



Town of
Longmeadow, Massachusetts
20 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106



Tel. (413) 565-4110 • Fax (413) 565-4112

TO: Chairman Lachiusa and Members of the Select Board
FROM: Lyn N. Simmons, Town Manager
DATE: May 17, 2021
SUBJECT: Town Manager Report

Public Health Excellence Grant

I am incredibly excited to inform you that the Public Health Excellence grant I submitted with assistance from PVPC for sharing health services with the Towns of Hampden, Monson and Wilbraham has been awarded! Longmeadow will serve as the lead community, the total grant award from the remainder of FY21 and all of FY22 is \$287,500. Public Health Director Finn McCool and I will begin the hard work of pulling all the pieces of this together. At an upcoming Select Board meeting I will be asking the Board to vote on a letter of intent for sharing services, the other member communities will be working to do the same by June 28 in order to fulfill a grant requirement. The work on a shared service is exploratory and each community needs to have their Select Board and/or BOH take a vote to enter into a shared services agreement when we get to that point. The ultimate goal of this grant is to give each community the staff and tools they need to create a progressive and proactive public health department. A little background on the grant - The state funded \$10 million dollars in the FY21 budget for this grant opportunity. An RFR was put out in March. The state received 30 applications, 29 were awarded totaling \$7.7 million dollars. Of the 29 awarded, 18 were for the creation of NEW shared health services agreements of which Longmeadow is one of.

Senior Signs on the Green

Principal Landers, on behalf of the parent/student organizers, has requested permission to place senior signs on the green again this year. This was widely well received last year and they would like to bring it back for the graduating high school seniors this year. Permission was granted and the signs will be set up after school on Wednesday, May 26th and have students come and get them before dusk on Friday the 28th.

Parks & Recreation and Pools

Over the past month we have been recruiting to fill positions in our camps and at the pools. At this time we do not have enough applications for all the necessary positions to open both Bliss and Greenwood pools. No final decision has been made yet. Additionally, there is a nationwide shortage of pool supplies including chlorine. We are currently taking inventory of all our supplies to determine what we have and what will be needed and how impacted we may or may not be by limited supply. I want to avoid opening a pool and having it shut down several weeks later due to lack of chemicals.

Sewer Winter Averaging

I am engaging a consultant to assist with our MUNIS utility billing modifications. This consultant has a lot of experience working with MUNIS and implementing changes and upgrades for municipalities. With the turnover of a key utility billing staff person at the DPW and the uncertainty about functions our MUNIS utility billing module, we need someone with the experience and a deeper knowledge of MUNIS to implement our changes accurately. This consultant is in high demand and is currently wrapping up MUNIS utility billing projects for the Towns of Dartmouth, Foxboro and Mansfield. As soon as the schedule permits we will begin this work.