

Minutes
Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday January 7, 2008
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm

Chair Person Hal Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Select Board Persons Hal Haberman, Paul Santaniello, Kathleen Grady, William Scibelli and Brian Ashe.

Also Present (as signed in): Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners; Town Engineer T. Martens; UPS M. Annulli; S. Scriver Sr.; G. Nolet; Finance Director P. Pasterczyk; Department of Public Works Director M. Wrabel; J. Occhiuti and C. Freedman.

Announcements: The Longmeadow Select Board is seeking interested residents to fill new vacancies on the following boards: Board of Health, Planning Board, Audit Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Historic District Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Applicants are required to submit an application by 4:00 pm January 15, 2008.

Acceptance of Minutes – Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to accept the Monday December 17, 2007 Regular Meeting Notes as presented. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:01 pm Visitor Comment and Questions

- Mr. S. Dowd addressed the Select Board regarding his water bill and asked what went wrong.
- Mr. C. Wright addressed the Select Board regarding his water bill and asked if separate meters could be an option for lawn and garden water use.
- The owner operator of Friendly's located at the Longmeadow Shops, S. Scriver, addressed the Select Board regarding his water bill for the restaurant.
- Mr. J. Occhiuti asked the Select Board when **Consent Agenda** items are discussed on their agendas, open session or executive session. He also inquired as to the posting of Executive Session minutes.
- Mr. C. Freedman read his recommendations to the Select Board regarding the water and sewer rates.

7:12 pm UPS Request for Drop Box – Mr. Mark Annulli, UPS Sales and Support Representative, asked for the Select Boards approval to place a UPS drop box at 153 Longmeadow Street. Chair Person Hal Haberman asked if this was a direct result of requests by the residents of Longmeadow; it was not. UPS is interested in this location based on demographics and for convenient off-street parking for safe access to the box. Select Board Persons Kathleen Grady and Paul Santaniello agree that the box is in direct violation of Longmeadow's bylaws and should not be allowed. After some discussion, Chair Person Hal Haberman suggested that Mr. Annulli gather more information from residents and speak with the owners of the property to see if other options are available to him. Select Person William Scibelli requested that the Town bylaw and the Select Board's policy on that bylaw

appear on a future agenda for discussion so that the two will conform to each other.

Old Business

- 1. Water and Sewer Rates – 7:57 pm** – Chair Person Hal Haberman opened the discussion reviewing his proposed 28% increase on water, sewer and the sewer cap that he presented at the Special Meeting last Thursday. He stated that this proposal would be fair for all residents and businesses, it includes a voluntary water conservation effort and some type of refund for the residents of Longmeadow. It does not include any future capital needs. Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk and Department of Public Works Director Mike Wrabel were available for comments or questions. Select Person Kathleen Grady wanted to make some points very clear. The decision made this evening is only in effect for the next six (6) months and will have no effect on the FY09 budget. Any type of refund voted on will not be paid until it is voted on at Town Meeting and all water bills must be paid immediately and in full. She shared that the highest water consumption during this period was 913 HCF's or 3,742 Gallons of water per day. She added that the State is in processes of mandating water conservation and has a goal of 80 gallons of water per person per day. Exceeding this limit will result in fees and fines payable to the State. Dr. Grady stressed that Longmeadow needs to start looking seriously at water conservation. She added that the Town of Longmeadow uses more water than any other Town in Western Massachusetts. The Select Board agreed that the need for a substantial rate increase was a direct result of seven years of no water rate increases, and one year when the rates were decreased. Select Person Paul Santaniello added that the removal of the cut off on the sewer cap also contributed. The Select Board is grateful for the patience of the residents during this situation and is hopeful that this vote will provide some relief to everyone. They reiterated that this is a six month fix and rates will be re-examined for the next budget period. Select Person William Scibelli made the following motion:

These changes are effective only for second cycles 1-6 of Fiscal Year 2008 – January 2008 through June 2008:

Water Rate = \$1.70

Sewer Rate = \$2.05

Semi-annual Sewer Rate Cut-off = 110 HCF

All bills presently issued are due and payable. Overdue bills are subject to interest of 12% plus other charges, under Massachusetts General Laws. Failure to pay may result in shut-off of service or placing a lien on the property.

All bills in this new cycle will be due and payable in 30 days from bill date, as has been past practice.

Residents will receive sewer refunds for bills issued between July 1 and December 31, 2007 if their usage is in excess of the above adopted semi-annual cut-off. Sewer refunds in excess of \$25.00 will be automatically processed after the 2008 Annual Town Meeting provided that funding is appropriated at said meeting. Balances under \$25.00 will be credited toward the next billing cycle. There will be no refunds on commercial or institutional accounts, if those accounts had no prior sewer cut-offs.

Refunds or abatements to historic usage on water bills will be processed if residents provide written proof that leaks in homes or irrigation systems have been identified and repaired. Otherwise, there will be no water refunds as a result of these rate changes.

Residents are further requested to voluntarily limit consumption of water.

Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. A roll call vote: P. Santaniello – YES; K. Grady – YES; H. Haberman – YES; B. Ashe – YES; W. Scibelli – YES. The motion passed 5:0.

2. ***Capital Improvements Budget Policy- 7:37 pm*** – Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to adopt the Capital Improvement Budget Policy as presented. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
3. ***Polling Locations – 7:40 pm*** - Town Clerk, Katherine Ingram, provided the Select Board with a report detailing why a second polling location is needed in Town. Select Person Kathleen Grady assisted with the report and made the presentation to the Board. The Board members have concerns with cost, the safety of the children in daycare during those hours and confusion for residents. Select Person Paul Santaniello stated that to his knowledge no one has been turned away from voting at the Community House. Chair Person Hal Haberman agrees with the second polling location, but only for Presidential elections, he does not feel there is a need for a second location for Town Elections, however; this is not possible. After much discussion Chair Person Hal Haberman asked to table the topic for future discussions so that members of the Board could personally see the layout at the Greenwood Center. Everyone agreed.
4. ***Discussion – February 19 Meeting Date - 7:26 pm-*** After some discussion the Select Board agreed that the meeting date will not change. Select Person Paul Santaniello will not be in attendance at that meeting.

New Business

1. ***Set Annual Town Election Date – June 10th – 7:27 pm*** – Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to hold the Annual Town Election on June 10, 2008. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
2. ***PVPC Clean Energy Plan – 7:50 pm*** – Town Manager Robin Crosbie presented the Select Board with memorandum from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) requesting the local support and involvement in implementing the region's *Just*

– *Completed Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan.* Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to authorize the memorandum from the PVPC requesting the local support and involvement in implementing the region’s *Just – Completed Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan.* Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman opened the topic for discussion. Select Person Paul Santaniello cautioned the Select Board to carefully read what was before them prior to voting. He pointed out that the memorandum of agreement included a line stating that the Select Board would be agreeing to, “...*adopt and work cooperatively to implement the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan...*” a plan that they did not have an opportunity to review, and have no idea what financial obligations or changes in Town policies that would require. Therefore; Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to table the item until this document can be received and reviewed by the Select Board. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

3. ***Discussion – Regional Select Board Meetings 7:28 pm-*** Chair Person Hal Haberman feels that Regional meetings are useful only if there are specific topics to be discussed. Town Manager Robin Crosbie mentioned that upcoming pension discussions would be a topic that other Towns will be facing and may be interested in meeting as a group to discuss. Select Person Kathleen Grady stated that she would organize a Regional Meeting for the purpose of discussing Pensions. Select Person Paul Santaniello suggested that other topics could be on the agenda focusing on issues such as State Mandates that the groups could work together.
4. ***Principal Search 7:36 pm*** –The Select Board received an official notice from Jahn Hart, Superintendent of Schools, that the Principal of Wolf Swamp Road Elementary School will be retiring at the end of this school year. Ms. Hart asked if the Select Board was interested in appointing a parent / community member to the Wolf Swamp Elementary School Principal Search Committee. After some discussion the Select Board appointed Select Person Paul Santaniello to the Search Committee.

Consent Agenda – None this evening

8:59 pm Correspondence – Select Person Paul Santaniello mentioned a memo sent to the Conservation Commission from Town Manager Robin Crosbie concerning some land that a resident has offered to the Conservation Commission. He has a big concern with taking taxable property and giving it to Conservation at this time. Town Manager Robin Crosbie stated that the information was passed onto the Conservation Commission and the Select Board as a consideration and a response to a letter she received regarding the issue. The Town has no plans or is able to purchase any land at this time.

8:54 pm Select Board Reports – Select Person Paul Santaniello announced that the Select Board will be holding it’s first Public Forum on January 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Greenwood Center. The topic will be Finances. Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk will be attending; members of the Finance Committee and the Assessor have been invited to attend. Select Person Paul Santaniello will be contacting LCTV to see if the event can be televised.

8:56 pm Town Manager's Report –

- Town Manager Robin Crosbie announced that it's time for Resident of the Year nominations. The Select Board welcomes recommendations from residents.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie is pleased to announce that the Town of Longmeadow will be receiving an award from the MIAA for loss control efforts. She added that the Select Board can expect substantial dividends due to risk management policies adopted by Town and School Departments.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie is aware that the email operations have been down for most of the week. It is believed that the problem stemmed from the existing five year old software. The Information Technology department is installing new software and expanding the systems capacity for storage. She apologized for the interruption in communication service and added that she has asked that a software and hardware replacement schedule be created so replacements can be anticipated rather than reacting to situations caused by obsolete software.

Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary