

Town of Longmeadow
Minutes of the Finance Committee
March 30, 2022 – Longmeadow High School, room A15

Finance Committee Members present: Donald E. Griffith-Vice Chair, Tom Dignazio-Clerk, Mauri Garrett Jr, Andrew Lam, William Welch, Nora MacKay

Members Absent: Armand Wray-Chair

Visitors: Lyn Simmons-Town Manager, Jennifer Leydon-Finance Director, Jason DuCharme-Town Accountant, Mike Barbieri-Select Board Administrative Assistant, Steven Marantz-Select Board Chair, Mark Gold-Select Board, Thomas Lachusua-Select Board, Steve Weiss-CPC Committee Chair, David Marinelli-CPC Committee, Marybeth Bergeron-Chair Town Building Committee, Kristin Carnahan-Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm for a public hearing on the FY23 Budget.

The public hearing was closed at 6:39pm (all in favor 4-0) *Maury Garrett Jr and Nora MacKay were not present at the time of this vote.*

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 3/14/2022 meeting as presented. (Approved 4-0) *Maury Garrett Jr and Nora MacKay were not present at the time of this vote.*

Visitor comments: Town resident Kristin Carnahan spoke in opposition of article 36, which provides funding from the CPC Committee for the construction of a skateboard park. Ms. Carnahan is requesting more information about the project be made public, as well as the following concerns of parking, traffic, and insurance costs be addressed. Finance Committee member William Welch also agreed that more information is needed at this time before any decision is made on this project. Steven Weiss from the CPC committee did mention that they are not advocating for or against the project.

Select Board Chair Steven Marantz recommended that the Finance Committee not support warrant articles 33 and 36 for the Center School Windows replacement and Skateboard Park, as more information is needed at this time.

Marybeth Bergeron from the Town building committee also spoke in opposition of the skateboard park as the feasibility study that was completed for the project lacks information on parking, traffic, and other key components and that it would be premature for the Town to consider this warrant article based on the lack of information.

The visitor comments section of the meeting was closed at 7:11pm.

The Finance Committee gave their recommendations on the following warrant articles for the upcoming Annual Town meeting.

ARTICLE 2.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$100,000.00 or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of supplementing the FY 2022 Operating Budget for Snow and Ice removal, or take any other action relative thereto.

The FY2022 Snow and Ice removal budget was \$125,000.00. Although the FY2022 winter season was relatively mild, there are additional costs that have exceeded the original budgetary appropriation, including salt and maintenance supplies. This transfer would fully fund the costs for the current fiscal year.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 3.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$100,000.00 or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of funding an Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment or take any other action relative thereto.

The Town would like to undertake an active recreation area conditions assessment to create an accurate needs assessment (both user needs and maintenance) of our playgrounds, pools, tennis courts, athletic fields (excluding Wolf Swamp) and basketball courts. A maintenance plan and prioritization list would be developed for each facility. A robust public engagement process would be part of developing the "Master Plan".

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 4.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$75,000, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purposes of conducting a compensation and classification study for non-union, DPW, and Clerical positions, or take any action relative thereto.

This appropriation will provide funds to cover the costs to conduct a compensation and classification study. Best practice calls for a study to be done every five years. The Town of Longmeadow last conducted a study in 2004. Filling positions is challenging and we have found that our current salaries for many positions have fallen behind other area communities.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 5.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, the of sum of \$200,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to add a pool liner to the Greenwood pool, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Greenwood pool has significant cracks in the concrete walls and deck as a result of aging infrastructure. The pool is estimated to be leaking 15,000 gallons of water per day at a cost of approximately \$80.00/day in lost water during the summer months. Adding a liner will prevent water leaks.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 6.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$30,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to purchase a pool cover for the Greenwood pool, or take any other action relative thereto.

Greenwood pool does not currently have a pool cover and water is drained yearly. Best practice recommends some water be left in the pool for preservation of the concrete infrastructure. Adding a cover will reduce the amount of water evaporation that occurs, cut down on chemical consumption and cleaning time. A cover also

adds a level of safety to help prevent accidental entry into the pool and will help protect a new liner from the sun's UV rays.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 7.

To see if the Town will transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$8,738.322, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of paying prior year's bills, or take any other action relative thereto.

It was discovered after the Town closed its FY 2021 financial records that certain commitments involving DPW related expenses remained outstanding. There are several outstanding invoices ranging in price from \$4.00 to \$5,500, primarily for small, miscellaneous hardware supply purchases. This appropriation will allow the Town to make good on those commitments.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Four-fifths vote required.

ARTICLE 8.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings, the sum of \$2,702.92, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for a FY 2021 bills of prior year, or take any other action relative thereto.

It was discovered after the Town closed its FY 2021 financial records that outstanding invoices existed for printing the quarterly water bills. This appropriation will allow the Town to make good on those commitments.

Recommendation to be made by Finance Committee on Town Meeting Floor

Four-fifths vote required.

ARTICLE 9.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$7,899.42, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for a FY 2021 bills of prior year, or take any other action relative thereto.

It was discovered after the Town closed its FY 2021 financial records that outstanding invoices existed for printing the quarterly sewer bills and for maintenance of sewer equipment. This appropriation will allow the Town to make good on those commitments.

Recommendation to be made by Finance Committee on Town Meeting Floor

Four-fifths vote required.

ARTICLE 10.

To see if the Town will vote to fix the Fiscal Year 2023 salary and compensation of the Moderator at \$1,000.00 and the Select Persons at \$2,000.00 each, to provide for a reserve fund, and to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget totaling \$76,513,613.33**, or a greater or lesser sum, and itemized as follows:

General Government	\$1,925,023.49
Public Safety	5,766,567.00
Planning & Community Development	244,464.77
Schools	37,395,859.36
Department of Public Works (General Fund)	4,740,438.00
Community and Cultural Services	1,865,863.37

Debt Service & Town/School Employee/Retire Benefits	18,092,653.00	
Subtotal General Fund		\$70,030,868.99
	Water Enterprise	
3,179,235.10		
Sewer Enterprise	2,225,538.24	
Stormwater Enterprise	1,077,971.00	
Total	\$76,513,613.33	

**And to fund the General Fund \$70,030,868.99 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$70,030,868.99 from general taxation; and to fund the Water Enterprise Fund \$3,179,235.10 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$3,179,235.10 from Water receipts; and to fund the Sewer Enterprise Fund \$2,225,538.24 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$2,225,538.24 from Sewer receipts; and to fund the Stormwater Enterprise, \$1,077,971.00 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$546,747.00 from Stormwater receipts and \$531,224.00 from general taxation, or take any other action relative thereto. An annual operating budget must be adopted and funded for Fiscal Year 2023 that begins on July 1, 2022. The Select Board's budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee, as required by the Town Charter. The Select Board's budget, as printed, is a balanced budget as required by Massachusetts General Laws and the Charter. The Select Board's FY 2023 recommended budget only utilized 1.75% of the allowable 2.50% increase authorized by Proposition 2 1/2, which creates an estimated \$396,769 in unused tax levy capacity.

The Select Board's proposed budget is \$76,513,613.33. This budget achieves the goal of limiting FY 2023's tax increase to no greater than 1.75% of the allowable 2.50%, in accordance with the Finance Committee's firm recommendation that tax rate growth be constrained in order to delay an intersection with the looming \$25/\$1,000 mil rate tax ceiling.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 11.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$578,218.00, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purposes of establishing a Wage Settlement Account to cover the FY2023 DPW reorganization, DPW, Police, and Clerical collective bargaining agreements, non-school, non-union wage adjustments, as well as the implementation of the wage and classification study, or take any other action relative thereto.

With the exception of the Fire collective bargaining agreement, all other non-School collective bargaining agreements are currently in negotiations expiring at the end of FY2022. Wage adjustments for DPW, Police, Clerical and non-school, non-union personnel are not built into the FY2023 budget presented. This appropriation will provide funds to cover wage adjustments as determined by the Town Manager under the Town Charter 5-2(d). The Finance Director will only release funds from the Wage Settlement Account to the proper budgetary line items upon notification from the Town Manager of the wage adjustments allotted and ratification of the collective bargaining agreements.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 12.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts, or a greater or lesser sum, for capital projects and that any remaining amounts from the capital projects be returned to the Capital Stabilization Fund:

From Raise and Appropriate (FY 2023)

Project Development	\$25,000.00
Project Reserve	\$10,000.00
Fire Truck Replacement Reserve	\$75,000.00
Center School Flat Roof Replacement (phase 1 of 2)	\$695,000.00
Police Station Kitchen Upgrade	\$55,000.00
Double Folding Wing Mower	\$115,000.00

Pavement Preservation	\$635,000.00
<u>Sidewalk Reconstruction</u>	<u>\$400,000.00</u>
Total Capital Stabilization Fund	\$2,010,000.00

Annually the Town appropriates funds for capital expenditures. The FY2023 Capital Plan is funded at 3.00% of the estimated General Fund revenues less Debt Exclusion taxation as allotted for in their Capital Funding Policy.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 13.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$471,699 or a greater or lesser sum, from the state for highway improvements under the authority of M.G.L Chapter 90 including funds to be received in FY 2023, or any applicable laws, and to authorize the Select Board, if necessary, to apply for, accept, borrow in anticipation of state aid and expend such funds, or take any other action relative thereto.

The state annually allocates to the Town a sum of money to be spent on Town roads. This amount must be appropriated by town meeting. The Town spends the money first and is reimbursed by the state upon completion of the project.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 14.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the following land parcels and or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way. This will allow for the construction and roadway safety improvements under a project known as: Longmeadow- Springfield- Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements on Longmeadow Street (Route 5) and Converse Street (MassDOT Project #608881) in the Town of Longmeadow, Hampden County (the "Project").

	<u>Total # of Parcels</u>	<u>Area (Square Footage)</u>
Temporary Easements	71	43,077
Permanent Easements	4	1,414
Fee Interest	1	423

Further that the Select Board may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels through all legal means, including, without limitation, donation(s), purchase(s), and eminent domain condemnation. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans drafted by Fuss & O'Neill, Dated: 1-12-2022 and Titled: Longmeadow Street (U.S. Route 5) & Converse Street, Preliminary Right of Way, 75% Submission.

And, further, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$287,000, or a greater or lesser sum, from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Chapter 90 allotment for the purposes to defray any associated right of way expenses connected with the Project.

The Longmeadow Street/ Route 5 and Converse Street Corridor Improvement Project, also known as the "L Project" (MassDOT #608881) has advanced to the 75% design phase. The "L Project" will make significant traffic, pedestrian and signalization improvements along this critical corridor. The 75% design phase included detailed right of way plans that trigger the MassDOT acquisition procedures for property easements and taking. To that end, a programmatic process for title examination, appraisals and compensation needs to be undertaken with legal guidance for the "L Project" to proceed toward final design and advertisement. This Article is an initial step in the process for ROW (Right of Way) Certification from MassDOT.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required

ARTICLE 15.

To see if the Town, upon the recommendation from the Select Board, will vote to authorize the School Department to enter into a lease purchase financing agreement, to acquire IT capital equipment, for a period up to four (4) years, or take any other action relative thereto.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 21C (effective November 7, 2016 as part of the Governor's Municipal Modernization Act) allows Town Meeting to authorize a Department to enter into a lease purchase finance agreement upon the recommendation of the Select Board and a 2/3rds affirmative vote of town meeting. The School Department is planning on entering into a four (4) year lease purchase financing agreement at a total cost of \$337,230 with annual payments of \$84,307.50 to replace 310 teacher computers. Any residual value received from the replaced equipment will go into the Town's General Fund.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required.

ARTICLE 16.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$30,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of replacing the flat roof of the Sewer Pumping Station on Emerson Road, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Emerson Road pump station roof is currently leaking and in need of replacement. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Sewer division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 17.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stormwater Retained Earnings, the sum of \$101,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of improving the drainage on Shady Knoll Drive, or take any other action relative thereto.

Shady Knoll Drive has a failing outfall as recognized by the DPW. The project received \$131,500 in funding at the FY2022 Annual Town Meeting for the repair. Additional erosion has increased the size of the project and updated design and permits are needed to complete the project. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Stormwater division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 18.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, the sum of \$100,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, to pay costs of the Longmeadow Street Water Main Replacement drawings, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges or to take any other action relative thereto.

Funds will support a water main study including modeling and design for possible replacements or upgrades of water main infrastructure on Longmeadow Street from Converse Street to Forest Glen Road. Infrastructure review and design is needed before the Longmeadow Street improvements are started. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Water division of the DPW. Total cost of the project is

\$200,000.00. Half of the project will be funded using bond proceeds and the other half will be funded using water retained earnings.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in the case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 19.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings, the sum of \$100,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, to pay costs of the Longmeadow Street Water Main Replacement drawings, or take any other action relative thereto.

Funds will support a water main study including modeling and design for possible replacements or upgrades of water main infrastructure on Longmeadow Street from Converse Street to Forest Glen Road. Infrastructure review and design is needed before the Longmeadow Street improvements are started. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Water division of the DPW. Total cost of the project is \$200,000.00. Half of the project will be funded using bond proceeds and the other half will be funded using water retained earnings.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 20.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$200,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, to pay costs of the Longmeadow Street Sewer Main Replacement drawings, or take any other action relative thereto..

Funds will support a sewer main study including modeling and design for possible replacements or upgrades to the sewer main infrastructure on Longmeadow Street from Converse Street to Forest Glen Road. Infrastructure review and design is needed before the Longmeadow Street improvements are started. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Sewer division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 21.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$900,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, to pay costs of Emerson Road Water Main Replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges or to take any other action relative thereto.

Several water main breaks have happened in recent years on Emerson Road. Funds will support new water main lines and supporting infrastructure. The project area is from Longmeadow Street to Pondsides Road. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Water division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in the case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 22.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$750,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, to pay costs of a water main replacement on Cooley Drive, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit,

is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges or to take any other action relative thereto.

Several water main breaks have happened in recent years on Cooley Drive. Funds will support new water main lines and supporting infrastructure. The project size is from Longmeadow Street to Riverview Avenue. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Water division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in the case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 23.

To see if the Town will vote appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, to pay costs of system-wide water quality and flow enhancements, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges; or take any other action relative thereto.

Quarterly water testing is required as a condition of the Town's permit from DEP to operate a Consecutive Public Water System. This testing has consistently yielded high Disinfection Byproducts. To better identify the quality and flow issues, the Town is completing a hydraulic modeling and tracer study which will be completed by the end of April 2022. This warrant article will begin to fund projects identified in the above mentioned study aimed at improving flow and water quality. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Water division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in the case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 24.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, the sum of \$195,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, for the purpose of funding the Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) multi year project (year 1 of 2) To meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from sewer system rates and charges or to take any other action relative thereto.

CMOM is a sewer monitoring project mandated by MASSDEP which inspects the sewer system in order to identify and reduce inflow or infiltration into the sewer system from groundwater or other sources. This project was identified as an FY2023 Capital Improvement project for the Sewer division of the DPW.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in the case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 25.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, for the Longmeadow Stormwater Asset Management Project awarded under the 2022 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan., including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected

to be repaid, in the first instance, from stormwater rates and charges; or to take any other action relative thereto. The amount of borrowing should be reduced to the extent of expected grant funds.

The total project cost of \$250,000 consists of a \$150,000 grant (60% of the total project cost), which the Town will be reimbursed for in two payments of \$75,000 at 50% and 100% project completion by MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The balance of the project will consist of in-kind services provided by the Town valued at \$50,000 and a cash contribution from Town Funds valued at \$50,000.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Two-thirds vote required in the case of borrowing.

ARTICLE 26.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,775.00, or a greater or lesser sum for the purposes of paying the FY 2023 District Improvement Financing (DIF) Debt Service, or take any other action relative thereto.

The District Improvement Financing (DIF) statute, M.G.L. Ch. 40Q requires the Town to annually budget for the debt service related to the Dwight Road / Maple Street DIF Program. At the 2017 ATM, the Dwight Rd Improvement District was created and a \$2.5 million bond was issued in August of 2018 for infrastructure improvements within the improvement district. Each year, the debt payment needs to be appropriated. The FY 2023 debt payment for the Dwight Road Improvement District is \$180,775. In FY 2023 the total estimated taxes due are \$205,000 resulting in an increase of \$24,225,000 to the Town General fund along with an additional \$20,000 given to the Town by East Longmeadow as agreed upon in a twenty year DIF Inter Municipal Agreement.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 27.

To see if the Town will vote to establish a funding limit for the Town's Council on Aging Revolving Fund with payments from the fund to be expended by the Director of the Council on Aging up to \$85,000.00, or take any other action relative thereto.

Effective November 2016, as part of the Municipal Modernization Act, Revolving Funds created pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ as established in the Town's' Bylaws, must have an annual expenditure limit set at the Town's Annual Town Meeting. This article sets the annual expenditure limit.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 28.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$7,194, or a greater or lesser sum, from the FY 2022 Community Preservation Undesignated Fund for: CPA Fund Balance Reserve for Open Space \$2,398, CPA Fund Balance Reserve for Community Housing \$2,398 and CPA Fund Balance Reserve for Historic Preservation \$2,398, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Community Preservation (CP) Fund allocations calculated using three sources, the Annual commitment, a state match and any interest earned on available funds. The Annual Commitment decreased slightly, interest amounts remained the same, and due to a surplus of FY21 budget funds at the State, the State increased their matched funds from 32.2% to 43.8%, netting an additional \$23,980 for the CP fund. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B requires in each fiscal year, the Town must spend or reserve at least 10 percent of the annual CP Fund revenues for each of the CPA's community preservation purposes: open space (including recreation), historic resources and community housing.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 29.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00, or a greater or lesser sum, from the FY 2023 Community Preservation local surcharge and trust fund for administrative costs for the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

These funds are for any expenses incurred by the Community Preservation Committee. In FY 2021 the Committee spent approximately \$2,381.40 for annual dues for the state organization, and administrative matters. Any funds not used during the year are returned to the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance account.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 30.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation Project for a survey of structures constructed before 1911 in the amount of \$10,500.00, or a greater or lesser sum, funded from the Community Preservation Historical Preservation Fund Balance, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Historical Commission previously commissioned a survey of structures constructed before 1901. Expanding the survey to pre-1911 structures (estimated to be 36 properties) will enable the Commission to provide more accurate information on historically significant structures in the Town.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 31.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation project for a hydrologic and hydraulic study of Bliss and Laurel Parks in the amount of \$75,000, or a greater or lesser sum, funded from the Recreation/Open Space Fund Balance, or take any other action relative thereto.

This engineering study will focus on the Bliss and Laurel Parks portion of the Cooley Brook drainage area and will identify causes of erosion, sedimentation, and flooding in and around Cooley Brook and Laurel Pond. The study will provide information necessary to guide any future work related to the development of high quality, high value CPA eligible projects, such as the removal of the derelict, nonfunctional reservoir infrastructure; improvements or other dam-related work on Laurel Pond dam; and rehabilitation of Laurel Pond and/or Cooley Brook's streambanks. The hydrologic and hydraulic study will have the added benefit of supplying the town with information regarding stormwater management in the Blueberry Hill area of town. The results of the hydrologic and hydraulic study are also necessary to access additional grant funding for projects such as these, including monetary grants from the MA Department of Fish and Game and in-kind labor grants from the US Geological Survey.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 32.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation project to provide upgrades to the Ederly Building at Wolf Swamp Field and to provide dugouts and other field amenities at the field, in the amount of \$10,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Recreation/Open Space Fund Balance, and the amount of \$98,700, or greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance, or to take any other action relative thereto.

This project will provide funding for upgrades at the Ederly Building at the Wolf Swamp field, such as kitchen upgrades and ADA compliance, and to provide dugouts, storage sheds and other amenities at the fields.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 33.

To see if the Town will vote to provide funding for the repair and/or replacement of windows at Center School in the amount of \$10,000, or a greater of lesser sum, to be funded from the Historic Preservation Fund, and the

amount of \$290,000, or greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance, or to take any other action relative thereto.

The windows at Center School are approaching 30 years old. They are energy inefficient, many of them are inoperable by school staff, and need to be repaired or replaced. The determination of the scope of the work is ongoing, and this project will provide partial funding for the anticipated work, to be supplemented with ARPA relief funds and other sources.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 34.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation Project to provide funding for the replacement of a fence at the Richard Salter Storrs House in the amount of \$19,619, or a greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Historic Preservation Fund Balance, or to take any other action relative thereto.

The fence is located behind the Storrs House on land owned by the Trustees of the Storrs Library. The current fence has rotted and needs to be replaced.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 35.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation Project for surveying, mapping and possible permitting for riverfront conservation land in the amount of \$8,500, or a greater or lesser sum, funded from the Recreation/Open Space Fund Balance, or take any other action relative thereto.

The property consists of 2.16 acres of riverfront land owned by the Town. This project will enable the Conservation Commission to obtain surveys and maps of the parcel, which will facilitate the Commission's ability to create better access (including handicap access) and amenities at the Property.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 36.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation Project to provide funding for the construction of a skateboard park at Bliss Park in the amount of \$350,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance, or take any other action relative thereto.

In 2020 the Town approved a study for the design, feasibility, and potential locations of a skatepark in town. Based on that study, the proponents now propose to have a skatepark constructed; the location would be the current location of the two of the currently existing four clay tennis courts.

Not recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

The Community Preservation Committee approved the application on January 27, 2022, by a 5-4 vote. Thereafter, on March 21, 2022, the Select Board, by a vote of 3-1, voted to recommend to the Finance Committee that the Finance Committee not recommend Article 36 because of concerns relating to whether the proposal's environmental impact on Bliss Park, as well as water run-off, parking and traffic issues, had been adequately vetted. On March 30, 2022, the Finance Committee reviewed the town warrant, including Article 36. During the review, the Finance Committee heard from several community members, the Longmeadow Town Manager, and members of various town boards and committees, including the Select Board, Community Preservation Committee and the Longmeadow Building Committee, regarding the skateboard park proposal. In addition to the concerns raised by the members of the public and town officials, several members of the Finance Committee also expressed concerns about the adequacy of the projected costs of the proposal, noting that the projections for several elements of the plan appeared to significantly underestimate the cost. Accordingly, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to not recommend Article 36 at this time (6-0).

ARTICLE 37.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation project for planting perennial pollinator plants and installing bluebird boxes at the Community Gardens in the amount of \$1,500, or a greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Open Space/Recreation Fund Balance, or take any other action relative thereto.

The planting of various native plants to attract pollinators will enhance the productivity and beauty of the community gardens, and the installation of bluebird boxes will combat population decline of this species.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

ARTICLE 38.

To see if the Town will vote to fund the Community Preservation project for a study of the Old Town Hall to determine the work needed to preserve it, and the estimated costs, in the amount of \$10,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Historic Preservation Fund Balance, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Old Town Hall is the oldest town-owned building in Longmeadow, and is in need of extensive preservation efforts. This study will determine the repairs that are needed and their estimated costs.

Recommended by the Finance Committee (6-0)

Other:

Next Meeting scheduled for MAY 9TH at 7:30pm

Meeting adjourn at 9:19pm: (6-0 all in favor)