

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday April 1, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Present: Chair Mark Gold, Tom Lachiusa, William Low, Richard Foster.
Absent Marie Angelides.

Also Present: Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Pete Thurber, Mario Mazza, Joshua Schimmel, James Laurila, Sue Tower, Jaimye Bartak. Matthew Fuller, Susan Altman, Larry Goldberg, Kathleen Molinari, Raymond LaBorde, Eileen Leahy, Steve Marantz, Arlene Miller, Elizabeth Bone and Irwin Pers.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Select Board Chair Mark Gold.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Announcements: Mark Gold announced that Board and Committee applications are being accepted until May 1, 2019 applications are available on the Town Website. There will be an Arbor Day Celebration April 26 at 11:00 a.m. at Center School. Mark Gold also announced that the Library Department has asked that we announce there is a fundraiser called “Link to Libraries” on Thursday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m. at Samuel’s Tap & Table it does require a donation if interested please go to the Library’s website. There is a hearing being held on April 16th at JFK Middle School in Enfield CT regarding tolls on Interstate 91. This Saturday April 6, 2019 Longmeadow High School will appear on As Schools Match Wits at 7:00 pm on WGBY.

Resident Comments:

- Larry Goldberg of 159 Redfern Drive brought in a petition to leave with the Select Board, signed by all the residents of Redfern Drive asking that they no longer have Commercial trucks over 9500 lbs. using the street. Also asking that signs be put up on each end of the street stating no commercial traffic except for service.

7:05pm Eversource Hearing – Petition 4885

*Richard Foster made a motion to open the Eversource Hearing at 7:05 pm. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

Matthew Fuller from Eversource is seeking permission to relocate the 1st pole in line off of Pondsides in front of the DPW. Eversource is requesting permission to relocate pole 33/1 approximately 15’ south from its existing location. The purpose is to add additional anchoring to the pole line on Pondsides Rd. and relieve strain on pole 58/24.

*Richard Foster made a motion to close the hearing. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

*Richard Foster made a motion to approve the petition, contingent upon the conditions set forth by the Town Engineer. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

Resident/Citizen Comments Continued:

- Kathleen Molinari spoke about the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge off of Route 5 in Longmeadow. Ms. Molinari is very concerned about the speed limit within the Wildlife Sanctuary Refuge it is 40 miles per hour. Ms. Molinari has spoken to the Police Department and Mass Wildlife and feels she has exhausted all her resources she feels the speed limit is excessive. Her husband and herself have seen multiple injured animals and feel that while walking they themselves are in danger because people are driving excessively. Ms. Molinari stated that the main access road belongs to Longmeadow, so Mass Wildlife is not concerned with this, her only other option was to speak to the Select Board to try and alleviate the problem, reduce the speed and be advocates for the animals. The suffering that these animals are going through is astronomical and they do not deserve it. Some of the animals are on the endangered list. She is hoping to find advocates and is willing to work with anyone that would help.
- Susan Altman of 661 Williams St. spoke regarding the speed bump on Williams Street. Susan Altman would like to commend the DPW for putting in the speed bump. Ms. Altman feels that it has saved plenty of lives. It really works, and Ms. Altman would just like to say how happy she is that it is there.

7:15 pm. Comcast Hearing

*Richard Foster made a motion to open the Comcast Hearing. The motion was seconded by Tom Lachiusa. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

Eileen Leahy and Ray LaBorde represented Comcast. Comcast is seeking permission to place one pole numbered 1 on the northern side of Converse St. approximately 16 feet from back edge of existing sidewalk in a northerly direction and approximately 14 feet east from edge of Park Dr. to accommodate a new coaxial cable line feed, to an existing easement that needs a signal strength upgrade. Ray LaBorde stated that this has been going on for quite a few years and they finally have an easement from one of the customers. Right now, they have a temporary fix and it is not performing well.

Mark Gold asked if this is a Longmeadow or Springfield customer. Mr. LaBorde stated it is a Longmeadow customer.

Mark Gold stated that his concern is you are asking for a pole on the north side of Converse Street where there are no poles, so you would be putting in a pole where there are no poles and putting up wires where there are no wires. Mr. Gold's second concern is putting a wire over Converse St. east of Burbank there are no wires going over Converse St. and west of Burbank the only wires going over are service wires going from the poles on the south side to houses on the north side. Mr. Gold asked why can't you trench it? Mr. LaBorde stated they did not want to trench because Converse Street had just been paved. Richard Foster asked why we could not do underground wiring or flow-mole. Mr. LaBorde stated they felt that this was the easiest way to unaffectedly bother with the pavement on Converse Street and moles underneath the road are not always guaranteed, depending upon what is in the roadway as far as structures. Mark Gold asked how tall the pole would be. Ray LaBorde stated about 30 feet above the ground. Tom Lachiusa asked if the purpose of this was because the clients are not getting enough service? Mr. LaBorde informed him yes. Mr. Lachiusa feels they should delay this so that Comcast can look at other options. Richard Foster would like to see a profile on possibly flow-moling this in. Eileen Leahy and Ray LaBorde stated that they can come back with other options.

Tom Lachiusa made a motion to suspend the hearing until the next Select Board meeting on April 16, 2019 at 7:15 pm.

*William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.***

Town Managers Report:

Stephen Crane deferred.

Old Business:

- *Richard Foster made a motion to approve the March 4, 2019 Regular Select Board Meeting minutes. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.***
- *Tom Lachiusa made a motion to approve the March 14, 2019 Budget Forum and Special Meeting minutes. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***
- *Richard Foster made a motion to approve the March 21, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. Tom Lachiusa seconded the motion. **The vote was 3 in favor 0 opposed and 1 abstained (William Low)***

New Business:

1. **Solarize Update** - Steve Marantz gave a review of the Solarize Longmeadow project. Mr. Marantz thanked the Select Board for the opportunity to bring everyone up to date as to where the Solarize Longmeadow and Springfield project was. Mr. Marantz stated for Longmeadow at this point and time they have 15 signed contracts, five installations have been completed, they are all waiting on Eversource to pull the trigger. What these numbers mean in terms of Longmeadow is a Green Community is, over the 20-25-year period that these systems remain in effect it is the equivalent to planting 38,500 trees. It is also the equivalent of taking 332 cars off the road permanently. The folks who have signed up for the program will save approximately \$960,000. Steve Marantz feels from those points of views they are off to a pretty good start. The sign up for this program will end on May 31, 2019. Besides the obvious climate effects, reducing greenhouse gasses and helping Longmeadow remain a Green Community Mr. Marantz stated that the financial aspects of this program are really quite impressive. Because they are doing this with a bulk purchase with the City of Springfield they have a good price for the solar systems. Steve Marantz addressed the complexity of the financial issues. Steve Marantz thanked the Select Board and the Town Manager for really being supportive of this program. Tom Lachiusa asked if there had been any research done as far as heating a home with solar. Mr. Marantz stated that there are heat pumps that you can run off the solar system. Stephen Crane commended Mr. Marantz for all his work.
2. **Review of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Water Quality:**
Joshua Schimmel, James Laurila, Jaimye Bartak and Sue Tower from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission presented a Power Point presentation on the Water Quality. Jaimye Bartak discussed disinfection by-

products, that is the name of the compounds that you received notices about in Longmeadow recently. Total trihalomethanes and Halo acetic Acids are disinfection by-products. In the fourth quarter the TTHM's reached an evaluation of level exceedance, which is not a violation just a warning that the levels are getting high. In the first quarter of 2019 the samples taken did exceed the MCL levels for TTHM and HAA5 which resulted in the public notification. James Laurila explained that there were a few reasons this occurred, the main reason being the record rainfall that we had brought record Natural Organic Matter into raw water. The record rainfall into the water shed mobilized a lot of organic matter into the reservoirs. Mr. Laurila also stated that the treatment processes that they have can only remove a certain amount of organic matter. Tom Lachiusa asked if there were any programs to look at the water shed to try and reduce the organic matter getting in there. Mr. Laurila stated that it is hard to control the raw water coming in beyond what they do and that a well protected water shed is probably the best way of controlling the quality of the water coming into the plant. Joshua Schimmel added that they have a pretty aggressive water shed management program. James Laurila went over the short- and long-term solutions.

- 3. Trash Study Presentation:** Elizabeth Bone of 34 Elizabeth Circle is here tonight as a resident of Longmeadow who happens to work in East Longmeadow and did a trash study. Ms. Bone is also on the Recycling Commission in Longmeadow. Arlene Miller and Irwin Pers of the Recycling Commission were also present. Ms. Bone went over a timeline of what was done in East Longmeadow. Over the summer they had asked the hauler to start tagging trash barrels that were over a 35-gallon limit, roughly 60% of the residents had over 35-gallon barrels. At this time, they had also decided that since they have a 35-gallon limit, as does Longmeadow, they would have an end date of picking up barrels larger than 35 gallons. To inform residents of the end date they did an educational campaign, press releases, created a mailer, advertisements in newspapers, social media postings and robo-calls. They also went to Town Council and let them know what they were planning to do and to get their ok. The Town of East Longmeadow stopped picking up barrels over 35 gallons on November 26, 2018. They did receive some complaints, but it was not that bad. Mostly everyone is still in compliance, the haulers do still tag barrels that are over the limit. Ms. Bone submitted a spread sheet to the Select Board that shows the numbers in East Longmeadow for the trash tonnage from December, January and February they had an 18% decrease in trash in one year, the savings is about almost \$13,000.00. Mark Gold asked if they had an equivalent increase in recycling because of this. Liz Bone stated that they did have an increase in recycling, not quite 18%. It could be that people are reusing things or donating things. Ms. Bone noted that at the same time they also started a curb side textile program called Simple Recycling which is a free program they give every resident a pink bag and they will pick up a bag of textiles on the curb on your regular trash day. The first month they picked up 7,700 pounds of clothing. Richard Foster asked what they do with the clothing. Ms. Bone stated that they sell off the good stuff and the stuff they can not sell they shred for insulation, they recycle it and also use it for rags. Arlene Miller noted it is a three-tiered program and that the Town of East Longmeadow receives money for it. Ms. Miller also stated that the great thing about this program is that it does not cost the town any money. Richard Foster asked about what has been in the national news recently about a lot of communities stopping recycling, is there anything like this happening in New England? Arlene Miller stated the good news is that China still needs our stuff and the Chinese paper people are coming to the United States and opening mills in the United States also mills that have closed are re-opening in the United States, the market is adjusting.

Mark Gold questioned the response that was received from the residents regarding the 35-gallon enforcement of the rules. Liz Bone stated that the majority understood that it was a town rule for a long time and were ok with it. Stephen Crane stated there is a strong economic case to be made that stricter enforcement is needed, one of the things they have talked about was perhaps doing a standard issued barrel for all households. Stephen Crane noted that Arlene Miller has done some research on costs and types of barrels, there are also grants to offset the costs. Mr. Crane said they are looking to take the experience from East Longmeadow and see what Longmeadow's options are. Mark Gold asked how much would we spend on barrels? Arlene Miller stated about \$59,000.00 for a return of \$46,000.00 in the first year. Mark Gold's concern is that they are spending \$50,000.00 and not rewarding the people who are abiding by the 35-gallon rule and accommodating the people who have the larger barrels. Arlene Miller stated the benefit of a uniform barrel is that there is a very generous grant that we can take advantage of. Stephen Crane believes the standard barrel would be the way to go. Mark Gold asked that they come up with a finance and implementation plan and come back to the Select Board with a more formal proposal.

- 4. Williams Street Raised Crosswalk Discussion:**

DPW Director Mario Mazza was present to speak on the Williams Street raised crosswalk. The Select Board received an e-mail from Mario Mazza referencing a Facebook post with comments about the raised crosswalk. Mark Gold stated that this issue has come up multiple times and that he gets spoken to about this issue the most

from town residents. Mark Gold believes that far more people believe that the raised cross walk does not belong on Williams Street. William Low stated that he received the e-mail and the post had all of the positive comments, he questioned if it was filtered. Mario Mazza stated that the approach was they wanted to give the Select Board three options. Option one was to do nothing. To support the positive comments, he wanted it known that there are some people who are happy about the installation. Option two would be to soften it and option three would be to remove it completely. Mr. Mazza stated that there are funds outlined in your packet to help guide the conversation as to what the costs would be if we decide to do one of the three options. Stephen Crane stated they adopted a complete streets by-law which said they had to take into consideration all modes of transportation as they plan the roadway projects. They received the Complete Streets grant for the project. They took objective criteria and ranked all the potential projects, this project at this intersection was number one. Mr. Crane also noted that this was already on their radar as a problem before the pedestrian fatality occurred. Mr. Crane stated that it was designed and built in accordance to the specs. Stephen Crane reminded the Board that a lot of time and energy went into this, he has also received a lot of negative feed back on it as well. Mr. Crane stated that the point of the Facebook post was to show that there is another side to the story and there are plenty of people who think it is a good thing. Mark Gold is not arguing against making the crosswalk safe, his personal opinion would be to remove it and put in a true crossing signal for people to cross there. Mario Mazza stated that there is, in addition to the raised crosswalk, flashing beacons so when a pedestrian hits the button the lights flash and everyone is supposed to take notice and stop. Richard Foster agrees with Mark Gold that it would be better to remove the bump and have all the safety things in place. Mario Mazza stated that he thinks the preferred option would be to extend the ramps, which is the figure that is in the packet. Mr. Mazza stated that he is looking for guidance from the Board, he understands that this is a big issue in town.

Mark Gold feels this is not working and is causing more problems his vote would be to remove the speed bump. Stephen Crane would like to get an answer from MASS DOT as to whether or not they would have to pay the money back. Mark Gold will put this back on the agenda in two weeks to finalize.

5. **Audit Correction Report:**

Paul Pasterczyk spoke about the findings in the 2018 Audit Management letter. The first finding dealt with IT controls regarding committees, passwords and formal processes about reviewing software training. The IT Director was here four weeks ago and gave you some information regarding security, cyber-attacks and back up procedures. Paul Pasterczyk is chasing down the IT Director to get more information regarding the other factors. Finding number two dealt with improving internal control at the Parks and Rec. Department regarding checks, logs and summarization reports, all of those were implemented back in December of 2018 when the management letter first came out. Finding number three was a recommendation to perform student activity fund audit, the Superintendent of Finance for the schools, Tom Mazza has engaged Tom Scanlon and Associates to do the audit, they have not come up with an exact date, but it should be done fairly shortly. Number four was to prepare for GASB 84 and 87 this does not take place until FY20 and FY2021 they have not done much on this because they were down two of the three staff members and have just been keeping the normal operations going. Number five dealt with some bank reconciliations and fundraising, the bank reconciliations had to be put on hold as a result of the vacancies in the Accounting Department. The matter will be addressed again upon the filling of the vacancy. With regard to the fund-raising matter, the Town is working with FOLOCA and through consultation with the independent auditor will address that matter through the statutes and sound business practices for instances that do meet the threshold of governing statutes. A written policy has not yet been developed. There were two left over from a prior year one being an accounting issue dealing with other financial sources and issues was taken care of at the opening of the FY19 books. The last one deals with whether or not the operations of the Solid Waste / Recycling Enterprise fund should actually be accounted for as an enterpriser fund or through the general fund and to some degree the Storm Water Enterprise fund. The funding of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund was addressed during the FY 2020 budget season with the Select Board. While no formal policy is in place the Select Board has approved a budget that calls for a greater percent of the budget being covered via user fees. They did not get to any discussion with regards to Solid Waste Recycling Enterprise fund and that discussion should be had at some point in time.

Town Manager Report: Broadband Discussion - The Town recently met with Whip City Fiber, a division of Westfield Gas and Electric (WG&E), regarding municipal broadband service. Whip City Fiber is high-speed internet service delivered across a fiber optic network directly to homes or businesses. The fiber optic technology provides upload and download speeds of up to 1 Gigabit per second—that's 1,000 Mbps, ten times faster than the best residential service currently available. WG&E has completed a 2-year build for the city of Westfield which

will provide service to over 70% of the community. It was reported locally that WG&E was providing assistance to other communities with broadband service. The discussion was informative and there are a few key steps that Longmeadow should take if it wants to pursue offering internet service.

The first is to petition the DPU for the establishment of a local municipal light plant (MLP) so it can have access to the communications spaces on utility poles. Purchasing the streetlights and poles from Eversource would help in this regard. WG&E also recommended a feasibility study to assess how much fiber network would need to be built out, what the per-home connection costs could be, and how internet service would be provided. They estimated this to be a \$50,000 cost. The Town would have to bond the cost to build out the network, but WG&E could provide management services (tech support, customer support, billing, etc.) for a fixed fee per account. This would reduce Longmeadow's upfront cost significantly.

Solid Waste/Recycling Study- Over the last year, Town Officials and the Recycling Commission began the process of examining trash barrel sizes and weights throughout the Town in an effort to reduce waste and disposal costs. In the fall of 2018, the Town engaged Waste Management (WM) to audit curbside barrels over a period of two weeks. The categories WM tracked were: barrel size (35-gal, 45-gal, 65 gal, greater than 65 gal), number of recycling bins, number of blue bags, number of extra bags of trash. The dataset provided by WM only totaled 7,500 entries. Ideally, the dataset should have totaled approximately 11,000 entries (2 weeks x 5,500 households). Putting aside the dataset discrepancies, the counts showed that approximately 2,150 homes currently use a 35-gallon (or smaller) trash barrel. Another 1,364 homes use a 45-gallon trash barrel and 234 homes use a 65-gallon trash barrel or larger. The results of that audit shows approximately 42% of households are using barrels larger than the 35 gallons allowed under the bylaws. Assuming that a gallon of trash equals 1 pound of trash, the homes using 45-gallon barrel contribute an extra 10 pounds of trash each week and those using 65 gallon barrels contribute an extra 30 pounds each week. Thus, 1,364 homes with 45 gallon barrels contribute an extra 13,640 pounds of trash each week (1,364 x 10 = 13,640). - 234 homes with 65 gallon barrels contribute an extra 7,020 pounds of trash each week (234 x 30 = 7,020).

Each week the Town pays to dispose of an extra 20,660 pounds of trash
 (13,640 + 7,020 = 20,660).

20,660 pounds of trash equals 10.33 tons each week (20,660 / 2000 (pounds in a ton) = 10.33) Extrapolating the weekly tonnages, the Town pays for an extra 537.16 tons each year (10.33 x 52 = 537.16)

Under the current contract for waste disposal, the Town pays \$75 per ton. At that rate, the Town pays an extra **\$40,287** each year for residents who are not in compliance with the Town's trash barrel size ordinance. If each household currently using an over-sized barrel used one blue bag (Pay as You Throw) per week for their extra trash, the Town would see **\$145,418** in revenue (1,598 households x \$1.75/bag x 52weeks) from bag sales alone. This amount also does not take into account the increase in recycling revenue from the Materials Recycling Facility.

The Town and the Recycling Committee have begun researching options to remedy this issue. One idea is to buy a standardized Town-owned 35-gallon barrel for each residence. To offset the cost, the DPW is exploring grant options through MassDEP. In addition, Recycling Committee member Arlene Miller has been soliciting quotes from various barrel manufacturers for assembled (wheels, handle, lid) 35-gallon barrels with an optional delivery charge. Work on this initiative will continue and a formal proposal may be made to the Select Board at a future meeting.

Green Communities Grant

George Woodbury	Economic Analysis (2014)	\$10,277
Weston & Sampson	ZNEB Design	\$40,250
Realterm	Streetlight Audit	\$18,077
Realterm	Streetlight Design	\$86,251 (balance)
Total		\$155,125 (grant award)

Paul Pasterczyk is pleased to announce that for the 4th year in a row the Town has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY19 budget, from a national association of government finances, The Government Finance Association and they define this award as the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Mr. Pasterczyk is happy to say they are four for four and hope to keep it going.

6. **Set the Fall Town Meeting date:**

Paul Pasterczyk stated that the best date for the fall Town Meeting would be November 5, 2019.

*Richard Foster made a motion to set the Town Meeting date to November 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by William Low. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

7. **One Day Liquor License/St. Mary's Purse Bingo:**

Request from St. Mary's for a one-day liquor license for their purse bingo on May 4, 2019.

*Tom Lachiusa made motion to approve the one-day liquor license for May 4, 2019 contingent upon them updating the liability insurance to meet the Town's requirements. Richard Foster seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

8. **Executive session:**

1. Approval of Past Minutes: February 4, 2019
2. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the Chair hereby declares an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body - Library

Mark Gold announced that the executive session has been postponed, the Attorney was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Subcommittee Reports: None

Correspondence:

1. Comcast Annual Filing
2. Comcast Hearing Notice
3. Letter to Select Board re: Converse Street

Mark Gold announced that the next meeting will be on Tuesday March 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm as Monday the 15th is a holiday.

*Richard Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Low seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan

Documents: Agenda, Comcast note from Town Engineer, Comcast petition dtd 3/18/19, Comcast Petition-DPW comments, Eversource Petition 4885, Eversource Petition 4885- DPW comments, Town Managers Report, 3/4/2019 Select Board draft minutes, 3/14/2019 draft minutes budget forum & special meeting, 3/21/2019 Select Board draft minutes, One Day Liquor License application, 5 ACR FY 2018, 3d Mailer proof, Trash scan 3c, 3b 35 Gallon Limit timeline, 3 New violation letter NOV2018, Longmeadow water quality, Finance Comm. Minutes 3-13-2019, Finance Comm. Minutes 3-20-2019, Park Board minutes 2-11-2019, Westcomm Board meeting 3-19-2019, SB comments Tenn. Pipeline project, notice of vacancies, Arbor Day flyer, signed petition from residents of Redfern.