

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, August 2, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, Massachusetts
Remote Participation Was Available

Select Board Members Present: Chair Marc Strange, Steve Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold. **Absent:** Tom Lachiusa

Also Present: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri, Erica Brunell, Marybeth Bergeron, Benjamin Tansky

Chair Strange called this meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. This was a Hybrid meeting between in person and remote participation. Members of the Select Board were present in person. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting also offered remote participation for 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 Strange 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.

Announcements

First Responder Night: Please join us at an upcoming event hosted by our Police and Fire Departments. First Responder Night will be held on August 10, from 4 - 8 p.m. The event will include a cookout and various demonstrations by our first responders. We ask that you bring one non-perishable item to be donated to the Longmeadow Food Pantry! Please join us in support of our amazing first responders on August 10.

Town Treasurer's Abandoned Funds Notice: As per MGL Chapter 200A Sec 9A(c) the abandoned funds notice is being posted on behalf of the Town of Longmeadow. "Notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by the Town of Longmeadow, and deemed abandoned" You should contact the Treasurer's office at 413-567-1066 or ebrunell@longmeadow.org by September 22, 2021 to redeem funds. Please view the full list of abandoned funds on the newsflash of the homepage at longmeadow.org.

Citizen Petition Articles for the Fall Special Town Meeting are due in the Select Board's office no later than 12:00 p.m. on September 17, 2021. In order for a petition to be guaranteed placement on the Special Town Meeting warrant, 100 names/signatures/addresses of registered Town voters are required, and must be certified by the Town Clerk. Forms and instructions to be used for petition articles are available on the homepage of longmeadow.org and on the Select Board's page. Petition articles will be printed in the warrant verbatim, so citizens are asked to review the forms and instructions carefully. You can view the full article submission memo and warrant schedule on the newsflash of the homepage. Please contact the Select Board's office or email adminassistant@longmeadow.org if you have any questions.

Planning Board Vacancy: The Town of Longmeadow is seeking a resident to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board. Any Longmeadow resident interested in being considered for appointment to fill this vacancy is required to submit an application, cover letter, and resume to the Select Board's office, 20 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA, 01106 by Monday, August 9. Applications are available on the Boards and Commissions page of the town website. Please submit a cover letter and current resume with your application to adminassistant@longmeadow.org. This appointment will be for a term ending in June 2022, which is the next Annual Town Election. The Planning Board operates under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and Chapter 41 and has the responsibility to guide the development of the Town in the best

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interests of all its residents. The Board has very specific responsibilities and authorities as granted by Massachusetts General Laws and the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Longmeadow.

Applicants will be required to attend an interview conducted jointly by the Select Board and Planning Board on Monday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Longmeadow High School, meeting room A15.

Resident Comments

Dave Marinelli, of 9 Overbrook Lane, participated via zoom during the resident comment portion of the meeting. Mr. Marinelli, Chair of the Tree Committee, thanked the board for the time that they invest for the good of the town. Mr. Marinelli invited members of the board to attend an upcoming Tree Committee meeting as well.

Board and Committee Interviews

Maybeth Bergeron, of 497 Inverness Lane, was present in person to interview for reappointment to the Council on Aging Board of Director. The board asked Ms. Bergeron questions about her interest in reappointment to the committee.

Benjamin Tansky, of, was present in person to interview for an associate term opening on the Cable Advisory Committee. The board asked Mr. Tansky questions about his interest in this opening on the committee.

Board and Committee Appointments

Mr. Marantz made the motion to appoint Patrick Carnahan to the Tree Committee and Conservation Commission for three-year terms expiring on June 30, 2024, and to appoint Steven Weiss to the Historical Commission for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2024. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

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

Select Board Comments

Mr. Marantz spoke on the questions asked by Mr. Frank Smith at a previous meeting concerning Eversource's natural gas plan. Mr. Marantz asked Ms. Simmons if representatives from Eversource have been in contact with the Town. Ms. Simmons stated that Eversource responded to let the Town know they would not meet the deadline to file with the EFSB.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update: At the time of the publication of this memo, there are five COVID-19 cases in town. The Board of Health is monitoring the cases and keeping up on the changing recommendations on masking from the CDC. As of now, we will continue on with our current relaxed masking requirements, however if cases increase and we see trends in the wrong direction we may revisit that.

Converse Street Sewer Improvements: A meeting was held with the contractor, the town and the bonding company the week of July 19 to determine how to move forward on the project in conformance with the contract. After discussion, the contractor was permitted back to the jobsite to conclude the project. The sewer replacement project is expected to be completed the week of July 26.

Assistant Town Manager/Planning and Community Development Director: Ms. Simmons was pleased to announce that a selection was made to fill the new position of Assistant Town Manager/Planning and Community Development Director. Corrin Meise-Munns was hired and will be joining the town at the end of August. Corrin comes to us from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission where she serves as a Senior Land Use Planner doing planning around climate change resiliency, regulatory review and code revisions, zoning assistance and public engagement for municipalities on climate change adaptation and resilience planning. A

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small interview group consisting of Ms. Simmons, the Fire Chief/EMD Dearborn, former Assistant Town Manager/CFO Pasterczyk and HR Manager Gelinas assisted in the interview process.

Wolf Swamp Fields: In mid-July, a field inspection was done and a report was issued. Seeding will be done in the fall, as you can see right now at the fields there is some overgrowth happening but that is temporary until seeding begins. RAD Sports is back onsite prepping for fall seeding and working on completion of the parking lot and travel ways. Fall of 2022 is when we will assess for opening of the fields.

Mr. Marantz felt that the board should be vigilant concerning mask mandates in Town buildings, specifically for individuals who are not vaccinated. Mr. Marantz expressed that he would like to hear from the Board of Health of their outlook on this topic. Mr. Gold questioned where the decisions concerning Covid-19 lay at this point. Ms. Simmons stated that enforcement generally comes from the Board of Health. Building policies would come down from the Town Manager, and there is no current authority from the Emergency Management Director role due to the state not being in a state of emergency presently. Ms. Simmons stated that masking would be a recommendation at this point. The Board of Health will meet later this month and we will have more answers to certain questions. Mr. Gold stated that he would rather be safe than sorry and an indoor masking mandate would be preferred. Mr. Levine questioned what powers and penalties can the Board of Health enforce. Ms. Simmons stated that the BOH could ticket or take an educational warning stance. Ms. Simmons spoke on the potential of reengaging the Covid-19 Team, as well as putting up signage as well. Mr. Marantz suggested that residents should show proof of vaccination before entering a Town building once, and then after that they would be on file and cleared from wearing a mask. Mr. Strange commented that many different guidelines from the state and the CDC could cause confusion. Mr. Strange was hopeful that after the Board of Health meets in mid-August, that they could provide strategies and suggestions to the Select Board at their September 7 meeting.

Old Business

A. Approve Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2021 Select Board Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2021 Select Board Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

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

B. Adult Center Building Project Update

Marybeth Bergeron, Chair of the Permanent Building Committee was present to give an update on the new Adult Center Building Project. Ms. Bergeron responded to questions received by the Select Board and Town Manager's office concerning the opening of the new Adult Center. There will be two Table Tennis tables that are currently stored in the new gymnasium. Table Tennis will have to be scheduled in the space as the gymnasium is also intended for Pickle Ball, Volleyball, Basketball, and more according to Ms. Bergeron. Bridge playing was initially planned in the card area, which will be too small of an area for the group. The alternative of the Multi-Purpose room has unsatisfactory tables. Ms. Bergeron presented an architect sketch of how Classrooms 2 and 3 could fit fifteen Bridge tables as a possible solution. Ms. Bergeron stated that the possibility of purchasing these additional fifteen tables would need to occur. An agreement will be need to be in place with Bridge program. Ms. Bergeron also stated that there are three punch lists at this point for the opening of the building: WJ Mountford, the Kitchen, and the Architect. The kitchen is not yet operable. There is also rejection of the soil conditions and rejection of the parking lot for not meeting specifications. The Town cannot get a Certificate of Occupancy until many items are completed, including an ADA compliant slant in the parking lot sidewalk. Ms. Bergeron stated that if we open the building and then have to close down while repairs and work is being done, that would not go over well. Ms. Bergeron is hopeful for a late September grand

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opening of the Adult Center but is uncertain at this time. Mr. Gold asked who is working on the negotiations with the contactor. Ms. Bergeron stated that it has been a cooperative effort between the Town Manager, the OPM, the architect, and herself. Mr. Levine questioned if the soil conditions is something structural for foundation purposes. Ms. Bergeron stated that certain specifications needed were not met, for instance, the lawn and mulching. The parking lot also did not meet the specifications required in the agreement. Mr. Strange asked Ms. Bergeron on when we should expect a response from the contractors. Ms. Bergeron is hopeful that we would hear back by the end of this week.

C. Public Property Naming- Warren Cowles Way

Mr. Marantz made the motion to approve the Public Property Naming request for the entrance of the Longmeadow DPW Driveway to be named "Warren Cowles Way." Mr. Levine Seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Gold- YES.

D. CARES Act and ARPA Funds Update

Ms. Simmons summarized the approval for the 1.3 million dollar CARES Act funding. Ms. Simmons stated that we have tried to reconcile the accounts. We have received word that \$70,000 would not be eligible. The remaining balance of \$130,000 is currently being disputed and the decision is under appeal. Ms. Simmons stated that we have identified different avenues to cover the costs though personnel line items. Mr. Gold asked of what the dispute basis was. Ms. Simmons stated that we had documentation that this spending was allowed using CARES funding which has since changed. Ms. Simmons also stated that she has had conversation with the Finance Department and other departments on eligible uses of ARPA funds. An outlined memo will be submitted describing how the bodies can submit a request for use the money. Then prioritizing what is eligible can be discussed. Mid-September is the deadline to submit these requests. Ms. Simmons stated that this would come before the board in late September or early October. Ms. Simmons stated that we are in a good position to determine this later this month.

E. Town Manager and Select Board FY22 Goals

Ms. Simmons stated that Mr. Strange requested a living document be created to show the status on the FY22 goals to monitor progress. Mr. Gold suggested that seeing who is responsible for the actions to complete these goals would be helpful. Mr. Gold stated that although Ms. Simmons is accountable for the goals, the "who, what, and by when list" of who is responsible would acknowledge which department or committee will be working on which goal and objective. Mr. Gold suggested a living document where each tab will outline the specific goal. Ms. Simmons spoke on the goal of implementing the report of the Coalition for Racial Justice report. Mr. Marantz agreed with Ms. Simmons on this implementation. Mr. Gold suggested that a member from the Select Board and Coalition meet to discuss the action items a Town Manager task group. Mr. Strange suggested two members from the Select Board, School Committee, and Coalition for Racial Justice meet to discuss how to move forward with the report. Mr. Strange volunteered on behalf of the Select Board to be involved in this group. Mr. Strange will send out a letter detailing this group and inviting others to participate.

New Business

A. Block Party Requests

Alison Silber, of 41 Dover Road, submitted a Block Party Application to the Select Board's office for a party on September 19, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The application was attached to the agenda for tonight's meeting. The Police Chief approved the application prior to the meeting.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the block party request with as submitted, with no rain date included. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

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

B. Quarterly Investment Report

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Erica Brunell, Town Treasurer, was present to present the latest quarterly investment report. Ms. Brunell thanked the board on approving the deposit limit policy. Ms. Brunell stated that there has been a drop in increase rates over the last quarter. Adams Bank has the highest interest rate out of all of the financial institutions currently, followed by Monson Savings Bank. The Treasurer and Collector's office is continually monitoring these rates to have the opportunity to take advantage of the interest rates when possible. A discussion ensued about the report and details on the investments from this quarter. Mr. Gold thanked Ms. Brunell for a great report and commented on the investment with PRIM for OPEB really paying off. Mr. Marantz asked if the return is marketed oriented. Ms. Brunell responded that was correct.

C. Tax Ceiling Warrant Article – Minutes from Annual Town Meeting, June 23, 2020

Mr. Strange spoke on a clear messaging campaign on explaining what the Tax Ceiling Warrant Article is and creating an understanding of the importance. Mr. Levine stated that working on the education proponent of this is very important. Mr. Gold agreed that the Tax Ceiling Task Force approach should change to include an outreach and public education component. Mr. Marantz suggested that a coordinated effort from the Select Board and other committees to pitch this article is critical. Mr. Levine said that the education should be done beforehand to explain and motivate residents to the Annual Town Meeting. Figuring out the solution to the problem is a goal for the board. Mr. Gold stated that clear marketing strategy that the task force embodies could be of importance. Ms. Simmons suggested that having different viewpoints part of this group to network and hear opinions would be helpful. Mr. Gold stated that he would engage the prior group with the goal of meeting the new strategy of public messaging and voter education. Ms. Simmons suggested having this done by the middle of September in order to meet the posting and advertising deadlines in the spring. Mr. Marantz stated that the Finance Committee would be an important group to be added to this team and discussion. This will be an ongoing agenda item for future meetings.

Correspondence

Adjourn

Mr. Marantz made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

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

Documents



8221 Agenda
Packet.pdf

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Barbieri