

DRAFT

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
REMOTE

Arrangements for remote participation by Select Board members and members of the public were made in accordance with Governor Baker's Emergency Order Modifying the State's Open Meeting Law. Participation in this meeting was done remotely via Zoom.

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Thomas Lachiusa, Marc Strange, Steven Marantz, Mark Gold, and Richard Foster

Also Present via Zoom: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, CFO Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Chief John Dearborn

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Lachiusa. Due to COVID-19 concerns, and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting was held remotely with residents having the option of calling in or sending in their comments. All votes were taken by roll call. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Lachiusa confirmed that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda were present and could hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting allowed for public comment.

COVID-19 Update – Chief Dearborn attended the meeting and gave an update. The 14-day case count on 12/18/2020 was 102 cases. The percent positivity rate went from 2.73% to 4.60%. This week the average was 60 cases/day. The trend is from single family homes, nursing homes and group homes. Plans are being worked on for vaccine distribution. COVID costs are being covered by the CARES Act funds and FEMA reimbursements. There are CARES Act concerns as it may run out soon. FEMA reimbursements are getting harder to get. Ms. Simmons added that she saw today where the CARES Act may be extended. Mr. Pasterczyk noted that our first allotment was \$1.4 million, there is still some cushion left.

Announcements

- Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to clear the sidewalks of snow in front of their homes, and to also clear fire hydrants of snow.
- Trash and recycling pickup will be one day late for households on a Friday collection the weeks of December 21 and December 28.
- All residents will be allowed 1 extra trash bag December 26 through January 9.
- Guidelines for what holiday items can be recycled can be found on the town's website.
- The satellite offices in the Community House will be closed December 25 and January 1.
- Construction has begun on the Wireless EDGE cell tower next to the tennis courts on Bliss Court. Work is expected to take about 8 weeks, weather permitting. The tower is designed to accommodate other major wireless carriers.

Resident Comments - none

Select Board Comments

1. Mr. Gold – The East Longmeadow Council voted against the Inter Municipal Health Merger with Longmeadow at their 12/15/2020 meeting. Per Mr. Gold, the East Longmeadow Council inferred some things that Longmeadow was not implying.
2. Mr. Strange – The Longmeadow Fire Department and Police Department were thanked for bringing Mr. and Mrs. Clause around town this past weekend.

Town Manager’s Report

- The Special Town Meeting was held on December 9, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. outside at Greenwood Center. A quorum of 5 was reached and a motion to take no action on articles 1-23 was voted in favor. The meeting was dissolved and the tax rate can now be set.
- The Department of Revenue certified the FY21 tax rate at \$24.74. \$2.38 is attributable to debt exclusion projects.
- WESTCOMM signed the purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of Salter College in Chicopee. A State911 grant will fund the renovations. The closing will be in early 2021.
- The new DPW facility is expected to reach substantial completion in the next 2 weeks. The transition to the new building should be at the end of January, weather permitting. The Adult Center is expected to reach substantial completion in early 2021.
- The satellite offices in the Community House will be closed December 25 and January 1. There may be a reduction in hours in the new year.
- Pride’s motion for a Summary Judgement was denied by the Superior Court. Pride will not appeal if the town agrees not to seek legal costs. Legal costs recovered would be absorbed in fighting the appeal.

Mr. Gold noted, in looking over the capital plan for water and sewer, that the split would be 50/25/25; he supports this. Also, the DPW equipment requests didn’t account for the new facility (extended life with garages and wash bays), Mr. Gold would like to see this reflected better.

Old Business

1. Approved Minutes – *Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 7, 2020 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.*
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachusua-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES
2. Appointments to Board of Health and Cable Advisory Committee – There were 5 applicants for three positions on the Board of Health. Mr. Lachusua suggested each Select Board member give their top three choices in order of preference:

<u>Mr. Lachusua</u>	<u>Mr. Strange</u>	<u>Mr. Marantz</u>	<u>Mr. Gold</u>	<u>Mr. Foster</u>
1 M. Keane-Moore	1 M. Keane-Moore	1 M. Keane-Moore	1 G. Valania	1 C. Beaumont
2 G. Valania	2 G. Valania	2 C. Beaumont	2 M. Keane-Moore	2 G. Valania
3 C. Beaumont	3 K. Berman	3 G. Valania	3 K. Berman	3 M. Keane-Moore

Mr. Lachusua made the motion to appoint Michele Keane-Moore to the Board of Health for a term expiring June 30, 2023, Gregory Valania to a term starting on January 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2022 and Christine Beaumont to an Associate term expiring June 30, 2021. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachusua-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

Mr. Marantz made the motion to appoint Graham Jesmer to the Cable Advisory Committee for an Associate term expiring June 30, 2021. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachusua-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

3. Water/Sewer Discussion Continued – Mr. Foster submitted a memo on water and sewer billing for the Board to review and offered to answer questions. A task force or committee will be formed early in 2021 to research this topic in depth.

New Business

1. Recycling Fees for Calendar Year 2021 – Recommended fee increases include: TV 17” and up \$15, computer monitor \$10, sleeper sofa \$40 (new fee). The Recycling sticker fee will remain the same.
Mr. Gold made the motion to adopt the Recycling fees for 2021 as recommended. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachusua-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

12/21/2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Foster made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

Documents:

Agenda

Announcement sheet

Town Managers Report

Department Reports for November

Draft Minutes 12/7/2020

Appointments memo

Recycling Fees Recommendations memo

Correspondence:

Water and Sewer Billing memo - R. Foster

Email Thank You – B. Barkett

Comcast Letter 12/7/2020

Letter of Support for BOH Candidate – B. Damiano