

Select Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 - 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 in Webinar format.

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, Atty. Jeffrey Roberts, Frank Colaccino (Colvest), Dr. Stephen Metz

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 gave the COVID update. There are currently 24 active cases. There is no evidence of in-school transmission. The COVID team ran 4 successful vaccine clinics. 200 doses were distributed to people 75 years and older. The town expected to receive 100 doses/week for the month of February. Friday night the town was notified that our orders will not be fulfilled by the state. We were told the 2nd dose will be honored and have been ordered. The COVID team will focus on the call center for 75 years and older and may start a list for 65 years and older. A homebound list and outreach is being worked on. Mr. Gold drafted a letter to the Governor from the Select Board expressing their frustration with the vaccine distribution program. The letter will be signed and sent to the Governor.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve and send the letter to the Governor. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

Announcements

The annual census was mailed out in January. Residents are asked to sign and return it to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible.

Annual dog licenses are due no later than March 31st per MGL Chapter 140, Section 137. A current rabies certificate is always required to license as well as proof of spaying/neutering upon licensing for the first time. The Annual Census form includes dog licensing information on the backside. Notify the Town Clerk at 413-565-4103 if you no longer own a dog that was licensed the previous year. See the Town website for more information.

Annual recycling stickers are available through the Town Clerks Office. Stickers can be purchased online through the town's website or by submitting an application to the Town Clerk. The fees are \$45.00 or \$35.00 for residents age 65 and over, and additional or replacement stickers are \$15.00 each. The registration or vehicle plate number for the vehicle that will be used must be presented when purchasing a pass.

Please be responsible and pick up and properly dispose of your pets waste. Dog waste is not biodegradable and does not act as a fertilizer. Stormwater runoff can wash dog waste into ponds, lakes, streams and drinking water supplies, causing outbreaks of *E. coli* and other bacteria harmful to both people and wildlife.

Resident Comments

1. Alan Vibber, 6 Roseland Terrace expressed his disappointment in the elimination of the Greenwood Child Center from the FY22 budget. He and his wife have 4 children and utilize the daycare. Mr. Vibber praised the teachers and staff of the daycare and requested that the daycare not be eliminated from the FY22 budget. He has a petition to save the Greenwood daycare with 630 signatures on it that he will forward to the Town Manager.
2. Zach Verriden, 24 Pinewood Hills, chair of the Coalition for Racial Justice Task Force thanked the Select Board, Town Manager, Police Chief, and the Superintendent of Schools for their swift condemnation of the Zoom bombing of their meeting that occurred last week.
3. Tom Shea, 81 Greenmeadow Drive spoke about irrigation exclusion and noted that he had forwarded correspondence on this to the Select Board members. He has a proposal to establish a non-irrigation base for the months of October through April.
4. Olena Sleptov, 105 Lawrence Drive also spoke about keeping the Greenwood daycare in town.

FY22 Capital Projects Budget Final Report-Capital Planning Committee Chair Dr. Stephen Metz
Dr. Metz review the FY22 capital projects budget and the presented recommendations from the CPC and answered questions from the Board.

FY22 School Budget Presentation-School Superintendent Mary O'Shea and School Committee Finance Subcommittee Chair Jamie Hensch attended the meeting. Dr. O'Shea presented a power point presentation explaining the school's FY22 proposed budget of \$38,957,781.21.

Select Board Comments

1. Mr. Foster announce that after 9 years on the Select Board he would not be seeking re-election.

Town Manager's Report

Parking Area

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has approved the bituminous parking area on Conservation land at the intersection of Birnie Road and West Road where the DCR holds a conservation restriction. A Notice of Intent has been filed to repave Pondsides Road where it intersects with Barkhaul Road where the entrance to the refuge is located and continuing northward and turning left on Birnie Road and terminating with a new bituminous parking area providing space for ten parking spaces. The parking area would be on land for which DCR has a CR on that property.

Pet Waste Stations

A requirement of the MS4 permit was the installation of pet waste stations at our public parks or areas where dogs recreate. We purchased 5 receptacles, 3 are being installed at Bliss and Laurel Parks, 1 at Turner Park and 1 at the trail on Bark Haul Road and Pondsides.

Tina Lane Landfill

The final permit with MassDEP was filed by Tighe & Bond to close out the landfill capping project.

Police Department

The Police Department has sworn in a new Police Officer Jonah Vaclavicek. Officer Vaclavicek was hired in 2019 and worked as a full-time Reserve Officer through a waiver. He attended the 61st Recruit Officer Class of the Western Mass Police Academy in September and graduated on February 5, 2021. Officer Vaclavicek received the "Staff Award" which the Academy Staff presents to the recruit who "Demonstrated overall excellence and always put forth the maximum effort".

WestCOMM

The closing on the Salter College property was delayed while waiting for a Title V certificate. The closing will be rescheduled. An RFQ has gone out to hire a consultant for phase 1 design for the renovations. There is discussion with Southwick and Ware about joining which wouldn't happen until the new facility is up and running. Revisions to the District Agreement to clean it up to reflect current practice are being done and the

Board of Directors will be voting on the changes at an upcoming meeting, it will then need to go to each community's Select Board/Town Council/City Council for a vote.

Longmeadow Street Project

Engineering work on the Longmeadow Street project from the Enfield line to Converse Street is still moving along. The engineering firm is recommending that we break the project into 2 phases. Right now the estimate for construction is \$16 million. The MPO receives \$20 million for our entire region so it would be very unlikely that Longmeadow would receive \$16 million in TIP funding in one phase.

Zoom

Boards and committees are being subjected to zoombombing with a very serious incident occurring at the last Coalition for Racial Justice meeting. Moving forward Select Board meetings will use the webinar format to control participation. Other boards and committees will be provided additional instruction on conducting Zoom meetings with stricter participation controls in place. The incident that occurred at the Coalition for Racial Justice meeting is being investigated by the Police Department with assistance from the IT department.

Old Business

1. Approved Minutes – *Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 1, 2021 as presented. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.*
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES
2. Annual Town Meeting Date Change – It has been recommended to move the Annual Town Meeting date to Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. with a rain date of May 23, 2021. The meeting would be held outside at the high school.
Mr. Gold made the motion to set the Annual Town Meeting for Sunday, May 16, 2021 with a rain date of May 23, 2021. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES
3. Town Manager's Update on Water and Sewer Rates – Ms. Simmons reviewed prior reports that were done in 2017 on the water and sewer rates and whether secondary meters for irrigation should be permitted with DPW staff and Mr. Pasterczyk. Ms. Simmons is looking for more guidance from the Select Board. Is a more comprehensive study needed? Mr. Gold and Mr. Marantz agreed that another study would not be a good use of money. Mr. Foster noted that we have all the data, we just need to decide what we want to do. There was some discussion about creating a group to go over the data.
4. Select Board Rules and Procedures Manual- Mr. Gold incorporated his and Mr. Foster's and Mr. Lachiusa's comments into the Rules and Procedures document. Mr. Strange added his comments to the document and suggested going over it section by section over a few meetings. Mr. Marantz agreed with this. This document will be reviewed again in April after the budget meetings.

New Business

1. Rezoning Article for Annual Town Meeting/916 Williams Street – Atty. Jeff Roberts, Frank Colaccino from Colvest and Architect Matt Wittmer attended the meeting. Colvest owns the church property at 916 Williams Street and is looking to rezone the property for future use to commercial at the Annual Town Meeting. They have presented the Select Board with an article for the warrant which the Select Board now has to forward to the Planning Board per MGL. Mr. Gold noted that we have a huge backlog of articles for the Annual Town Meeting and he is not sure that this is the best meeting for this rezoning. It has the potential for long discussions. Mr. Lachiusa does not see why we can't do this at the Annual Town Meeting if information is given to residents ahead of time. Mr. Marantz agrees with Mr. Gold, there is so much on the town's plate right now and we are trying to keep the meeting as short as possible. Mr. Strange agrees with Mr. Lachiusa, we can utilize consent agendas to speed things up at the Town Meeting. Mr. Foster suggested traffic studies and development plans be used to educate residents. Mr. Colaccino will have scenarios put together for the Planning Board. Once a zone change is approved, they will go back to the Planning Board with actual plans. Atty. Roberts said they can be ready and educate the town on the proposed retail expansion by the May Annual Town Meeting.

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The zone change article will be forwarded to the Planning Board Chair tomorrow morning.

Mr. Foster recommended asking the Planning Board Chair to attend the next Select Board meeting.

2. Finance Committee Statement on Upcoming Collective Bargaining – The Finance Committee forwarded a letter to the Select Board and the School Committee regarding the upcoming Fire Department and School Department employee contract negotiations and consideration of the approaching tax ceiling and the limitation of COLAs. It is in the interest of both parties to stay below the tax ceiling, once it is reached the town will be forced to lay off employees. There is no legislative change yet that will exempt Longmeadow from this reality.
3. Audit Correction Report – Mr. Pasterczyk reviewed the audit correction report and the four findings being addressed.

Mr. Foster made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 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

FY22 Capital Planning Committee Recommendations

FY22 School Budget materials

Town Managers Report and Department January Reports

Draft Minutes 2/1/2021

Town Manager's Update on Water/Sewer

Select Board Rules and Procedures Draft

Rezoning Article for 916 Williams St. (Colvest)

Finance Committee Letter

Audit Correction Report

Correspondence:

Comcast letters 1/29/21 and 2/3/21

Resident Letter K. Finn