

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday November 4, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

Also, Present: Paul Pasterczyk, Jay Moynihan, Cheryl Cudnik, Jim Leydon, Rebecca Townsend and Jackie Sullivan.

6:30 pm Open Session

Richard Foster made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:30 pm for the purpose of discussing 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, to reconvene to open session. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

The regular Open Session Meeting reconvened at 7:00 pm. Chair Marie Angelides call the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Announcements: Jay Moynihan announced there was a meeting earlier today with regards to the new trash bins. There have been some complaints that the bins are not closing properly, the manufacturer indicated that because it is molded plastic sometimes that will occur, the recommendation is that you heat the plastic with a hairdryer. They also discussed the disposal of the old bin's residents will be able to bring them to the DPW during the week of November 18th, there will be more information on that on the website. Jay Moynihan also reminded residents that the bin themselves were a byproduct of a grant that the town was able to secure, and part of the utilization is that the bins be 35 gallons. Marie Angelides announced that between 11am and 1pm on Veterans Day 11/11/19 there will be a special for Veterans at South of the Border in West Springfield and the Veterans Service Officer Lena will be there, there will also be a special place setting for POW's and MIA'S. Ms. Angelides also announced that the Veterans group will be replaying the recording of the story of Black Hawk Down at the Community House on November 14, 2019 at 1:00pm and at 7:00pm. Paul Pasterczyk announced that the Town Meeting will be tomorrow night, Tuesday November 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the High School in the gymnasium.

Resident comments: Michele Marantz of 117 Rugby Rd. spoke as a concerned resident and as Chair of The Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group. Ms. Marantz stated that over the past 13 months members of the Pipeline Group have made many speak out presentations concerning the proposed metering station and pipeline. At times some of these messages must have been challenging for the Board to hear, but please know that all of their speak outs have been routed in their profound concern for the future of Longmeadow, its residents and our planet. Ms. Marantz would like to thank the Select Board for their unanimous approval of a letter of opposition to the siting of a metering station at the Longmeadow Country Club. Ms. Marantz stated that because of this Congressman Neal and Senators Markey and Warren are now able to join our protest in filing a letter of concern with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These Federal Legislatures now join Senator Lesser and Representative Ashe sending a message of opposition, what impact these letters will have determining the fate of the project remains to be seen, but the town residents now have the comfort of knowing that our officials on a local, state and federal level have significant reservations about the project. Michele Marantz also requested that the Select Board now direct their attention to the anticipated Columbia Gas long range forecast and supply plan that should have been filed with the Department of Public Utilities at the end of October. Ms. Marantz informed the Board that a director of a statewide pipeline oversight agency recently wrote if the Town of Longmeadow has any interest in how Columbia Gas proceeds with expansion plans the Select Board should intervene in this proceeding with an experienced energy attorney and gas market expert. Ms. Marantz asked that they heed this advice and let them know when they have participated in that intervention. Some communities like Northampton, Holyoke and West Springfield are no longer targeted for pipeline expansion and Longmeadow is still targeted for metering station construction and a high-powered pipeline that will run through established neighborhoods according to the updated reliability plan on Columbia Gas's website.

Dan Healy of 130 Academy Drive spoke in reference to the Veterans/Senior tax abatement. Mr. Healy stated that this program allows people like himself to work one hundred hours per year for a reduction of \$900.00 off the property tax, doing the math this works out to be about \$9.00 per hour. Mr. Healy stated that he recently read in the Reminder that other communities pay minimum wage so he was hoping that Longmeadow would consider doing something along those lines.

Select Board Comments:

Richard Foster had an opportunity to speak to Russ Dupere in regard to the concrete foundation issues and was given an update. Mr. Foster stated that they have an active Task Force going and it looks like they will be holding a forum in East Longmeadow late fall or early winter. At this point they are figuring that it is about a thousand homes split between East Longmeadow and Longmeadow that have been affected. There will be more information about this forthcoming. Mare Angelides asked if the Board needed to assign someone else to the Task Force as Stephen Crane used to be on it. Richard Foster stated that the new Town Manager should be assigned to this.

Mark Gold stated he has received several phone calls and emails about the trash barrel situation. Mr. Gold did some research on why this was done, he stated that he knew exactly what he was voting on when voting for the new barrels. Mr. Gold stated there is a tipping fee which is the cost we pay to actually throw things away we pay that to a separate entity and this year we are paying \$293,000.00 that is up 33% from 2017. Mr. Gold stated that when the Recycling Commission did the evaluation, they stated that our disposal materials are increasing, not just the cost but the amount as well. We need to encourage recycling and we have had in place for many years a 35-gallon limit and to enforce that rule, we need to bring the tipping fees under control, at least keep them within budget. One of the ways to do that was to implement this overall limit of 35 gallons per household. Mark Gold empathizes with families who have large households, but the alternative would be raising taxes or move trash disposal out of taxes and charge a fee.

Richard Foster asked how much we are getting back on our recycling. Mark Gold stated that the recycling budget was \$285,000.00 revenue this year from the bulk recycling and curbside recycling broke even.

Richard Foster thanked the Police Department for the excellent work they did on Halloween, up on Farmington there were about 750 children and the police did a wonderful job making sure they were all safe.

Interim Town Manager's Report:

- Jay Moynihan reported that they will be meeting on Wednesday to begin the process to develop the Clerk of the Works.
- They have agreed to a contract for the LED streetlights which is with Tanco this will allow us to utilize Tanco as the project manager for us they will be developing the specs and working with us to do the solicitation both of the streamline and the vendor. The installer is estimated to begin in March. The Metropolitan Planning Commission, through which we will be procuring, is looking for a purchase order to be done by December 31st of this year. They are also doing some work with Ever Source. Procurement wise they are in the process later this month of going out with a vendor who will be maintaining the lights once they have been purchased from Ever Source.
- With regard to the landfill closure, there is a meeting with DEP and the Conservation Commission on Thursday of this week. They are in the process of working with Salt Marsh to get the final documents commenced.
- Jay Moynihan stated that they have not received any further information from the developer regarding DIF relative to the expenditures.
- There is a meeting on Wednesday to discuss MGM. Mr. Moynihan stated there is a requirement that there be a traffic study done 15 months after the commencement of the agreement that was signed, and we are getting close to the 15-month mark.
- Atty General requested another 30 days in regard to the Zoning bylaw.
- West COMM's target date is still December 2, 2019. They have moved forward with notifying the employees.
- Paul Pasterczyk, Chad Thompson and Jay Moynihan met with representatives of the Library to go over the agreement and to ensure a smooth transition. The Library Trustees are going to vote on the agreement November 21st Mr. Moynihan believes.
- Notification was sent regarding the opening ceremony to commemorate the advance warning system on Birnie Ave. That is scheduled for November 15th on site.
- Article 19 on the Board of Election Commissioners, there is another related matter to that. The Board in May of this year appointed a fourth member to the Board of Elections. However, based on the statutes the Election

Commissioners do not begin until April 1st of 2020. So right now, we still have the Board of Registrars. The recommendation is that the fourth member be delayed until April 1, 2020 as per the statute.

- Jay Moynihan informed the Board that he will be in next week, he will be putting together notes including job descriptions for a couple of positions for your consideration.
- Jay Moynihan stated that it has been a pleasure to work with the Select Board, the employees of the town and the citizens.

Richard Foster stated that the Interim Town Manager Jay Moynihan's guidance and knowledge have been exceptional. Mr. Foster believes the Board has grown with his leadership and he really appreciates Jay taking this position and helping them.

Old Business

1. Approve Minutes:

*Mark Gold made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 Public Forum. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstained (Richard Foster was absent)***

*Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the September 28, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. Mark Gold seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***

*Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the October 2, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***

*Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the October 7, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes. Mark Gold seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***

Mark Gold made a motion to approve the October 21, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes.

*Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***

*Mark Gold made a motion to approve the October 24, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. Marc Strange seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstention (Tom Lachiusa absent)***

- #### 2. Final Review FY21 Budget Assumptions per Budget Calendar: Paul Pasterczyk asked if the Board wanted any modifications to the assumptions or the directives that will be going out later this week to the Department Heads. There were no modifications at this time.

New Business

- #### 1. Quarterly Investment Report: Cheryl Cudnik, Town Treasurer and Collector presented the Quarterly Investment Report July through September 2019.

The report read as follows:

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 an eight-million-dollar balance provision according to the Investment Policy.
- All banks again received the highest safety rating of green from Veribanc including Peoples United which was formerly Belmont Savings Bank.
- All accounts are fully insured / secured.
- We had several banks decrease rates this quarter, Peoples United Bank, formerly Belmont Savings Bank reduced rates on our money market account from 2.25% to 1.92%. TD Bank reduced our accounts from 1.76% to 1.55%. Newburyport Savings bank reduced rates on bond proceeds from 2.55% to 1.95%. With the rates decreasing I transferred Bond Proceeds in the amount \$3,698,309 from our Newburyport Savings Bank to Adams Savings that is still receiving a rate of 2.55% to maximize interest earned on bond proceeds.
- 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 September 30th; interest earned on all bond proceeds was \$63,281.86. The interest we earned this quarter on the OPEB Pension Reserves Investment Fund was \$33,141.25. The Town had two deposits to the State Pension Reserve Investment Fund totaling \$2,448,321.23; the balance now in the SRBT is \$2,624,275.21 an increase of \$175,953.98 in earnings since inception.
- The net decrease of \$735,727 in cash and investments for the quarter was a result of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board appropriation payment paid in full of \$3,686,373 and the MIIA Property & Causality Group Inc.

paid in full of \$595,211. Paying these in full in July gave the Town a discounted payment amounts due and saved the Town \$44,702 for the HCRRB payment and a savings of \$20,210 for the MIIA payment.

- 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. **Fall Town Meeting/Moderator Discussion:** Rebecca Townsend, Town Moderator announced that students from Glenbrook and Williams Middle School will be attending town meeting as part of the new civics law for their Social Studies class. There will be a section on the bleachers devoted to approximately 200 middle schoolers. Ms. Townsend spoke to citizen petitioners and reviewed the procedures with them. Ms. Townsend has also reviewed presentations, the due date for submitting presentations was Saturday November 2nd and she has forwarded the presentations to the IT Department. Rebecca Townsend stated spoke to Attorney Belcher-Timme in reference to Article 17 and 18, and because the Community Preservation has not met or voted to approve these two articles therefore the mandatory conditions have not been met so if the affirmative motions on these articles are made, she would have to rule the motion out of order. Ms. Townsend stated that an option would be for whoever is making the motion to make a motion to take no action. There are two Articles that require a two-thirds majority vote, Articles 14 and 15. Ms. Townsend also stated that Article 5 requires a 9/10th vote. Paul Pasterczyk commented that on Article 15 he would like to delete the two words after the two million and add to appropriate such funds for completing.
 3. **Senior/Veteran Abatement Policy Review:** Jim Leyden, Executive Director Council on Aging, spoke on the Senior/Veteran policy review. Mr. Leyden stated that they are just getting the applications ready for this year, he put some information in the packet as to where we stand with our volunteer hours, the rate and the abatement per household. Some people have inquired about possibly raising the rates. Mr. Leyden presented the Board with information on how we compare with other cities and towns, Jim Leyden stated that this is a very valuable program and we get a lot of use out of the volunteers who participate, and they are happy to administer the program. Longmeadow does 100 hours per year at \$9.00 per hour, so someone who participates in the program gets about \$900.00 off their Real Estate taxes. Some examples of what other towns do; East Longmeadow does 125 hours at an hourly rate of \$12.75 so their abatement is nearly \$1,600.00, Hampden is \$1,500.00, Northampton is \$1,500.00, West Springfield is \$1,250.00 and Wilbraham is about \$1,125.00. Mr. Leyden stated that a lot of this has to do with the amount of people the city or town has signed up for the program. Marie Angelides asked how many people we have signed up. Jim Leyden stated this past year we had 13 and we can have a maximum of 20. Mark Gold asked is it because people do not know about this or is it the income level. Mr. Leyden feels the income level eligibility may be a factor, and we could also do a better job at spreading the word about this program. Mark Gold stated that it looks like some of the other towns do not have the income eligibility. Jim Leyden stated that the towns that do not do it off a lottery system. Richard Foster stated that 70% do not have income eligibility and asked Mr. Leyden what his feelings were on that. Jim Leyden stated they are seeing numbers dropping so maybe the income eligibility does have something to do with it. Paul Pasterczyk feels the program was put in place for those who need it the most. Paul Pasterczyk would suggest doing the first round based on income and then do a secondary based on a lottery pick. Mark Gold feels that Paul has a good idea and we can also do what Tom Lachiusa would like to do which is to make sure that people who need it the most get it. Marie Angelides asked Jim Leyden if he had any recommendations, Mr. Leyden stated that he feels the program is done right as far as the amount of lots that are open and he believes the 100 hours are fair, he would consider raising the rate possibly to minimum wage. *Mark Strange made a motion to increase the rate to whatever the minimum wage is on January 1, 2020. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.** Mark Gold made a motion to increase the number of hours worked from 100 hours a year to 125 hour per year. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.** Mark Gold made a motion to budget for 20 slots, give it to the people who need it first and then have a lottery for the people who have income up to the 1.5 the Massachusetts regulation allows until the extent of the budget. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***
Jim Leyden gave a quick update on how the Adult Center is going, Mr. Leyden stated that the progress has been excellent there has been a lot of activity there and a lot of interest from their patrons about what is going on, patrons are able to see the progress on a daily basis. Jim Leyden stated they are happy with the project up to this point there has not been any issues. Marybeth Bergeron updated the Board on how the fundraising was going.

Marybeth Bergeron stated that so far, they have raised about \$350,000.00. They are going to be more visible in the upcoming months. There are a lot of things that are not included in the budget and these funds will be used for that.

4. **Calendar Year Fees Review:** Paul Pasterczyk recommended that all Departments look at their fees for the upcoming year. The final outcome of that will be forthcoming, the departments will review the fees and make recommendations for a future Select Board meeting. Paul Pasterczyk will recommend that departments do some surveying with other towns to make sure they are in line with other communities.
5. **DPW Borrowing - Debt Exclusion determination by DOR:** Paul Pasterczyk stated there has not been much talk about the 1.3 million, whether it is going to debit exclusion or not. Paul Pasterczyk provided the Board with a DOR information of guidelines release and he has the information into the DOR with regard to the DE2 form and has had some conversations with them. If there is customary inflation that is involved with these certain projects, in our case there have been some environmental issues, if those meet their guidelines than it would avoid having to go back to the ballot box to have 1.3 million dollars be debt excluded. Mr. Pasterczyk stated that in the absence of a favorable response from the DOR then this would not be a debit exclusion. Paul Pasterczyk expects to have an answer from the DOR tomorrow.
6. **Sign Request/First Church Christmas Fair:** *Mark Gold made a motion to approve the sign request for First Church Christmas Fair, one at the North end of Route 5 and one at the South end of Route 5, from November 30, 2019 to December 7, 2019 as requested. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***
7. **First Church Breakfast with Santa:** *Mark Gold made a motion to approve the placement of a sign for the First Church Breakfast with Santa, from December 8th through December 14, 2019 to be placed at the North end of Longmeadow and the South end of Longmeadow. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***

Subcommittee Reports: None

Richard Foster stated that Interim Town Manager Jay Moynihan's guidance and knowledge have been exceptional. Mr. Foster believes the Board has grown with his leadership and he really appreciates Jay taking this position and helping them.

*Mark Gold made a motion to adjourn. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.***
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Sullivan

Documents: 5a IGR 02=101 Debt Exclusions, 5 DOR Debt Excl Determination, 6 Sign request First Church Christmas, 6a Sign request Breakfast with Santa First Church, 3 Abatement prog. Analysis, 1b Pension reserves Investment, 1a Investment Policy qrtly report, 1SB 1P qtr report cover, Cons Comm minutes 9/25/2019, COA Meeting minutes 9/19/19, Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes July 2, 2019, Interim Town Managers Report, Comcast 10/9/19, Comcast 10/15/19, Agenda, Budget Calendar Draft, Budget Assumptions Draft FY21, Select Board Draft Minutes 9/28/19 Interviews, 10/24/19, 10/2/19, 10/7/19 Regular Meeting Drafts and 9/25/19 public forum draft minutes, Announcement Rail Crossing and Speak Out to Select Board 11/4/19 from Michele Marantz.