



Town of
Longmeadow, Massachusetts
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TO: Chairman Strange and Members of the Select Board
FROM: Lyn N. Simmons, Town Manager
DATE: February 22, 2022 (Report prepared February 16, 2022)
SUBJECT: Town Manager Report

COVID-19 Update

As of Thursday, February 10, 2022 there are 50 cases in town. Cases are continuing to decline. The majority of the 50 cases are individuals who have never been vaccinated. The Longmeadow Board of Health is meeting on March 1, 2022 where they will discuss the mask mandate and review the current data.

Public Health Excellence Grant – Additional COVID-19 Funds

The Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services agreement with Longmeadow, Hampden, Monson and Wilbraham, created the opportunity for additional COVID-19 grant funds to be dispersed to EHSPHS from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. This amendment of the current PHE grant reflects a one-time increase of \$73,854.00 for the distribution of funds to local boards of health and health departments for COVID-19 response activities, including case investigation/contact tracing and COVID-19 vaccination efforts. This funding is for COVID-19 related costs only. As a reminder the PHE grant award was \$322,924.00, with this increase (for COVID-19 related expenses) the total grant amount received is \$396,778.00.

Casino Mitigation Reserve Funds

The Town recently applied for and was awarded use of Casino Mitigation Reserve Funds, of which the Town of Longmeadow had a \$100,000 earmark from the Gaming Commission. The recent application for \$96,000 will be used to supplement funds previously approved at Town Meeting for the Longmeadow Street project. These funds will be used toward the Rt 5 / Longmeadow Street Improvements which include a design/engineering analysis for US Route 5 / Longmeadow Street. The design and analysis encompasses roadway milling and resurfacing, drainage improvements, Complete Streets upgrades, ADA compliance, and upgraded signals. For background on these funds - Section 61 of MGL Chapter 23k established the Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) as a means of offset the costs associated with the construction and operation of gaming establishments in Massachusetts. 6.5% of the Gaming Taxes from Category 1 facilities go into the CMF. The CMF is currently generating about \$8 million per year (as of December 2020). In 2015 and 2016, the Commission awarded reserve grants in the amount of \$100,000 to the communities that either host or are near the gaming establishments. A total of 28 communities were issued Reserve Grants, including Longmeadow. We had until December 31, 2021 to identify the project where these funds would be used (with approval by MGC). The previously spent \$4,000 was related to traffic engineering studies at several intersections on Longmeadow Street in or around 2016.