

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting and Joint Meeting with Planning Board
Monday, October 18, 2021 - 7:00 p.m
Remote

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Marc Strange, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachiusa.

Absent: Steven Marantz, Joshua Levine

Staff Present via Zoom: Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri, Corrin Meise-Munns, Jennifer Leydon

Also Present: Don Holland, Walter Gunn, Bruce Colton, Cheryl Thibodeau, Zachary Verriden, Chris Legiadre, Michael Massie, Amir Kouzehkanani.

Chair Strange called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order, and 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 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 law requires such participation. This meeting allowed for public comment.

Announcements

Pondside Road and Tina Lane Improvements: Construction will be starting for the improvements to portions of Pondside Road and Tina Lane on or about October 14, 2021. The work includes pavement resurfacing and culvert replacements. The construction will necessitate the closure of Pondside Road to vehicular traffic during certain phases of the work. More details will follow on the town website and social media accounts.

Grand Opening of the new Adult Center: We are excited to announce the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the New Longmeadow Adult Center. Please join us at 211 Maple Road on Thursday, November 4 for a grand opening celebration, which will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, guided tours, and light refreshments. Regular Adult Center programming will begin at the new Adult Center on Friday, November 5. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Planning Board Vacancy Interviews

The Planning Board is seeking a resident to fill a vacancy on the board for a term expiring at the next Annual Town Election in June of 2022. As of October 18, 2021 there were three applicants looking to fill this vacancy. Two of the applicants were present to interview for the vacancy tonight.

Zachary Verriden was present to interview for the Planning Board Vacancy. Mr. Strange started by thanking Mr. Verriden for submitting an application and asked him to introduce himself and describe why he was interested in the vacancy position on the Planning Board. Mr. Verriden stated that civic engagement and serving in Longmeadow has been very important to him. Mr. Verriden discussed his background with planning development and spoke of a unique lens for diversity and equity in planning that could be beneficial to the board. Mr. Gold asked Mr. Verriden if he were appointed, would he intend to run for the elected position come June 2022. Mr. Verriden responded by saying that it is definitely a possibility that he would run. Mr. Verriden stated that if there were value he would add to the role over time, it would be something he would consider. Mr. Lachiusa thanked Mr. Verriden for applying for the vacancy position. Mr. Lachiusa followed up by asking Mr. Verriden what about Longmeadow was a deciding factor in choosing to live in town. Mr. Verriden stated this community is family friendly that the entire community has great schools and parks and the investment the schools have made in special education was an important asset to their decision. Mr. Holland spoke about that property on the corner of Williams and Redfern and questioned Mr. Verriden on what he feels should be built

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there if re-zoned. Mr. Verriden said there is a unique opportunity to alter the landscape of the community for years to come. Mr. Verriden stated that community voice and input on the re-zoning issue is an important resource.

Chris Legiadre was present to interview for the Planning Board Vacancy. Mr. Strange started by thanking Mr. Legiadre for submitting an application and asked him to introduce himself and describe why he was interested in the vacancy position on the Planning Board. Mr. Legiadre stated that he is a licensed architect and real estate developer. Mr. Legiadre has been on the other side of the table presenting to Planning Board's which he feels provides a unique lens to understand community input and the decision making process. Mr. Gold asked Mr. Legiadre if he would intend to run for the Planning Board at the next annual election if appointed to the vacancy. Mr. Legiadre responded by stating he would consider running and would be curious to learn how the Planning Board functions in Longmeadow. Mr. Lachiusa asked Mr. Legiadre how he feels about future developments to town buildings specifically, Town Hall and the Community House. Mr. Legiadre said that preserving historic buildings is important but could be a challenge. Having solutions that are more creative on the interior of the buildings to address accessibility concerns is important as well. Mr. Gunn asked Mr. Legiadre if any conflicts of interest would arise from his career and being on the Planning Board and if he would have to recuse himself from certain discussions/votes. Mr. Legiadre stated that he is passionate about good development and not just any development. Mr. Legiadre does not foresee any conflicts. If his company were proposing development in Longmeadow that would be the only conflict, he would need to recuse himself for. Mr. Colton stated that Mr. Legiadre's application and background are very impressive and is glad that he applied for this vacancy. Mr. Gold asked Mr. Legiadre about his thoughts on growth versus character. Mr. Legiadre stated that he has experiences with modern architecture as well as preserving historic buildings. Mr. Legiadre sees the benefit of having a balance between the two.

Board and Committee Interviews

Michael Massie, of, was present to interview for the open vacancy on the Energy and Sustainability Committee for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2024. The Select Board asked Mr. Massie questions on his background and why he was interested in the Energy and Sustainability Committee.

Board and Committee Appointments

The Board and Committee appointments were made based on the interviews conducted at the October 4, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Rose Bernal-Larioza to the Audit Committee for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2024. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Kimberly Barton to the Conservation Commission for a one-year associate term expiring June 30, 2022. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Presentation – Pavement Management System

Guest Presenter: Amir Kouzehkanani, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission attended to give a presentation on the Pavement Management System for the Town of Longmeadow. Mr. Kouzehkanani has worked alongside Town Engineer Tim Keane, and other DPW staff to develop this plan and presentation to best detail the data behind managing the costs and prioritization of street paving. Members of the board were able to ask questions about the pavement management system. A full video of the presentation is available by clicking [here](#), and the conversation and presentation begins at the 40:00 mark of the meeting. You can also view a copy of the presentation PowerPoint slides on the Town Website as well as in the agenda packet listed under “documents” below.

Resident Comments

Frank Smith, of 20 Greenwillow Drive, was present to speak about the efficacy of heat pumps. Mr. Smith has a MS in Science and is the former vice president of operation for a Cape Cod Energy firm. Mr. Smith led the effort in designing and implementing heat pumps at a Church on Cape Cod. Mr. Smith stated that cold climate heat pumps work effectively as a standalone system. He urged residents to research the use of heat pumps and that they work efficiently. Mr. Smith encouraged residents to check out the updated Mass Clean Energy Center Website and not rely on long outdated information.

Select Board Comments

Mr. Lachiusa spoke about the importance of zoom remote meetings in this climate. Mr. Lachiusa explained that it is a true advantage because he was out of town at the time of this meeting. Participating through zoom allowed this meeting to occur tonight because without the allowance of remote participation, some of the members including himself would have been absent leaving business to postpone. Mr. Lachiusa sees the benefit in remote meetings today.

Mr. Gold stated that he appreciates the update made by Mr. Frank Smith concerning heat pumps during the resident comment portion.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update At the time of the publication of this memo, there are 15 COVID-19 cases in town. Of those 15 cases, 80% of the cases are breakthrough. We are staying steady in the mid-teen numbers.

Road Resurfacing Project The road resurfacing work planned for this fall is on hold until the spring. Palmer Paving was the selected contractor, however supply chain delays in catch basins, granite curbing and other materials has held up projects being completed. Palmer has agreed to hold the pricing. The attached memo from the DPW Director identifies the roadways and explains the delay.

Wolf Swamp Fields Parking Area The parking area at Wolf Swamp Fields is going to be paved with the millings from the road resurfacing projects, this will be done at a significant cost savings to the town however with the delay in the fall road projects we will not have millings available until the spring. The Pondsides Road millings will be deposited at Wolf Swamp Fields but it is not expected to be enough to complete the parking lot. This will not hold up field construction as the fields will not be ready until the fall of 2022.

Sidewalk Projects Funded through the FY22 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$400,000, the DPW and its contractor, Campora Construction, are nearly complete with the 2021 sidewalk improvement project. The majority of the work included new sidewalks and ramps along Wenonah Road, Wenonah Place, Woolworth, Benedict, Windsor, George Washington and Longfellow. There was a significant amount of "spot repair" work also that included portions of Severn, Durham, Farmington Rd., Duxbury, Redfern, Avondale, Wolf Swamp, Fairway, Shaker, and at the corner at Community House. A new crosswalk and sidewalk ramps were installed at the intersection of Laurel and Farmington. Additionally, work was done along Maple Road, particularly at sidewalk access ramps, to address issues with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We expect all work to be completed within the next couple of weeks. Maple and George Washington are about all that remain to be done.

FLAP Project on Pondsides Road The work started on Thursday, October 14 with erosion control measures. They plan to start with the parking area across the train tracks before moving to Pondsides. Pondsides will need to be closed just after the recycling center to Tina Lane while the work is done. We are coordinating the leaf drop off area with signage, as we will need to use Dunn Road to access West Road.

Turner Park Dam Improvements A contract in the amount of \$57,000 was awarded to MASS-WEST Construction for improvements to Turner Park dam including clearing and grubbing, installation of riprap slope

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protection, construction of a dense graded stone walking path, and loam and seed. The work is expected to start soon and reach substantial completion by November 29, 2021.

Department Monthly Reports

Reports from Departments for the month of September are available in the Select Board agenda packet linked on the last page of these minutes under “documents.”

Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the September 20, 2021 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr.

Lachiusa seconded the motion

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

B. 2021 Special Fall Town Meeting Warrant

Vote to sign the 2021 Special Fall Town Meeting Warrant and to set the location of the meeting. The Warrant will be posted on October 19, 2021. Ms. Simmons detailed some of the updates made to the Special Fall Town Meeting Warrant that needed to be addressed before the board closes and signs the warrant. Ms. Simmons stated that a suggestion was made to add the total amount of FY 21 ambulance revenue to the description in Article 6. Mr. Gold and Mr. Lachiusa agreed that adding a description to Article 6 would be beneficial.

Ms. Simmons requested that the board amend Article 7 to increase the legal supplement from \$200,000 to \$300,000 based on an estimate given by the firms handling these cases. Ms. Simmons also stated that a more in detail description for Article 7 would be included. Mr. Lachiusa asked if the Town has a concrete timeframe for the completion of these cases. Ms. Simmons stated that the estimate detailed possibly 16 months for the DPW settlement. Mr. Gold questioned if the board was able to amend the amount in the Article at this point in the process being that the updated amount was not advertised in this current draft. Ms. Simmons explained that the warrant is a draft and is subject to change until voted on to close. This change would also affect Article 10 for the overall amount. Ms. Simmons also explained that the description to Article 7 included “no recommendation by the Finance Committee” due to a split vote of 3-3 at their meeting. Ms. Jennifer Leydon explained that it was clarified by the Town Moderator that a 3-3 vote fails the motion. Ms. Rebecca Townsend, Town Moderator explained that an affirmative motion to approve was made and since there was a 3-3 split vote no action was taken. Mr. Gold asked Ms. Townsend where we go from here. Mr. Strange suggested adding to the description that there was a split vote to provide clarity to the vote taken. The Finance Committee stated that if something new came up, they would hold a meeting to discuss. Ms. Townsend stated that the vote was on a previous draft and that the new total and proposed description would call for the Finance Committee to meet to discuss and vote on new material. Mr. Strange agreed with Mr. Gold that the Finance Committee would need to revote due to the proposed change in Article 7. Ms. Leydon stated that the Finance Committee would be prepared to give a recommendation on the floor of Town Meeting after they voted on the new proposed amendment to Article 7. Mr. Gold suggested that if the amount were changed, the new description would state “recommendation to be given on the floor of Town Meeting.”

Mr. Gold made the motion to amend Article 7 to increase the amount of money as recommended by the Town Manager to \$300,000 dollars and due to this change; the warrant statement for the Finance Committee’s recommendation will read “recommendation to be made on floor of Town Meeting.” Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Simmons recommended that the location be set to the DPW Garage at 170 Dwight Road. The Town has permission to use parking at the businesses across the street. Mr. Gold asked if we intend to have lighting to cross the street at night. Ms. Simmons explained that we will have accessory lighting leading the pathway to the meeting, and will have police detail guiding traffic.

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Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to close the warrant with the additional amendments made this evening. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to set the location of the Special Fall Town Meeting at the Longmeadow DPW Garage on November 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Gold Seconded the motion

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

C. Discussion – Tax Ceiling Task Force Next Steps

Mr. Gold stated that a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2021 at the Longmeadow High School meeting room A15, with a zoom option available as well. This meeting would re-engage the task force to discuss next steps going forward. Mr. Strange thanked Mr. Gold for the update and for getting this meeting set up.

New Business

A. Eastern Hampden Shared Health Services

Eric Weiss of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was present to discuss the final copy of the MOU agreement for the Eastern Hampden Shared Health Services. Ms. Simmons stated that she is happy to report that Hampden, Wilbraham, and Monson, all voted to approve and accept this Shared Health Services Agreement. Longmeadow, as the lead community is now viewing the final version of the agreement to vote on acceptance and approval at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Weiss described the details of the agreement and the creation of a Shared Health Board from various representatives from the member communities. Mr. Weiss detailed the grant that would support the new positions created as part of the new-shared services agreement. The final copy of the MOU is included in the agenda packet below under “documents.” A discussion ensued concerning the agreement the overall budget for the Health Department specifically about healthcare and retirement costs. Mr. Gold asked if there would be a clause in the agreement that would allow new communities to join the shared services. Mr. Weiss responded by saying yes.

B. DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program- Letter of Support

Assistant Town Manager and Director of Planning and Community Development, Corrin Meise-Munns, was present to discuss the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that the Town of Longmeadow is applying for approximately \$20,000 from the DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grant program. The project is to hire an arboricultural consultant with Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) certification to conduct a hazard conditions assessment and develop a prioritized maintenance plan for our street trees. The resulting data will be incorporated into our existing tree inventory according to Ms. Meise-Munns.

Mr. Gold made the motion to accept and issue a letter of support for the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

C. Adult Center – One Day Liquor License Applications

The Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund, Inc. is submitting three applications to serve wine/beer at three events to be held at early evening events at the New Adult Center.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve a One-Day Liquor License to the Adult Center Community Fund for an event to be held on November 4, 2021. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve a One-Day Liquor License to the Adult Center Community Fund for an event to be held on November 9, 2021. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve a One-Day Liquor License to the Adult Center Community Fund for an event to be held on November 10, 2021. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

D. Town of Longmeadow – 2020 Re-Precincting Plan

Mr. Gold made the motion to accept the re-precincting plan for the Town of Longmeadow submitted by the Town Clerk. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

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

Correspondence

GAS RELIABILITY PROJECT MAP

EVERSOURCE WMA RELIABILITY INTRO LETTER 10-5-21

EVERSOURCE WESTERN MASS. GAS RELIABILITY PROJECT

All correspondence info can be viewed in the agenda packet below under “documents”

Adjourn

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

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

Documents



SB 10 18 21 Agenda
Packet.pdf

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri