

Select Board SPECIAL Meeting
Thursday March 21, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

Absent: William Low

Also Present: Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, and Debbie House

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Select Board Chair Mark Gold.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Announcements

1. There will be a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. There is one article on the warrant which is a citizen petition.
2. There will be a public hearing held by the State Energy Siting Committee on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Longmeadow high school regarding Tennessee Gas Pipeline's plans for a metering station at the Longmeadow Country Club. The hearing will be held to hear residents input and concerns.

Residents Comments – none in attendance

FY20 Budget Review

Mr. Gold asked the other Select Board members if they had any comments, questions, and/or suggestions regarding the proposed FY20 budget.

Ms. Angelides would like to see: \$100,000 go towards the design of the Route 5 (Longmeadow Street), \$3,000 to the Cultural Council for additional programs, \$5,000 towards safety MIIA programs, and to expend the 2019 Green Communities funding and apply for more in the next round.

Mr. Foster would like to see: \$550 more to the Conservation Commission to go towards signage. Their budget is currently \$300.

Mr. Gold suggests moving \$16,075 from the Public Safety line item.

Mr. Pasterczyk noted that the free cash going into the Operational Stabilization Fund can be amended down to \$135,000 with \$100,000 going towards the design of Route 5.

Mr. Foster remarked that pavement preservation has not been funded as much as it was last year.

Mr. Pasterczyk stated the liability insurance will not be increasing as much as he anticipated; some of the funds can be used to increase the Cultural Council line item and the Conservation Commission line item.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to appropriate \$100,000.00 towards the design of the Route 5 south end project with funds to be taken from free cash. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to add \$1,000.00 to the Cultural Council budget with funds to be taken from the Liability Insurance line item. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to add \$5,000.00 to the DPW budget for funding of any potential MIIA safety programs with funds to be taken from the Liability Insurance line item. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

After some discussion of safety programs, MIIA, OSHA, training needs, and mandates; it is premature to put funds towards this now until a plan is in place.

Ms. Angelides withdrew her motion.

Mr. Foster believes there is less money going into the pavement line item this year than in the past. More was received from Chapter 90 this year than in the past.

Mr. Foster made a motion to increase the Conservation Commission account by \$500.00 to bring the total up to \$800.00 with the funds to come from the Liability Insurance line item. Ms. Angelides seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Mr. Gold made a motion to reduce protection of persons and property line item budget by \$16,075.00. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Gold derived the \$16,075 by taking the Emergency Management Director salary line from a 450% increase down to an 8% increase. Ms. Angelides clarified that this is a reduction off of the total budget number. Mr. Crane noted that this is about the chiefs' salaries as the other personnel are in unions. Mr. Gold stated that he cannot vote for a budget with an 18% increase for any individual.

The vote was 2 in favor, 2 opposed (Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Angelides) motion failed.

Mr. Foster noted that salaries have had significant increases, and not just the Police and Fire Chiefs salaries. He cannot support this. Mr. Foster says that he has asked for reasons and has not been given an answer. He also does not agree with setting a new chief's salary in alignment with surrounding communities. Pavement funds are down and salaries/benefits keep increasing. Mr. Foster believes he has not been given a justification for the increasing salaries.

Mr. Lachiusa added that there is the liability of losing good employees and he trusts the Town Manager's judgement on this.

Ms. Angelides added that she is disturbed about the increase in salaries over the past two years. She handed out FTE and salary information for the schools and town for the Select Board to review. She believes we have to start looking at saving, keeping the FTE's down and keeping the salary lines down. We need to look at policy and directive changes.

Mr. Crane noted that the town does have a compensation plan: step increases and cost of living increases. These are non-discretionary. Only three people have contracts (town); the Town Manager, Police Chief, and Fire Chief. There are a variety of things looked at when renewing contracts. We need to have a service levels discussion in the future. The MGM money was put into the General Fund because it was required by the DOR to do so.

Mr. Pasterczyk explained his experience with the DOR regarding the MGM money. He also noted that the Town Manager's contract was done on comps and performance. This is exactly what we are talking about with the two chiefs.

Mr. Gold added that this salary discussion is not a discussion of the value or quality of work. It is a conceptual idea of salary administration. We have exceptional employees.

Mr. Foster voiced his concern that the MGM payment was used to pay down the principal on the fire truck. He does not remember this coming to the Select Board for discussion. He may not have been at a meeting where this was discussed.

Mr. Crane noted that there is a list of eligible uses for the MGM money. Response to Rt. 91 is one of them. The money is used in accordance with the requirements.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to accept the FY20 budget with two amendments that total \$1,500.00. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 2 in favor, 2 opposed (Mr. Gold and Mr. Foster) motion failed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to reconsider the \$16,075.00 reduction from the protection of persons and property budget.

Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote was 2 in favor, 2 opposed (Mr. Foster and Mr. Lachiusa) motion failed.

Mr. Lachiusa does not believe the budget should be reduced.

Mr. Foster cannot support the budget with the pay raises.

Mr. Gold is concerned that he is hearing the same arguments now that were used a year ago to support the position of a Deputy Fire Chief to help with additional work and support. Mr. Crane added that the level of output of the Fire Department has gone up, there are more ambulance runs, revenue, record keeping, establishing the MVP...

Mr. Foster made a motion to reconsider the \$16,075.00 reduction from the protection of persons and property line item.

Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote was 2 in favor, 2 opposed (Mr. Lachiusa and Ms. Angelides) motion failed.

Mr. Foster made a motion to reconsider the \$16,075.00 reduction from the protection of persons and property line item.

Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Lachiusa).

Mr. Gold made a motion to reconsider the FY20 Budget as amended (\$69,062,742.00). Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

The vote was 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Lachiusa).

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 7 (FY20 Budget) on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Lachiusa).

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Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 9 (Capital projects) on the warrant. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 10 (Phase 1 North Interceptor) on the warrant. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 11 (Willow Brook Road drainage) on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 12 (Magnolia Circle drainage) on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Mr. Gold made a motion to amend Article 11 and 12 and add "to be paid in the first instance from sewer receipts" to the wording of the article. Ms. Angelides seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place the amended articles 11 and 12 on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 13 (landfill cap) on the warrant with the sum of \$800,000.00. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Number can be amended on the floor of town meeting.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 15 (Wolf Swamp Fields) on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Gold handed out a proposed amendment to the article that states "that the debt incurred from said bond borrowing be paid for by not fewer than nine annual payments to be made 2/3 from the capital stabilization fund and 1/3 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund or other appropriate Community Preservation account, with such payments to begin in fiscal year 2021". Mr. Gold's concern is that only 1/3 of households in town use the fields. Ms. Angelides stated that she will vote against the amendment; the residents should decide.

Mr. Gold made a motion to amend Article 15 per the handout. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote on the amended article was 1 in favor, 3 opposed (Ms. Angelides, Mr. Foster, Mr. Lachiusa); motion failed. The vote on the original motion to place Article 15 on the warrant as submitted was 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Gold).

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 19 (Improvements Williams/Bliss Triangle) on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place Article 4 (FY19 Fire Vehicle Maintenance) on the warrant. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to place a new Article 10 (and renumber the remaining articles) on the warrant for the Route 5 survey in the amount of \$100,000.00. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to amend Article 6 to \$135,000.00. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as completed. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to adjourn the special meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

Documents:

Agenda
Annual Town Meeting Warrant updated 3/18/19