

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, July 6, 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: Chair Tom Lachiusa, Marc Strange, Steve Marantz, Mark Gold, Richard Foster

Also Present via Zoom: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, CFO Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Moderator Rebecca Townsend, Verizon Rep. Ross Bilodeau, David Marinelli

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Tom Lachiusa. 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 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. The meeting allowed for public comment.

COVID-19 Update – The update was given by Ms. Simmons.

There is currently one active case in the community. Phase 3 began today which allows movie theaters, fitness centers, and museums to open with limited capacity. Outdoor venues can open with up to 100 people outside. The town has hired retired Fire Captain Andrew Fraser to be the COVID compliance officer. He will work with town departments and the School Department on compliance and prepare the schools for reopening. Satellite office space in the Community House will be completed later in July.

Announcements

1. Senator Edward Markey enacted a bill called the Warren Cowles Grade Crossing Safety Act. This bill would authorize appropriations for highway-rail grade crossing improvement projects in the amount of \$250,000,000 for FY21.
2. Public Nurse Carol Steiner retired after 10 years and was thanked for her dedicated service to the town.

Residents Comments - none

7:15 Verizon Hearing on Petition 1A4RN3D

Mr. Gold made the motion to open the hearing for Verizon Petition 1A4RN3D for Williams Street. Mr. Strange seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

Verizon Representative Ross Bilodeau attended the meeting. Verizon is requesting to place one jointly owned pole on the north side of Williams Street approximately 136' from the centerline of Redfern Drive to support wires. There is currently a long span (substandard span) of 275' between two poles. This new pole would be put in the middle of the span for added support. Verizon owns and maintains the poles, the electric company puts their wires on the poles. The Select Board has wanted wires to go underground and does not like the idea of approving more poles. The project is an electric company driven project and the Verizon representative cannot speak for them.

Mr. Strange made the motion to continue the hearing to the next Select Board meeting so that the Board can hear more information from an Eversource representative. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

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

Board/Committee Interview

1. David Marinelli, 9 Overbrook Lane has retired as the Tree Warden and applied for a position on the Tree Committee. He has lived in town since 1988 and has been on the Tree Committee for a few years, being Chair for a couple of years. Mr. Marinelli believes it is important to work together with the new Tree Warden and keep progress going. A lot has been accomplished. Mr. Marinelli has some leftover trees available to residents for the fall.

Select Board Comments

1. Mr. Strange asked that the agenda item "Racism as a Public Health Crisis" be moved up.

Town Manager's Report

1. COVID-19 updates will continue to be available on the Town's website.
2. Town Reopening Updates – plans continue on making space in the Community House for in-person transactions later in July. Town pools and camps will not open this summer. Furloughs were extended. A COVID-19 compliance officer was hired to assist in reviewing reopening plans for town departments and the schools.
3. The granite bench at the Adult Center was vandalized and broken. Director Jim Leyden will discuss the replacement with the COA.
4. Two grant applications were submitted for the Lynnwood sidewalk and the Knollwood sidewalk.
5. The Knollwood sidewalk design is out to bid with bids due on July 14.
6. The Wolf Swamp Fields final design revisions are being made and will be put out to bid by the end of the month. The Conservation Commission approved the RDA with conditions.
7. Resident Mason Merchant will be working on his Eagle Scout project which is to clean up the decommissioned WWII memorial at Town Hall and install better landscaping and preserve the flagpole.
8. We are still waiting for the delivery of the first batch of 400 LED decorative fixtures. The second batch will be shipping in a few weeks.
9. East Longmeadow has further questions related to cost sharing and OPEB liability on the Shared Health Services Agreement. They will continue their conversation on August 11.
10. WESTCOMM is negotiating to purchase Salter College. Relocating to that facility would allow the operation to expand with more municipalities. East Longmeadow joined and went live on June 29. Mr. Pasterczyk noted that the town received \$31,683 in MIIA rewards last week. The rewards are a reduction in our insurance cost.

Old Business

1. Approved Minutes

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Emergency Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2020 as presented.

Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2020 as presented.

Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2020 as presented.

Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2020 as presented.

Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2020 as presented. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

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

2. Cable Advisory Committee Appointment – *Mr. Strange made the motion to appoint Kathy Mullins to the Cable Advisory Committee for a one-year Associate term expiring June 2021. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-abstained*
3. AGO Communication Regarding Pipeline – Mr. Strange spoke with Elizabeth Mahony, Assistant Attorney General and Senior Policy Advisor for the Energy and Environment Bureau, Energy and Telecommunications Division about how the AGO may be able to help the town with the permitting process for Columbia Gas/Eversource.
 - The AGO represents “ratepayers” (DPU 19-135)
 - AGO does not intervene in actions before the Energy Facilities Siting Board
 - AGO’s environmental division filed comments/objections with FERC regarding the 261 project. Mass DEP is their client
 - The AGO’s approval of our two bylaws could create a strong argument. Atty. Mahony will get back to Mr. Strange with information on how and where the town can use the bylaws to our advantage.
4. DPW 21E Update – Ms. Simmons gave an update on the 21E case; the attorneys have engaged in settlement proceedings. Both sides have agreed to mitigate.
5. Annual Town Meeting Review – Moderator Rebecca Townsend stated that overall, the Town Meeting went well. There is room for improvement with the check in staffing. The sound company was very important to have. There were 38 articles covered and 299 voters attended. There were no spikes in virus cases. A lot of time and planning went into this. The Fall Town Meeting will be held in October. Planning will start soon, possibly an indoor meeting.
6. Water Quality Report 2019 Discussion – The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report was recently sent out to residents. Representatives from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission attended a Select Board meeting recently. Mr. Gold suggested that the Select Board send a letter to the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, and other towns that are customers of Springfield, stating that Longmeadow is concerned about the massive capital projects and asking them to take another look. Mr. Lachiusa will work with Ms. Simmons on drafting this letter.

New Business

1. Updated Tree Manual Approval
Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the updated Tree Manual. Mr. Strange seconded the motion. Mr. Pasterczyk questioned “planting on private property”, he feels there is a liability concern and would like to clarify a third party as opposed to a town employee. Mr. Pasterczyk will contact the Tree Committee. The motion was tabled.
2. Fall Town Meeting Article Submission Deadline – Warrant articles and Citizen Petitions are due in the Select Board’s office by noon on September 15, 2020.
Mr. Gold made the motion to adopt the dates as specified in the July 6, 2020 memo regarding the Fall Town Meeting set for October 27. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES
3. FY21 Meeting Schedule – The Select Board meeting schedule for FY21 was presented with meetings scheduled for the first and third Mondays of each month. If a holiday is on a scheduled meeting date, the meeting will be held on Tuesday.
Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the FY21 meeting schedule as presented. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa-YES, Mr. Strange-YES, Mr. Marantz-YES, Mr. Gold-YES, Mr. Foster-YES

4. Select Board Liaison Assignments – The Select Board reviewed the liaison assignments. Mr. Foster asked to have his name removed from all liaison assignments. Mr. Strange volunteered for the Capital Planning Committee and the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Marantz volunteered for the School Committee and the Energy Committee. Mr. Gold will take over the Audit Committee and Mr. Lachiusa will take the Council on Aging. Mr. Lachiusa will work on the rest of the assignments outside of the meeting.
5. Select Board Goal Setting – Ms. Simmons put together a list of FY21 goals. Mr. Strange added; development of 55+ housing, zone change for church property on Williams Street, increase enforcement and fines for bylaw violations. Mr. Gold added; solar farm development at the old DPW, and wireless internet directive to the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Marantz would like to pursue sustainable energy options. Mr. Lachiusa would like to develop safety protocols for the new DPW, and create a task force to promote Longmeadow and raise property values.
6. Racism as a Public Health Crisis – Mr. Strange submitted a draft resolution to the Select Board for consideration. The Select Board will review and put it on the next meeting agenda for a vote. Mr. Marantz questioned whether this should come from the Board of Health. Mr. Gold questioned the “formation of a working group”. A sentence to be added to the resolution is, “continue our prioritization of law enforcement”.

Mr. Strange made the motion at 9:00 p.m. to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with regard to anticipated litigation relative to the new DPW facility, discussion of which in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town and the Chair so declares, not to reconvene in open session. Approval and vote on minutes from June 24, 2020. 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

Senator Markey’s Bill

Verizon Petition 1A4RN3D and DPW Comment on Petition

Interview Schedule and application

Town Manager’s Report

Draft Minutes June 12, 15, 17, 22, 24, 2020

Appointments memo Cable Advisory

AGO Communication re: pipeline

Water Quality Report 2019

Tree manual-updated

Fall Town Meeting Article Submission memo

FY21 SB Meeting Schedule

SB Liaison Assignments FY20

FY21 Goals

Correspondence: Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable Hearing Notice 6/4/20

Comcast Letters 6/10/20, 6/25/20