

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.
Remote

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Marc Strange, Steven Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachiusa.

Staff Present via Zoom: Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri, Jennifer Leydon, Geoffrey McAlmond, Wayne Buck, Bruce Covalli

Also Present via Zoom: Rep. Brian Ashe, Jennifer Metsch, Robin Frechette.

Chair Strange called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 Strange 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 law requires such participation. This meeting allowed for public comment.

Announcements

Citizen Petition Articles Citizen Petition Articles for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting are due to the office of the Town Clerk by Monday, January 31, 2022 per Section 3-303 of the General By-Laws amended at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. For more information on the citizen petition article process and to access the petition submission form, please visit the newsflash on the homepage at longmeadow.org.

Gas Main Replacements Eversource Gas of Massachusetts has contracted Feeney Brothers Utility Services to replace gas mains on Windsor place, Hillcrest Avenue, Field Road and Wildflower lane. Construction is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, and will finish around mid April depending on the weather. Please visit the homepage of the town website for updates regarding this project.
<https://www.longmeadow.org/>

Commendation for Retiring DPW Employees – Wayne Buck and Bruce Covalli

Wayne Buck and Bruce Covalli were present to accept citations from the offices of Senator Eric Lesser and Representative Brian Ashe for their dedicated service and contributions working for the Town of Longmeadow Department of Public Works. Both Mr. Buck and Mr. Covalli have worked for the Longmeadow DPW for roughly 40 years each. Representative Ashe and Jennifer Metsch (Senator Lessers Office) presented citations and thanked Mr. Covalli and Mr. Buck for their outstanding service to the community and wished them congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

Board and Committee Interviews – Capital-Planning Committee

Alexander Aiken, of 207 Coventry Lane, was present to interview for an open vacancy on the Council on Aging Board of Directors. Mr. Aiken stated that he was interested in serving on the committee and would look forward to providing service to the Town. The Select Board will vote on the appointment of Mr. Aiken to the Capital Planning Committee at their regular meeting on February 7, 2022.

Board and Committee Appointments

Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Ron Johnston to the Council on Aging Board of Directors to a three-year

term expiring June 30, 2024, and to appoint Marie Angelides to the Council on Aging Board of Directors to a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2023. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Resident Comments

Ben Buckovich, of 45 Longfellow Drive, was present to speak during the resident comment section of the meeting. Mr. Buckovich expressed his concern over the new proposed Eversource gas pipeline and its location being close to Wolf Swamp Elementary School. Mr. Buckovich also explained his concern for the residents in this area in which the pipeline is proposed to be built. Mr. Buckovich urged residents to learn about this project and encouraged the board to continue their efforts in reaching out to Eversource to work through this issue.

Select Board Comments

Mr. Marantz thanked Mr. Buchovich for his comments. Mr. Marantz also requested that the topic of window replacements at Center School be discussed further at some point. Mr. Marantz suggested look through different avenues to improve the ventilation in the School as well.

Mr. Levine agreed with Mr. Marantz and stated that windows are opened daily for circulation at the current moment.

Mr. Gold attended a recent meeting of the Longmeadow Recycling Committee. Mr. Gold explained that the committee is looking to implement a SHARPS recycling program to allow people to recycle used medical syringes. Mr. Gold also attended the recent meeting of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board. Mr. Gold expressed his concern over the recent selection of chair of the board and that this member was on the Board during the years of the audit findings that detailed ill-spent funds. Mr. Gold stated that member communities are looking to implement changes to the HCRRB policies and procedures. Mr. Gold explained that there is an audit being conducted by PERAC for the years of 2018-2020. Mr. Gold will continue to report to the board on these issues. Mr. Gold also stated that the Tax Ceiling Task Force is looking to re-schedule their upcoming meeting. Mr. Gold also commented on errors found in the most recent water bills and stated that corrections are being implemented.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update As of Friday, January 14, 2022 there are 262 cases in town, 30% of those cases are breakthrough cases. We are trending downward from my last report. The below charts answer questions that were raised at the January 3, 2022 Select Board meeting. The first chart relates to the question on a breakdown of school covid numbers. The second chart is in response to a question on breakthrough cases and the number of those boosted, vaccinated and not vaccinated. Listed under "documents" at the end of these minutes, you can find the full report to view the charts.

Legal/Labor related expenses At the January 3, 2022 Select Board meeting there was a request to provide an update on legal expenses by topic. The breakdown for FY22 is listed under "documents" at the end of these minutes.

Fire at Shaker Road Shopping Plaza The Federal Small Business Assistance loan program has approved the businesses who applied for loans. A Federal SBA Rep will be in town for 4 days to meet with the businesses and formalize their paperwork. They will use a space for these meetings either at Greenwood Center or the Adult Center. Armata's is wrapping up use of the Greenwood Center kitchen but they have reached out asking if we would consider extending the rental. Ms. Simmons is awaiting more information but may entertain an extended rental as it is having no operational impact on the Town's use of the facility and is generating some extra revenue for us. This would continue to be a temporary option while Armata's secures long term space.

Fire Department Grant The Fire Department was awarded a \$19,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. This grant is specifically for firefighter safety equipment and will be used to purchase protective clothing and equipment that would have been purchased out the FY22 fire budget. Deputy Chief Macsata and Lieutenant Viera worked hard to put this grant application together and thank you to both of them to pursue funding opportunities to ease the burden on the Town's budget.

Adult Center As a result of the increase in COVID-19 cases, the Adult Center staff made the decision to

Approved: Pending

suspend daily in-person meals service. This was due to the highly contagious omicron variant and also the limited volunteers willing to assist. The daily lunch program has now transitioned to a grab and go option until at least January 31.

Community Resilience Building Workshop 2.0 On Friday, January 14 the Town held a Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop 2.0 lead by Assistant Town Manager Corrin Meise-Munns and attended by over 20 town and school officials. The CRB 2.0 served as an update to the CRB workshop that was held in February 2019 conducted as part of the MVP planning grant. The issues identified in the 2019 process served as the baseline and new strategies were created from there. Some new ideas included a Resilient Master Plan and a Communication Campaign. The big items that were discussed in 2019 and still on the table at this workshop related to stormwater and trees. The Assistant Town Manager will now take all this information and work on an Expression of Interest to submit to MVP in advance of the upcoming grant cycle.

Department Monthly Reports

Department monthly reports can be found in the 1/18/22 Select Board Meeting Packet listed under “documents” at the end of these minutes.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the January 3, 2022 Select Board Regular Minutes as presented. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

B. Updated FY2023 Budget Calendar

An updated FY2023 Budget Calendar was presented to the Board to reflect a change in meeting dates in March to discuss the Annual Budget and review/sign the Town Meeting Warrant. This change is intended to align the FY2023 budget calendar with the warrant submission deadline schedule.

Mr. Gold made the motion to adopt the updated FY2023 Budget Calendar. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

New Business

A. DPW Organizational Study

Ms. Simmons explained that The Town of Longmeadow worked with the UMASS Collins Center to conduct an organizational study on the Department of Public Works. This study was funded through a grant, the Community Compact Best Practices Program. The report began in mid-2021 and the Town received the final version of the study in January 2022. You can read the full DPW Organizational Study Report [here](#). Select Board members received the report and were able to ask questions and provide feedback during this discussion. For the full discussion on the DPW org report, please click [here](#) (00:43 – 1:02). Some findings of the report will begin to be implemented upon further review.

B. Streetlight Policy and Agreement

The Town of Longmeadow purchased the streetlights along the public ways from Eversource in the fall of 2019. This purchase was made possible by using funding approved at the May 2019 Annual Town meeting, with additional support from state, regional and utility grants. From June through August of 2020 all 1424 streetlights in town were replaced with LED fixtures or internal electronics and emitters powering LED bulbs. The discussion at tonight’s meeting detailed an updated policy and agreement regarding streetlights in existing neighborhood associations. The Select Board will vote on this policy at their regular meeting on February 7, 2022.

C. General Code – Review of some By-Laws

As part of the editorial and legal analysis for the Town of Longmeadow, General Code has sent over questions to update the code content by revising, leaving as is, or deferring the decision until after Code publication. The

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Select Board discussed the potential modifications that were identified and outlined by General Code in the review process. The majority of the identified modifications indicated by General Code were aligning certain bylaws with those of Mass General Law.

Mr. Gold made the motion to modify the items as indicated. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

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

D. Discussion on a Process to Review Select Board/Town Manager Policy Book

Ms. Simmons explained that a few policies in the Select Board/Town Manager Policy Book need to be updated. Ms. Simmons suggested that one member from the Select Board work with the Town Manager to go through the book as a whole and make recommended changes. These recommended changes will then come back to the full board for vote on adopting the updated policies. Mr. Gold will work on this review process with Ms. Simmons and they will present the updated policy book to the board at a meeting in April.

Correspondence

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL - FWD_ FY21 ACFR - TOWN OF LONGMEADOW.PDF

LONGMEADOW MA ACFR21 - FINAL (1).PDF

RESIDENT EMAIL RE_ STORM WATER.PDF

RESIDENT LETTER 1.PDF

RESIDENT LETTER 2.PDF

All correspondence material can be found in the 1/18/22 Select Board agenda packet listed under “documents” at the end of these minutes.

Adjourn

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 8:34 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Documents



SB 1 18 22 Agenda
Packet.pdf

[Select Board 1 18 22 Agenda Packet](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri