant, and it sounds like MAPC is prepared to do a lot of work with us. They also have a new picture of what the next phase is and what it will cost us. Ms. Angelides asked what the next step is, Mr. Gold stated there are a couple of parallel steps, one is going to be to sit down with Eversource and negotiate the price for the purchase of the lights. Ms. Angelides asked if there was a next step deadline. Mr. Strange stated that there are two things that need to be done, one is to purchase the street lights and the next is to design the other lights, this can be done on a parallel basis. We cannot do any installations until the town closes on the lights from Ever Source. The subcommittee will be looking into a consultant.
6. Town Manager Search/Vision/Transition – Ms. Angelides stated that the ad was sent out to everybody, there is no residency requirement. If there are any concerns about the transition, pass them along to Mr. Crane. The first organizational meeting of the Town Manager Search Committee may be in the beginning of August.

New Business

1. Collective Bargaining Agreement Police Supervisors – *Richard Foster made a motion to approve the Police Supervisors contract. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***
2. Fall Town Meeting Article Submission Memo – Mr. Pasterczyk stated that the memo gives the timelines and deadlines for internal departments to submit articles for the Fall Town Meeting and for Citizens petitions. The due date is October 1, 2019.
3. Block Party Approval – *Mark Gold made a motion to approve the block party application for Meadow Road between Pinelawn and Chestnut for August 10, 2019 with no rain date. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***
4. Select Board Liaison Assignments: Marc Strange assigned to MMA, Tom Lachiusa assigned to Scantic Valley Health Trust, Mark Gold assigned to PVTA, Mark Gold assigned to the Tax Ceiling Task Force, Marie Angelides assigned to Council on Aging and Richard Foster assigned to the Permanent Building Committee.
5. Remote Participation – Ms. Angelides stated that the Emergency Meeting on July 7, 2019 was the first time they have participated remotely, and they have never as a Board approved remote participation other than emergency use. Marie Angelides asked if there is a motion to accept remote participation for the Select Board. Mr. Gold stated that the constraints are pretty specific in terms of communication systems what you have to have and the materials that have to be made available to the person

participating remotely. *Richard Foster made a motion to participate in remote participation for emergency purposes only. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

6. Citizen Petition- Ms. Angelides stated that the Select Board received a citizen petition to hold a Special Town Meeting for a bylaw amendment. The Select Board needs to forward the petition to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing. *Mark Gold made a motion to inform the Planning Board that they have to hold a public hearing. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.*** Mr. Pasterczyk asked if they also wanted to put the raised crosswalk on the warrant for this Special Town Meeting. Ms. Angelides stated she is all for it. *Mark Gold made a motion to hold the Special Town Meeting Tuesday August 20th at 7:00 pm contingent upon the availability of the gymnasium and or auditorium at the High School and that the Select Board be informed if it needs to be changed. Marc Strange seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.** (Richard Foster absent at the time of vote).*

Mark Gold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into executive session for the purpose of union negotiation with the possibility of returning into open session. Richard Foster seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mark Gold-YES, Richard Foster-Yes, Marie Angelides-Yes, Marc Strange-YES, Tom Lachiusa-YES.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The regular meeting reopened at 9:20 pm to vote on the Police Supervisors contract.

(See #1 under New Business)

*Richard Foster made a motion to adjourn the open meeting and not return into executive session. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan

Documents: Agenda, Conservation Commission Minutes 5/22/2019, Select Board Liaison assignments, Block party application, STM Article submission, Open Meeting Law Guide, Interim Town Manager resume, Town Manager Report, Crosswalk proposal, Vision request, EWO #2 revised speed ramp, 7/7/2019 Emergency SB Meeting Minutes, 7/1/2019 Regular Select Board Meeting minutes. Police Department June monthly report, Veterans June monthly report, Building Department June monthly report, Finance Department June monthly report, Library June monthly report, Fire Dept. June monthly report, Park and Rec. June monthly report, DPW June monthly report, COA June monthly report, BOH June monthly report, Finance est. receipts, Longmeadow Adult Center two week look ahead schedule, speak outs from Michele Marantz, Deborah Sirulnik and Laurie Robinson.