

Select Board Special Meeting  
Wednesday, June 17, 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:** Richard Foster, Mark Gold, Marc Strange, Tom Lachiusa, Steven Marantz (newly elected member)

**Also Present via Zoom:** Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Debbie House

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice Chair Richard Foster. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting was held remotely and did not allow for public comment. All votes were taken by roll call. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Mr. Foster ran the meeting and 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 did not allow for public comment.

This meeting was held to reorganize the Select Board for FY21.

Mr. Foster congratulated new member Steven Marantz and welcomed him to his first meeting as a Select Board member.

Mr. Foster explained that traditionally reorganization of the Select Board would be a progression of the Clerk moving up to be Vice Chair, the Vice Chair moving up to be Chair, and the newest member becoming the Clerk. Mr. Foster was the Vice Chair and would move up to be Chair but feels he does not have enough time to devote to the Chair position.

Clerk – Mr. Foster explained that the role of the Clerk is to take meeting minutes if needed and to sign documents that specify the Clerk's signature.

Mr. Foster called for nominations. Mr. Lachiusa nominated Mr. Marantz to be the Clerk.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Marantz why he ran for a position on the Select Board. Mr. Marantz believes he has experience with this town government and his profession can help Longmeadow move forward.

Mr. Foster asked what Mr. Marantz expects to accomplish in the next three years. Mr. Marantz hopes to keep the town solid, solvency, safety for the community, and energy sustainability.

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to appoint Steven Marantz as the Clerk of the Select Board. Mr. Strange seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, Mr. Marantz-yes*

Vice Chair – Mr. Foster explained that the role of the Vice Chair is to fill in anytime the Chair is not available. Mr. Foster called for nominations. Mr. Lachiusa nominated Mr. Strange. Mr. Foster nominated Mr. Gold.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Strange what he expects to accomplish in the next two years. Mr. Strange stated that he objected to the way Mr. Foster was running the meeting. If we are following Robert's Rules, once the election takes place everyone is new to the board. No single person should be running the meeting. Not sure where Mr. Foster's authority is coming from. Mr. Strange answered the question as to what he expects to accomplish by saying that he is looking forward to increasing his ability to be a bigger part of the Select Board, and is looking

forward to being the Vice Chair this year. Mr. Strange felt that Mr. Forster was completely out of order and was dominating the meeting. Mr. Foster noted that the state recommends following Bell's Rules due to the complexity of Robert's Rules. Mr. Strange added that Robert's Rules are very simple, just 2 pages for small boards and easy to follow. Mr. Foster stated that this was not on the agenda and that Mr. Strange did not have a point of order.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Gold what he expects to accomplish. Mr. Gold answered financial security, keep the town fiscally solvent and moving forward, maintain the character of the town, maintain services, looking for alternate sources of income, and to keep providing the services residents expect.

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to appoint Marc Strange as Vice Chair. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Present, Mr. Gold-Present, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, Mr. Marantz-yes*

Chair – Mr. Foster explained the role of the Chair is to set meetings and agendas and conduct the meeting. Mr. Foster asked for nominations. Mr. Strange nominated Mr. Lachiusa and Mr. Foster nominated Mr. Gold.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Lachiusa to explain why he was seeking the role of Chair. Mr. Lachiusa replied that we are facing a very challenging summer, there are a lot of questions about what we are facing economically. Another important emphasis is the safety of employees of the town. Mr. Lachiusa would like to see that safety procedures are in place for the new DPW. He would also like to promote the town to raise property values. Mr. Foster asked Mr. Lachiusa to share some of his contributions in past 5 years. Mr. Lachiusa replied that he would not be doing that and stated that this is a very unorthodox way to reorganize the Select Board. Mr. Lachiusa also noted that he was disappointed that this was not a reorganization like in the past. Mr. Foster replied that this was not a traditional reorganization. Mr. Strange objected. Mr. Lachiusa stated that the people in town know what kind of leader he was in the past and will base opinion on that.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Gold why he was seeking the role of Chair. Mr. Gold replied that these are very unusual times. He has experience with being the Chair in unusual times: October snowstorm, and no school committee for a time. Mr. Gold believes he has good knowledge of system procedures, working with processes to get through things, and would like to think he contributed to those things at those times.

Mr. Foster asked what contributions Mr. Gold has made in the last 11 years, and what is his vision if he is the Chair. Mr. Strange stated that it doesn't matter, this is not an interview. Mr. Foster stated that Mr. Strange would be muted because he was not authorized to speak.

*Mr. Strange made the motion to remove Richard Foster as Chair of the meeting so we can finish up the business we are supposed to be doing.*

Mr. Gold added that being the Chair is not about individual accomplishments, it's about the Board's achievements and having a leadership position. The Chair has very few authorities under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Being the Chair is about being able to lead the board.

*Mr. Strange made the motion to appoint Tom Lachiusa as Chair. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Present, Mr. Gold-Present, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, Mr. Marantz-yes*

*Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the special meeting at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Strange-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, Mr. Marantz-yes*

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie House

**Documents:**  
Agenda