

**Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Monday March 19, 2007
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm**

*This meeting is dedicated to Gilbert Lefkovich
1930-2007*

The Select Board thanks him for his years of service and sends condolences to his family.

Chair Person Brian Ashe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Also Present (as signed in): Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners; School Committee C. Swanson, School Committee M. Vogel; J. Duquette; T. Neylon; B. Neylon; Finance Committee G. Nolet; Department of Public Works M. Wrabel; Z. Mirkin; C. Saltzman; C. Marchese; C. Tayler; S. Smith; J. Murphy; G. Scibelli; D. Nadeau; J. McAdow; M. Nolan; S. Stelzer; M. Behiveau; S. Quirk; V. Levsky; F. Criss; E. Aseltine and M. Barry.

Chairman Brian Ashe opened the meeting with a moment of silence in respect for Gilbert “Gil” Lefkovich, Director of LCTV, who passed away over the weekend. The thoughts and prayers of the community are with Gil’s family.

Announcements:

- A reminder to residents that March 23rd is the last day to obtain nomination papers for Town Elections.
- There will be a forum on Local Aid with State Senator Gale Candaras and Representative Mary Rogeness, Thursday April 12, 2007; 7:00 pm at the Longmeadow High School Auditorium.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Saturday May 19, 2007 starting at 7:00 am – 11:00 am in celebration of the Community House. Volunteers are needed to pre-sell tickets and help at the event. Please call Bari Thomas at 567-4160. You may also call Bari for sponsorship information.

Acceptance of Minutes: Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to accept the Minutes of the March 5, 2007, Regular Meeting Notes as presented. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:04 pm Visitor Comment/Question Period-

- Jerry Nolet from the Finance Committee and liaison to the Select Board, wished to brief the Select Board regarding the recent 3:3 vote on the FY08 proposed budget. As a result of the tie vote the Chair called for another meeting to be held this evening, so the committee could vote again. He informed the Select Board that his understanding regarding the three members who voted against the proposed budget and for adding \$500,000 to the School’s budget; are doing so to reward the School Committee for a job well done. He and the two other board members, who voted in

support of the Town Manager's proposed balanced budget, believe that it is the charge of the Finance Committee not to reward others but to support and present a balanced budget to the residents of Longmeadow that fit the Towns current needs.

- Resident, Mark Beliveau, shared his concern that the School Committee will have to lay off teachers to make up for the \$500,000 if it is not allocated at this time.
- Mary Vogel, Chair of the School Committee, clarified that the SPED expenses included in their budget are known and that expenses for next year are unknown but will be increasing.
- Resident, Fran Cress, inquired what the percent increase is between the school budget from FY07 and FY08. Town Manager Robin Crosbie said the increase was about 2.3 %.

7:26 pm Bay State Environmental Consultants-Petition for Roadway Improvements on Dwight Road- Jeffrey LeBeau Jr., Project Engineer from Baystate Environmental Consultants, gave an overview of the proposed project to the Select Board. Mr. Rajat Mathur, a consulting engineer from Purcell Associates, gave a detailed report of the proposed changes on Dwight Road. Following some discussion Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to grant the petition for road improvements pursuant to the plan presented to the Select Board. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:45 pm Discussion – Greenacre Drainage Options- The Select Board has already approved the use of Chapter 90 money to fund the drainage replacement on Greenacre. Mr. Michalski feels the Select Board should consider bonding through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) which would require Town Meeting Action. Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk believes that the loan makes sense at 2% interest, only if there is immediate use for the freed up Chapter 90 monies. Select Person Paul Santaniello feels very strongly that the Town of Longmeadow should not be held responsible for the repairs to the drainage system as the condition of the pipes should have been addressed by the engineers prior to starting the project. Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Select Person Kathleen Grady reminded the Board of the video taken of the pipes prior to the start of the project. The video clearly showed the poor condition of the pipes prior to construction and because of that, the construction company cannot be held responsible. After much discussion Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to increase the current authorization from \$4.1 million to \$4.55 million for the Greenacre Drainage Options. Select Person Hal Haberman seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion passed 4:1. B. Ashe – YES, W. Scibelli-YES, H. Haberman-YES, K. Grady-YES and P. Santaniello-NO.

Old Business:

8:15 pm Set Annual Town Meeting Warrant- The Select Board discussed the articles presented on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. After much discussion Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to set the April 24, 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as submitted by the Town Manager. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

8:30 pm Vote of FY08 Budget- The Select Board discussed the proposed balanced budget presented by Town Manager Robin Crosbie. At the Finance Committee budget hearing, the Town Manager, Finance Director, DPW Director and Dr. Grady answered questions about the town budget. The School Committee requested an additional \$500,000 for Special Education (SPED) costs. The budget vote of the Finance Committee was tied with one member absent. After much discussion Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to include the requested \$500,000 to the School Department's budget now.

Chair Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Select Person Paul Santaniello and Select Person Kathleen Grady reminded the Select Board that next year the School Committee will be \$500,000 off in their budget as this \$500,000 is a one time funding from free cash and will not to be added into their base. The discussion continued. The Select Board wants to see more concrete numbers from the School Committee regarding SPED numbers. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion was denied 3:2. B. Ashe – YES, W. Scibelli-NO, H. Haberman-YES, K. Grady-NO and P. Santaniello-NO. Select Person Paul Santaniello stated that he supports the creation an Executive Committee to assist with budget issues. Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the proposed balanced budget presented by Town Manager Robin Crosbie. Select Person Kathy Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) - Action / Discussion 8:50 pm- Select Person Paul Santaniello requested that a vote not be taken to make appointments to the CPC at this time. He feels strongly that the positions should be re-posted to find a more diverse group of applicants. Select Person Hal Haberman felt that the individuals that applied were qualified for the positions he was not comfortable tossing them aside looking for different people. Other members of the Select Board agreed. There was some discussion regarding a nomination from the Finance Committee. It is recommended in the by-law that one of the four members appointed by the Select Board be from the Finance Committee, it is not required. After some discussion Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to appoint William Hoff and Arlene Miller to two year terms and Dennis Egan Jr. and Rebecca Townsend to one year terms on the Community Preservation Committee. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion passed 4:1. B. Ashe – YES, W. Scibelli-YES, H. Haberman-YES, K. Grady-YES and P. Santaniello-NO.

2. Appoint Republican Registrar of Voters 7:24 pm- Chair Person William Scibelli made a motion to appoint Gerard A. Nolet, of 724 Frank Smith Road, to fill the vacancy, as requested by the Republican Town Committee, on the Longmeadow Board of Registrars. Select Person Hal Haberman seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Memorial Service Speaker 7:23 pm- It was decided that Chair Person Brian Ashe will speak at the Memorial Service associated with Long Meaddowe Days.

4. Council on Aging Van 9:00 pm- Diane Nadeau addressed the Select Board on behalf of the Longmeadow Adult Center Board of Directors, regarding notification they received from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) that the Town of Longmeadow was selected to receive a vehicle from their fleet of Dial-A-Ride vans. The FOLOCA Board and Council on Aging Board have agreed to financially support the cost of operating of the van. The Town will include the van in their fleet program for insurance. After little discussion Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to accept the van donation by PVTA to the Longmeadow Senior Center. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda: None at this time.

9:05 pm Correspondence-

- Select Person Kathleen Grady mentioned that the Town of Longmeadow's application for Tree City USA was approved.
- The resignation of David Appleman from the Board of Park Commissioners was mentioned.

Select Board Reports –

- Select Person Paul Santaniello wanted to announce that the Forum on Local Aid is a direct result of the Strategic Plan Forum that was held on March 8, 2007.
- Select Person Paul Santaniello was expecting an updated finalized proposal regarding tent city at this meeting and also asked that the School Committee be officially notified because the buses will be loaded on school grounds. Town Manager Robin Crosbie will have the finalized proposal at the next meeting.

9:07 pm Town Manager's Report- Town Manager Robin Crosbie wished to discuss in more detail the creation of an Executive Committee for the purpose of budget discussions. Select Person Paul Santaniello stated that he supports the creation an Executive Committee as long as the Select Board has the power to appoint its members. This topic will be scheduled for discussion at the next meeting.

Executive Session: None scheduled at this time.

Select Person Paul Santaniello made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person Hal Haberman seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary