

**Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Monday – December 5, 2005
Police Station Community Room
7:00 p.m.**

Chair Person John Papale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also Present (signed in): Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Park Commissioners; Park and Recreation Department members: A. Mazur, J. Threlfall, D. Yesu, Bari Thomas, D. Appleman, R. Mardiere, K. Ziba, A. Manewich, B. Thomas, R.A. Marchese, A. Manewich; Finance Committee Member G. Nolet; Treasurer/Collector M. Pequignot; Acting Finance Director P. Pasterczyk; Director of Public Works M. Wrabel; Assessor R. Leclair; Town Counsel D. Martel; Tax Assessor J. Fein; Superintendent of Schools S. AndersEn; School Committee Chairman J. Nittoli; C. Rowell from Unibank; and D. Oleksak from the Longmeadow News.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the November 21, 2005 Regular Meeting notes were accepted with one correction.

7:02 p.m. Visitor Comments and Questions

- The Park & Recreation Department was present to share the Outstanding Agency Award they received for Maintenance Innovation from the State of Massachusetts. Longmeadow was one, of only a few Towns, to receive this prestigious award in Western Massachusetts. Superintendent of Park and Recreation Mike McCarty extended his thanks and recognized everyone in the Department who worked so hard over the last two years making this award possible. The Select Board congratulated the Park and Recreation Department on a job well done and thanked them for attending the meeting and sharing their accomplishments with the Board and the residents of Longmeadow.
- Financial Committee Liaison, Gerry Nolet, commented on the incredible performance held on Sunday at the Community House. He shared his views on keeping the single tax rate for the Town of Longmeadow and urged the Select Board to announce a dollar amount needed from the Stabilization Fund prior to the Special Town Meeting on December 6, 2005.
- Mr. David Leslie, an eight (8) year resident of Longmeadow, representing the Chamber of Commerce, provided the Select Board with a detailed report outlining his views on keeping the single tax rate for the Town of Longmeadow.

7:14 p.m. Center School Refinancing

Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to authorize refunding the Center School bond. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. The topic was opened for discussion. Mr. Clark Rowell of Unibank and Acting Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk explained to the Select Board that the refunding of bonds would save the Town between \$220,000 and \$270,000. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

7:30 p.m. Tax classification Hearing

Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to establish the tax rate at a factor of 1.0 and maintain a single tax rate. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion; the topic was open for discussion. The Town Assessor Robert Leclair made a presentation to the Select Board reflecting the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to set a single tax rate. After little discussion, Chair Person John Papale stated that businesses may be better able to handle a tax increase more than the residents of Longmeadow; he is in favor of a split tax rate. Select Person Brian Ashe interjected that the rate increase on businesses would ultimately be passed on to consumers therefore creating an increase for the residents anyway. Select Person Kathleen Grady said that because the percentage of increase this year will be about the same for businesses and residents, she supports a single rate. Chair Person John Papale called a vote, the motion passed four (4) in favor one (1) against.

7:43 p.m. School Committee- Discussion of Consolidation

The purpose of this meeting was to kick off discussion of the consolidation of building and grounds for the School Committee into the Department of Public Works as well as Finance consolidation. The School Committee presented the Select Board with preliminary organizational charts outlining what their thoughts were as to the reorganization while making sure that all department needs are being met. The Financial side has been in the works since June 2005; the consolidation of the Department of Public Works is much more complex and is in beginning stages. The Select Board had a few questions and discussions took place. Select Person William Scibelli raised questions regarding the feasibility of financing the consolidation of the Department of Public Works / School Maintenance Departments in view of the cuts to the School Maintenance budget since consolidation was first considered by the Charter Commission. Additionally, he aired concerns over the proposed flow chart showing individuals with multiple bosses. Select Person Hal Haberman stated that the main goal is for the consolidation to work for both parties; he would rather it take longer and have it done right. Town Manager Robin Crosbie stressed that she feels a meeting *must* take place with line people from the School side and the Town side to gain specific information about what they need. It was decided a meeting would take place within the next ten (10) days and an update would be discussed at the next Select Board meeting on December 19, 2005.

8:45 p.m. Old Business

- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to elect Alice Hoffman to the Council on Aging Board of Directors. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote the motion passes unanimously.
- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to elect David Lavenburg to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to approve the list of eleven (11) current liquor license holders. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote the motion passed unanimously.

8:46 p.m. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Contract for Wheelmeadow Brook Sewer Engineering Services
2. Approval of Clerical Workers collective Bargaining Agreement
3. One-day Liquor License Application

Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote the motion passed unanimously.

8:46 p.m. Correspondence

None at this time.

8:36 p.m. Select Board Reports

Select Person William Scibelli read from the Warrant as follows: \$463,448.95 will be allotted to reimburse the Public Works Department for expenses related to the heavy rains and flooding and subsequent damage to Longmeadow Roads and Facilities at the Special Town Meeting Tuesday December 6, 2006.

Chair Person John Papale reminded the residents of the importance of attending the Special Town Meeting December 6, 2005 at 7:30 in the Longmeadow High School Committee Room. Select Person Hal Haberman strongly suggested that all Town employees who are residents of Longmeadow attend the Special Town Meeting.

8:50 p.m. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Robin Crosbie informed the Board they qualify for 75% reimbursement from FEMA. She is continuing to working on that.

Chair Person John Papale entertained a motion to adjourn. Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary