

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Tuesday – September 26, 2006
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm

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

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

Also Present: Town Manager Robin Crosbie, J. Occhiuti, A. Miller and R. Wojcik

Announcements- Chair Person Brian Ashe read the following announcement:

First, I would like to thank everyone that offered me support prior to the election in my bid to become your State Senator, including the Select Board, but more so for the encouragement and kind words after the election. It has been my privilege and honor to serve the Town of Longmeadow and I thank you for allowing me to do so and I look forward to continuing in that effort.

On behalf of the Longmeadow Select Board and Town Manager I want to apologize to our voters and candidates for the conduct of the election on Tuesday September 19th. Errors in planning, performance, and judgment contributed to delayed reporting of results. Longmeadow residents as well as residents of surrounding communities, and the candidates themselves, deserve better than this.

It is our duty to conduct elections that conform to the highest principles of openness and access, and follow the requisite procedures in a manner that engenders trust in the voting public. We failed the voters and the candidates last week, and I want to give you my assurance that these errors will not be repeated, and that in the future votes will be tallied and reported accurately before election workers go home.

This was an extremely unfortunate event but I would like to re-assure voters that the final tally of votes was correct, and that the vote count itself was accurate.

We are continuing to investigate this matter internally and we will not stop until all questions are answered, all problems are solved and all persons involved are dealt with accordingly.

7:06 pm Acceptance of Minutes: Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2006 Regular Meeting notes with the amendment and one correction from Select Person Kathleen Grady. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:07 pm Visitor Comment/Question Period (10 minutes total time limit)

- Joe Occhiuti shared a concern with the Select Board regarding their meeting times and dates and those of the School Committee. Residents of Longmeadow are unable to view / attend the meeting because they are at the same time. In the past the boards have had alternate meeting dates. Select Person Kathleen Grady addressed the matter stating that the Select Board meeting dates were set in April and the School Committee was tardy

getting their dates in. The Select Board members have already adjusted their schedules for their meetings as well as the School Committee so changes cannot be made. She is hoping that the meeting dates will sort out as time goes on.

- Roger Wojcik read a statement to the Select Board regarding the recent decision to approve the request from Bay Path College to build a structure on the tree belt. He reminded the Select Board that the by-laws appear to mandate that no such construction is allowed and that the “Select Board shall cause the laws and orders for the government of the Town to be enforced.” He officially requested that the Select Board make a formal review of the legality of its decision to allow such construction, including obtaining a written statement from either our Town Council or the attorney general addressing this issue and complete this work and report back to your constituents at a future Select Board meeting no more than three weeks from tonight.
- Arleen Miller joined the Select Board to “Talk Trash”. She shared a report with the Select Board with recent results from the new trash policy. There has been a 105.4 ton reduction in trash which equals \$7,723 in money saved and an increase of 54.09 tons of recyclables which equals \$5,570 earned. Bag revenue is \$28,644 to date, however bag sales have decreased since the implementation of the plan as expected. In summary total cash flow, year to date, including bag revenue is \$55,086. The program is a success by all accounts and Arleen congratulated the Select Board and the residents of Longmeadow on a job well done.

7:21 pm Verizon Petition Hearing - Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to open the Hearing for the Verizon Petition. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion and the hearing was opened. Mr. Albert Bessette Jr., Right of Way Manager for Verizon, addressed the Select Board regarding the request for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits and manholes, with the wires and cables to be placed therein, under the surface of Rugby Road and Ellington Road. He also asked for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, manholes cables and wires for the purpose of making connections with the poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes. The plan is marked – Verizon No. 9ACGHR dated August 18, 2006. Elizabeth and Tom Hollar attended the meeting to insure that Verizon would fix any destruction to their property in the manner to which they see fit. In the past Verizon did repair a section of their driveway however not to the satisfaction of the Hollar’s . Select Person Hal Haberman reminded Mr. Bessette that taking care of the residents of Longmeadow would be in his best interest. He asked Mr. and Mrs. Hollar to inform the Select Board if they were not pleased with repairs to their property. Select Person Paul Santaniello inquired if the problems could be fixed by using the existing cables. There is concern that getting to the cables would violate residents of Longmeadow much more than digging, as access is needed in many back yards with patio’s landscaping and other things in the way. Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion that the petition be granted to Verizon. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and motion carried unanimously. Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to close the hearing. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion. The hearing was closed.

7:35 pm Omnipoint – Discussion on Tower Land – Attorney Simon Birghenti gave a detailed description of the proposal T-Mobile has to enlarge their service area. He pointed out that some parcels of land are not useable because they are conservation land or have streams. T-Mobile is seeking permission to build the tower on private property. Select Person William Scibelli stated that the Select Board must rule out all public land prior to allowing a permit to be pulled for construction on private property. The Select Board requested more information regarding what T-Mobil’s requirements are to build the tower, such as exact size, height, how deep the foundation needs to be etc. Town Manager Robin Crosbie will check on two areas of land in

Town and work with an engineer from T-Mobile to see if those parcels will work. The item will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

8:04 pm Vacancy Applicant Interviews – The following individuals were present at the Select Board meeting to introduce themselves and answer any questions the Select Board had regarding their applications.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Denise Appleman, James Brennan, Anthony Santaniello and Deane Yesu.

Audit Committee: Glenn Rosenberg

Cultural Council: Gary Lacy and Dr. Nancy Marshall

Historic District Commission: Diane Nadeau.

Donna Durocher, David Kowarsky and Crystal Diamond were absent.

Select Person William Scibelli requested that the residents of Longmeadow share their opinions about the applicants and also requested that the Chairs of each Commission or Committee become involved as well. The Select Board will vote at the next meeting to appoint the candidates.

Old Business: None at This Time

8:28 pm New Business:

1. **Close STM Warrant** – Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Town Manager Robin Crosbie reminded the Select Board that at the next meeting they will vote to set the warrant and set a start time for the Special Town Meeting. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and motion carried unanimously.

2. **Omnipoint Contract for Water Tower Lease 8:35 pm-** Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to approve the Omnipoint Cell Tower lease agreement. Select Person Hal Haberman seconded the motion. The topic was opened for discussion. Select Person Paul Santaniello asked if there was a deadline in which Omnipoint must exercise the lease option. After one year, they must get approval again from the Select Board. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

8:40 pm Consent Agenda:

Request to Close Road – IFO Center School- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

8:41 pm Correspondence- None at this time.

8:41 pm Select Board Reports –Select Person Kathleen Grady announced a Town Forum will be held on Thursday October 12, 2006 7:00 pm at the Community House. All are welcome to attend. There will be a presentation and a discussion on emergency preparedness in the community.

8:43 pm Town Manager's Report- Town Manager Robin Crosbie ensured the residents and the Select Board that she is following up with the election issues. The Department of Public Works has filled three of their open positions. Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Select Person Kathleen Grady will be attending the Audit Committee meeting on October 2, 2006. She requested the time for the scheduled meeting with the Finance and School Committee for Thursday September 28th be moved to 7:30 pm because of Open House at some of the schools and conflicts with sports schedules. The Parks and Recreation Department will be receiving an

award for their Boundless Playground. Town Manager Robin Crosbie also mentioned that the Massachusetts office of Travel and Tourism approved the Town of Longmeadow a \$100,000 grant. This money will be used for improvements to the Town's buildings such as the Community House.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Executive Session – None Scheduled

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary