

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, May 18, 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 the meeting was done remotely via Zoom.

Select Board Present via Zoom: Marie Angelides, Chair, Mark Gold, Marc Strange, Richard Foster, and Tom Lachiusa
Also Present via Zoom: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Chief John Dearborn, Peter Thomsen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Marie Angelides. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order 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 Angelides 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. The meeting allowed for public comment.

COVID-19 Update - Chief John Dearborn

As of today there are 12 active cases in the community. The numbers are stabilizing. Nursing home case numbers are improving. We are increasing our supply of PPE. The recovery phase is starting; FEMA claims are being submitted. Some of the Cares Act funds have been received. The Chief has applied for a grant for PPE stockpiling. Plans are being discussed for facilities and schools. Masks are available to residents with preference going to those 60 years and older and vulnerable residents. Mr. Lachiusa asked about attesting that a business is set up properly. The Chief has posters and attestation. We are still under an emergency declaration and are focusing on cost recovery now.

Announcements - none

Board/Committee Interview

1. Peter Thomsen, 753 Frank Smith Road applied for reappointment to the Cultural Council. He enjoys the work and feel the council has made a lot of progress. They have held some good fundraisers. Mr. Thomsen believes it is a worthwhile group and would like to continue with it.

Residents Comments - none

Select Board Comments

1. Ms. Angelides noted that the Veterans Services Director has put together a virtual Memorial Day celebration to be broadcast by LCTV on Memorial Day. It is also the 150th anniversary of celebrating Memorial Day in town.
2. Ms. Angelides reminded registered voters to request absentee ballots soon. This can be done on the town website or by calling the Town Clerk's office at 565-4103. Polls will be open on June 16 from 7am to 8pm. Safety measures and distancing will be in place.

Town Manager's Report

1. COVID-19 updates are available on the website at longmeadow.org/coronavirus.
2. The FY21 budget reduction is approximately \$850,000. The School Committee has been asked to share in the burden in the amount of \$350,000. The Town's eligible amount of funding from the Cares Act is about \$1.4 million to be distributed over two rounds. The first round of applications opened on May 15.
3. The Recycling Center will open for bulky household items on May 23. The Swap Shop will remain closed. Attendants will wear masks and gloves and residents will need to do the same.
4. Weekly construction meetings (DPW and Adult Center) are held via Skype. No major issues have come up. There are some delayed responses from vendors.

5. A community meeting was held on May 7 with The Conway School as part of the Bliss and Laurel Parks Master Planning process. The meeting was streamed and taped by LCTV. Another meeting will be held via Zoom on June 4 to view the preliminary design plans. A survey on the use of the parks is open until May 22 on the town website.
6. The installation of the cobra head streetlights is just about done. We are waiting for Tanko to ship the decorative lights, then Arden will be scheduled to come back and install them.
7. The Town of Monson will be joining the regional dispatch center, Westcomm on June 1 and East Longmeadow will join on July 1. The next development grant was submitted in early May. The assessment of Greenwood and Salter College determined that Greenwood would not be a suitable location but Salter College could be.
8. Bay Path University President Leary will be retiring soon. Once the new President is in place, a conversation on a renewed PILOT agreement will start.
9. Town Engineer Tim Keane submitted an application for a Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant in the amount of \$130,000 to replace a failing corrugated metal pipe serving as a culvert equalizing water levels between wetland areas on the east and west side of Pondsides Road.
10. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 23, with a rain date of June 24, outside at Longmeadow High School. Safety precautions and distancing will be in place. The warrant has been posted on the town's website and will be delivered to residents the first week of June. To help with the planning of Town Meeting, a survey about attendance is on the website.
11. The Annual Town Election will be held on June 16. May 27 is the last day to register to vote. Voters are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot by mail. See the Town Clerk's page of the website for information. The polls will be open on June 16 from 7am to 8pm.
12. A town wide mailing will be going out at the end of the week with election information and the recycling calendar.
13. The high school will place a sign for each graduating senior (250) on the Green, the seniors will pick up their sign and place it in their yard.

Mr. Gold noted that the DPW monthly report did not contain the recycling numbers and asked if they could be supplied. Ms. Angelides would like to schedule a special Select Board meeting for June 17 after the election to reorganize the Select Board.

Westcomm – Chief Dearborn stated that the new radio system installation is 50% complete. All new portable radios have been issued.

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes – *Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 4, 2020 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.*
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, and Mr. Lachiusa-yes
Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the special meeting minutes from May 11, 2020 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Strange-abstained, Mr. Gold-yes, and Mr. Lachiusa-abstained.
2. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Discussion – There has been no response to the letter sent to TN Gas. Last week there was a conversation about the direction the town wants to take with TN Gas. TN Gas and Columbia Gas are not communicating. The Eversource deal has not gone through yet. There is still a moratorium and no plans have been filed yet.

New Business

1. Sale of Bonds – Mr. Pasterczyk stated the town has maintained its May 6 ratings from Standard and Poor. We will be refinancing a loan at 1.69% for a savings of \$172,000 annually for the next 13 years / total savings of \$2.24 million.
BANs have to be issued at a rate of 1.29%. A special meeting will be scheduled this week to vote on the BANs.
2. Town Manager Evaluation Discussion – The Select Board will be sent the evaluation form and will be asked to fill it out and return it to the Administrative Assistant so that all comments can be combined into one document for the June 1 meeting.
3. Appoint Registrar of Voters – *Mr. Gold made the motion to reappoint Sandra Metz to the Board of Registrars for a three-year term expiring March 2023. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.*
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, and Mr. Lachiusa-yes

4. Fall Town Meeting Discussion – The Fall Town Meeting is usually held in October/November. The Select Board will have to decide if citizen petitions that are on the Annual Town Meeting warrant that get moved to the Fall Town Meeting will need additional signatures or not. Ten signatures are required on citizen petitions for the Annual Town Meeting and 100 signatures are required for a special Town Meeting. Also, the Select Board will have to decide if there will be a September Town Meeting or wait until later in the fall.
Mr. Pasterczyk noted that a number of things will not be completed for a September meeting; free cash will not be certified, new growth will not be certified...If there were to be a September meeting, Mr. Pasterczyk recommends having a second fall meeting later to take care of financials. Ms. Simmons voiced concern about an outdoor Town Meeting if it were to be later in the fall. Most of the Select Board agreed with holding one Fall Town Meeting. All Select Board members were in agreement about allowing the citizen petitions submitted for the Annual Town Meeting to be moved to the Fall Town Meeting without the requirement of additional signatures.
5. Town Election Warrant – *Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Town Election Warrant as distributed by the Town Clerk for the election on June 16, 2020. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.*
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, and Mr. Lachiusa-yes

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m. and enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (1), (2), (3) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual – Citizen Recognition Award, AND to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Police Chief, AND to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the Chair hereby declares an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body - TN Gas Pipeline expansion and Columbia Gas related matters, AND approval of prior minutes – May 4, 2020, not to reconvene to open session. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, and Mr. Lachiusa-yes

Documents:

Agenda
Applications – P. Thomsen, T. McKenna
Town Manager's Report
Department April Reports
Draft Minutes May 4 and 11, 2020
Town Manager Evaluation form
Memo – Board of Registrars Appointment
Letters from Democratic and Republican Chairs
Annual Town Election Warrant