

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday April 3, 2017, 7:00 p.m.  
High School Meeting Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow

**Present:** Acting Chair Tom Lachiusa, William Low, Mark Gold and Richard Foster. Marie Angelides was absent.

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, CFO Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Moderator Rebecca Townsend, Christine Foerster-Regan, Al Laakso (Conservation Commission), Karen Lombard, David Miller, David Sagan, Greg Saulmon (Republican), Richard Liasse, News 40 and News 22

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Tom Lachiusa.

**Announcements:**

1. Congratulations to Arlene Miller for being awarded the 2017 MassRecycle Award for public service.
2. The Converse Street road construction project (from Laurel to Dwight) has started and will go on all summer.
3. Informational brochures on the new DPW facility are available at the Town Hall and on the town website.

**Resident Comments:**

1. Christine Foerster-Regan, 74 Dunn Road – Ms. Foerster-Regan was a neighbor of Warren Cowles and is a friend of Mr. Cowles sister. She agrees that something needs to be done at the Birnie Road/Tina Lane railroad crossing but does not want to see it closed. This is an emergency access road for her if something were to happen to Emerson Road.

**Select Board Comments:** none

**Town Managers Report:**

1. Rail Crossing – Chief Stankiewicz is heading up the investigation for the town. He has been communicating with Amtrak Police and the FRA since the day of the accident. Senator Lesser pledged his assistance in this effort as well. Determining what governing entity is responsible for the installation of traffic controls for the rail crossing at Tina Lane is a top priority going forward.
2. RECC – The six town regional dispatch effort known as WESTCOMM is now down to three towns. Wilbraham, Hampden and Ludlow withdrew from the District Planning Committee. The three remaining towns (Longmeadow, East Longmeadow and Southwick) are evaluating alternatives. The consultant for the effort, the Carrell Group, is under contract with Longmeadow and still has some services left to perform. If a viable combined dispatch option is identified, additional grant funding will be pursued.
3. PVRTA Pilot Program – A pilot program is forming for a Senior Ride service between the PVRTA, East Longmeadow, Hampden and Longmeadow. A draft agreement has been developed and would require a Town Meeting vote. If approved, the pilot program would start July 1.
4. Regional Lockup – The Hampden County Sheriff's Department will provide pre-arrestment holding services for the Longmeadow Police Department. This agreement will reduce the LPD liability associated with housing prisoners and save on overtime expenses.
5. COA Director – 61 applications were received for the COA Director position and 7 candidates were interviewed in the first round and two finalists were interviewed a second time. Mr. Jim Leyden from West Springfield was the top choice of the interview panel. He will attend the next Select Board meeting on April 18.
6. Town Employee Donations – Town employees donated \$3,554 to the Cowles family to offset Warren's funeral expenses.

**Old Business:**

1. Tina Lane Crossing – Police Chief Stankiewicz temporarily closed all of Tina Lane from Pondsides Road to Birnie Road. Senator Lesser and Representative Ashe are committed to taking the lead on this at the secretariat level of the state. Mr. Crane recommended that the Select Board vote to affirm the temporary closure of Tina Lane. Mr. Foster believes that the Select Board needs to refrain from moving forward while this is under litigation. There should be no discussion. The road has been temporarily closed under the direction of the Police Chief. Mr. Lachiusa feels that we need to safe guard the intersection and that it should be discussed as a board. Mr. Low added that this is an important issue and there has to be a resolution to this. Mr. Gold agreed not to take action before the investigation is completed. The area has been identified as a problem intersection.

*Mr. Gold made a motion that Tina Lane/Birnie Road be closed to through traffic at the Amtrak railroad track crossing, and to achieve this closure that:*

- *Barricades be installed approximate to and on both sides of the railroad tracks, with the barricades to be equivalent to jersey barricades; that is of sufficient construct as to not be moveable without heavy equipment or able to be evaded (gone around) by any motor vehicle.*
- *Signage be installed on the barricades and on both sides of the tracks, placed sufficiently to notify eastbound potential users of this public way that the road is closed at the tracks, and further signage to direct westbound traffic seeking a route to West Road or Dunn Road to cross the railroad track at the Emerson Road crossing.*

*I further move that this road closure remain in force with barricades in place until such time as:*

- *All active investigations into the accident that resulted in the death of Warren Cowles are concluded, including but not limited to reports by Amtrak and the Mass State Police;*
- *Those accident investigation reports and their recommendations are delivered to the Select Board;*
- *Recommendations to improve safety at the Tina Lane/Birnie Road Amtrak railroad crossing are submitted to the Select Board by the Town of Longmeadow Police and DPW;*
- *A public hearing has been held to review the recommendations of the accident investigation teams and solicit resident input regarding remediation;*
- *That the Select Board has reviewed, deliberated, and acted upon those recommendations, ordering implemented those that it deems appropriate;*
- *And the ordered recommendations are fully implemented to the satisfaction of the Select Board.*

*No seconded to the motion.*

Mr. Foster feels the Police have the area temporarily closed and secured right now while the investigation is going on; no need for the Select Board to take any action right now. Mr. Low is not completely comfortable with Mr. Gold's motion right now. Mr. Low and Mr. Foster suggested that Mr. Gold's motion be reviewed by Town Counsel.

2. Minutes Approval

*Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the March 13, 2017 Budget Forum minutes as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1 with Mr. Low abstaining.*

*Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the March 13, 2017 special meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1 with Mr. Low abstaining.*

*Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the March 20, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*

3. Allocation of DPW Debt – An allocation (General, Water Enterprise, Sewer Enterprise and Storm Water Enterprise-if created) must be determined for the bond (Article 10 \$21,205,000 if approved at ATM) for the acquiring of land and the constructing and equipping of a new DPW facility. Mr. Pasterczyk presented four allocation methods for the Select Board to review: Method A – straight FY18 budgetary percentage, Method B – adjusted FY18 budgetary percentage, Method C – percentage based on DPW

employee full time equivalencies, and Method D – average of B and C.

*Mr. Gold made a motion to adopt Method B which is an adjusted FY18 budgetary percentage. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*

4. Revised Water Budget from SWSC – A letter was received last week from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) notifying the town that the estimated FY18 charges for the purchase of water will increase about 30%. This is a result of an enhanced capital improvement program that is being considered by the SWSC. Mr. Pasterczyk noted that this is a preliminary discussion to start thinking about how we will handle the increase before the watering season. Mr. Pasterczyk will be waiting for the final number from the SWSC. The town's water rates that were set in January/February could be amended. Some other suggestions from Mr. Pasterczyk were to: adjust the water budget at the ATM with no change in the rate structure; adjust the water budget at the ATM and adjust rates now or at mid-term or take from Water Retained Earnings; or adjust the water budget at the fall STM with no change in the rate structure or a mid-term change or take from Water Retained Earnings.

### **New Business:**

1. Special Fall Town Meeting Date – *Mr. Foster made a motion to accept the recommendation for the fall town meeting date of November 7, 2017. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*
2. Vote Ballot Question – The wording of the debt exclusion ballot question comes right out of the statute. The ballot question needs to be approved 35 days prior to the election in order to make the ballot. The ballot question reads “Shall the Town of Longmeadow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issue in order to acquire land, construct and equip a new Department of Public Works Facility \_\_ yes \_\_ no”; and provided, further, that said question shall be deemed approved if a majority of the persons voting thereon shall vote “yes”.  
*Mr. Low made a motion to accept the wording of the Debt Exclusion ballot question for the new DPW facility. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*
3. Approve NOI Request for Restoration of Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge – Al Laakso, Conservation Commission Chair attended the meeting along with Karen Lombard from The Nature Conservancy, David Sagan from the Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge and David Miller from the Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge (FSWR). The FSWR received a grant for floodplain forest restoration including restoration of old fields to floodplain forest species and invasive plant control. This required filing with the local Conservation Commission. The four owners of the properties in the area are: FSWR, Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge, TN Gas Pipeline and the Town of Longmeadow. Approval is needed from the Select Board representing the Town of Longmeadow. This is a three year project; the Conservation Commission can issue an order of conditions for five years. Pavement and berms from the old discontinued portion of Meadow Road (cut off when Rt. 91 was built) will be removed. The restoration area is all floodplain and all south of the Bark Haul Road overpass. Ponside Road and Bark Haul Road lead into this area. Two gates were installed years ago because of vandalism. They were updated about eight years ago by Fannie Stebbins. Keys to the gates were given to the Police Department, Fire Department, Amtrak, TN Gas Pipeline and the Conservation Commission. Mr. Miller added that the land was turned over to The Nature Conservatory just this week.  
*Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the NOI (Notice of Intent) for reforestation of town lands as requested. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*
4. Town Moderator Forums – Moderator Rebecca Townsend will hold two Forums; one on April 11 and the other on April 26 both at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Business Technology Center at the high school. These forums will give residents a chance to have questions answered on the new DPW facility and other major projects that will be on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Pros and cons of proposals

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will be discussed. The DPW Committee will be in attendance to answer questions and Weston & Sampson (architects) will present information. Light refreshments will be served. Registration for the forums can be done at Eventbrite.com. Weston & Sampson will also give a brief presentation at the Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Townsend will type up the results of the forum(s) discussions and put them on the town website.

5. One Day Liquor License – *Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the one day liquor license application for James Jones (Knights of Columbus) for April 29, 2017 for an Adult Spelling Bee from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*

**Subcommittee Reports:** none

*Mr. Foster made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie House