

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
REMOTE

Arrangements for remote participation by Select Board members and members of the public were made in accordance with Governor Baker's Emergency Order Modifying the State's Open Meeting Law.

Participation in the meeting was remotely via Zoom. Log in <https://zoom.us/j/583952885> and/or call + 1-929-436-2866 to participate (Meeting ID: 583 952 885).

Select Board Present via Zoom: Marie Angelides, Chair, Mark Gold, Richard Foster, Marc Strange, and Tom Lachus
Also Present via Zoom: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Chief John Dearborn, Marybeth Bergeron

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Marie Angelides. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order 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 the meeting.

Chair Angelides confirmed that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda were present and could hear. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. The meeting allowed for public comment.

COVID-19 Update – Chief Dearborn called in to the meeting and gave the update. As of today there are 17 confirmed cases in town, this does not include the nursing homes. MDPH is assisting the nursing homes. Chief Dearborn encourages all to stay engaged in social distancing. If anyone is showing symptoms of COVID-19, call your primary care physician, do not go to the emergency room. As of today, the Fire and Police Departments are fully staffed. Cards, notes, and food sent to the departments are greatly appreciated. There are currently no cases reported at Emerson Manor.

Ms. Simmons has received a few requests for the waiving of interest on tax and utility bills, she and Mr. Pasterczyk are looking into this. The DOR has put out information recently.

Chair Angelides asked for public comment and noted that the meeting was being recorded, and that some attendees were participating by video conference. The public was notified that others may be able to view, and to take care not to "screen share" their computer. Anything that is broadcasted may be captured by the recording.

Residents Comments – none

Select Board Comments

1. Mr. Lachus asked that residents be understanding if someone walks on your lawn to avoid getting too close to someone they are passing on the sidewalk.
2. Ms. Angelides remarked that she is hearing good things about people helping each other and expressed her thanks.

Town Manager's Report

1. The cobra head streetlight fixtures are being installed by Arden Engineering. They are working 10 hour days Monday through Thursday. The order for the decorative fixtures is in process. Installation progress can be followed on the town's website.
2. Phase I of capping the landfill is still in progress. The cap was delivered and installation will begin soon. Phase II work has started to clear vegetation; grading, contouring, and shaping the area will be next.
3. The Police Department has a new website which is accessed through the town website, longmeadow.org.
4. The work on the Wolf Swamp Field design specs continues. Once complete the project will be put out to bid.
5. Construction of the new DPW and new Adult Center is continuing. W.J. Mountford is taking safety and sanitary measures at both sites to lessen the chance of exposure to COVID-19.
6. The Conway School will complete the master plan work for Laurel Park and Bliss Park this semester. The school semester start date has been pushed back. Meetings are done remotely. A remote community meeting will be scheduled.

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes – *Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 16, 2020 as presented. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.*
Roll call vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-abstained, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, and Mr. Strange-yes
Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 27, 2020 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
Roll call vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, and Mr. Strange-yes
2. Town Election Discussion – Ms. Simmons noted that there has been nothing yet from the state regarding elections scheduled after May 31. The Town Election is currently scheduled for June 16. Our options are to get a court order or wait a bit for municipal relief. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.
3. Tax Ceiling Legislation Discussion – Town Meeting needs to vote to allow for special legislation to be put forward on a ballot question. Ms. Simmons feels there is a lot of uncertainty right now and timeframes are unclear. The process should be started soon.
4. Trash and Recycling, Yard Waste Update and Discussion – The yard waste/leaf dump is now open. Residents are following the rules and social distancing. The Recycling Center is not open yet; Ms. Simmons is working on the logistics. Ms. Angelides noted that the blue household trash bags are available at Armata's, Big Y, and Rocky's in East Longmeadow. If a resident is unable to get the extra bags, they can contact the DPW office at 567-3400 to have them mailed, postage costs will be applied.

New Business

1. DPW Change Order – Marybeth Bergeron, Chair of the Building Committee called in to the meeting. PCO-051 is for the removal and replacement of soils at foundation excavations deemed unsuitable in the amount of \$36,732.73. Ms. Bergeron explained that the soils are unsuitable for foundation and pier stability. There are two pier locations. The Building Committee recommends approval of PCO-051. Mr. Foster noted that he is irritated that so much time has to be spent reviewing the contractors' submittals.
Mr. Gold made the motion to approve PCO-051 for the DPW in the amount of \$36,732.73. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
Roll call vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, and Mr. Strange-yes
2. DOR-Liabilities in Excess of Appropriation – Mr. Pasterczyk explained that this is a procedural issue for the Town to seek DOR approval to allow us to incur liabilities in excess of appropriations as we confront the COVID-19 pandemic. We should not be expending until approved. Stimulus money and MEMA funds will be used to pay this back.
Mr. Gold made the motion to approve sending a letter to the DOR seeking approval to incur liabilities in excess of appropriations spending estimated at \$175,000. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
Roll call vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, and Mr. Strange-yes
3. S2468-Act Revoking Acceptance of Law Establishing a Board of Election Commissioners – Ms. Simmons reported that an article to revoke acceptance of the general law establishing a Board of Election Commissioners (Chapter 51) is now in the House, they are not making decisions now except for COVID issues. Ms. Simmons added that the Town is not structured to take on a Board of Election Commissioners. Boards of Election Commissioners are to be populated by April 1. The Attorney recommended that the Select Board take a formal vote to delay the creation of a Board of Election Commissioners due to pending legislation and the emergency pandemic.
Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to delay the creation of a Board of Election Commissioners due to the pending legislation and emergency pandemic. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.
Roll call vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, and Mr. Strange-yes

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m. and enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with regard to anticipated regulatory litigation relative to TGP 261 Upgrade Projects and Columbia Gas lateral/meter station, discussion of which in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town and the Chair so declares, not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ms. Angelides-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Foster-yes, Mr. Lachiusa-yes, and Mr. Strange-yes

Documents: Agenda, Town Manager Report, Draft Minutes 3/16/20 and 3/27/20, Draft article Tax Ceiling, PCO-051, Letter to DOR, Senate bill S2468, Correspondence (Comcast, Dr. James Reiss)