

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, May 21, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Present: Chair Thomas Lachiusa, Mark Gold, William Low, Marie Angelides and Richard Foster

Also Present: Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Leo Milshteyn, Michelle Marantz, Steve Marantz, Liz Bone, David Miller, Rob Kapner

Interviewees: Ernest Welker, Larry Rubin, Mary Beth Morris, Craig Carr, Timothy Casey, Sheri Knight, John Bowen, Fran Miffitt, Thea Katsounakis, Melinda Cropsey, Laurie Housman, Robert Khoury, Robert Mulcahy, John Bresnahan

Columbia Gas: Steve Bryant and Dave Mueller

Eversource: Dolly Wrona, Michael Vedovelli, and Iman Afran

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Select Board Chair Thomas Lachiusa.

Announcements:

1. The Board of Registrars will hold voter registration on Wednesday, May 23 until 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall for anyone who is not registered and would like to vote in the June election.

Annual Board/Committee Interviews:

1. Audit Committee – Ernest Welker, 243 Burbank Road has been a member of the Audit Committee since its formation. He is interested in continuing with the three year term that expires in 2019 to give others a chance to be on the committee.
2. Board of Assessors – Larry Rubin, 80 King Philip Drive has been on the Board for three years and is presently the Chair. He would like to continue with a three year term. Mr. Gold questioned how the Assessors Department was doing without a Principal Assessor. Mr. Rubin responded that the department is doing “phenomenal”. A short term contract was acquired with a vendor and the Assistant Assessor does a good job picking up any slack in the office. More of a long term contract will be awarded to the vendor in the future.
3. Permanent Building Committee – Mary Beth Morris, 44 Essex Court is a 20 year resident in town and is currently a member of the Permanent Building Committee. She is reapplying for a three year term. She was a member of the Town Manager’s Task Force for the DPW, a member of the DPW Building Committee and is currently vice chair of the Permanent Building Committee.
4. Building Demolition Committee – Ms. Craig Carr, 397 Longmeadow Street has been on the committee for the past three years and would like to continue. The committee meets at least once a year to stay current and touch base.
5. Community Preservation Committee – Tim Casey, 741 Laurel Street and Sheri Knight, 14 Falmouth Road are both seeking at-large terms on the committee. Ms. Knight has been on the committee for the past two years. The first year as a representative of the Conservation Commission and the second year as an at-large member. Mr. Casey is currently on the Historical Commission and would like to help out the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Gold noted that the Supreme Court made a ruling on CPA funds for religious projects. Mr. Weiss, chair of the CPC has kept all informed of the ruling. Mr. Casey and Ms. Knight are both interested in three year terms.
6. Council on Aging/Board of Directors – John Bowen, 114 Emerson Road and Frances Miffitt, 81 Nevins Avenue are both currently on the COA Board and would like to continue. Ms. Miffitt is a 29 year resident has been on the Board for three years. Mr. Bowen has been on the Board for six years.
7. Cultural Council – Thea Katsounakis, 582 Williams Street is on the Storrs Library Board, recently retired from Bank of America, and is interested in becoming a member of the Cultural Council. She has a background in grants and has been on grant committees and feels that her experience could be helpful.
8. Historic District Commission – Tim Casey, 741 Laurel Street, Melinda Cropsey, 862 Longmeadow Street, Laurie Housman, 796 Longmeadow Street, Robert Khoury, 89 Longmeadow Street, and Robert Mulcahy, 315 Longmeadow Street interviewed for positions on the HDC. Mr. Casey is on the Historical

Commission and is very interested in history and preserving history and would like to be a part of it. Ms. Cropsey was appointed to the commission in February to fill out a term, still has an interest in serving, and would like to continue on the commission. Ms. Houseman is relatively new to town. She is impressed with the town and stated that she could be non-biased regarding the Young Mansion property. She is a practicing attorney and feels that she could give guidance and be a valuable voice. Mr. Khoury is a five year resident and is originally from Connecticut. He grew up near Litchfield where there are a large amount of historic homes. He loves preserving history and would like to be a part of this commission. Mr. Mulcahy is a seven year resident and has owned a few historic homes in the past, his current home is also a historic home. He enjoys preserving them.

9. Conservation Commission – John Bresnahan, 47 Falmouth Road is re-applying to the Conservation Commission. He is currently a member of the Conservation Commission and the Community Preservation Committee. He is interested in a three year appointment. His most rewarding project this year is the progression of the Silvio Conte plans.

Resident Comments: Leo Milshteyn, 537 Williams Street had a water main break in front of his house. He found electrical corrosion from the gas line on the pipe. Kurt Freedman Engineering confirmed the corrosion from the gas pipeline. Electrical corrosion creates small holes in the water pipes. Pipes with holes can suck in sand or whatever is around and leads to contamination. Four other homes in Mr. Milshteyn's neighborhood experienced the same issue with water main breaks; one home had it happen twice. The gas company settled and paid the residents. The town loses water through these corrosive holes and contamination can reach homes and the main water system. There is also a potential risk to the road/sidewalk area. Mr. Milshteyn submitted a list of water service failures on Williams Street in 2016-17 along with a list of damages that could happen to the water lines as a result of corrosion from the gas pipeline. He also submitted four questions for the gas company and a copy of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Town of Longmeadow's Public Water System.

Michelle Marantz Presentation regarding Columbia Gas: Michelle Marantz, 117 Rugby Road attended the meeting to voice a group of citizen's concerns about the safety of the proposed Longmeadow Columbia Gas pipeline. A list of questions was faxed to Columbia Gas. The heart of their concern is Columbia Gas's planned expansion of dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure in Longmeadow when our future as a Massachusetts green community requires the transition to renewables. Four dangerous chemicals are leaked even through new pipelines in every stage. There have been ongoing repairs to gas leaks in town by Columbia Gas which is greatly appreciated so why introduce more pipelines. The Global Warming Solutions Act requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions; by 2020 emissions must be 25% below that of 1994; and by 2050 emissions must be 80% below that of 1994. Longmeadow needs to focus on green energy for a green economy to ensure our future health. Two representatives from Columbia Gas attended the meeting.

Select Board Comments:

1. Richard Foster commented on the nice job that was done for the veterans' ceremony at Long Meddowe Days this past weekend. While at Long Meddowe Days he was approached by a resident who expressed her sincere thanks for all of the work the Select Board does.

Utilities Discussion:

1. Columbia Gas – Steve Bryant, President and Dave Mueller, Engineering Manager attended the meeting. Mr. Bryant stated that he will address each of Ms. Marantz questions and send them back to the Town Manager. The infrastructure work that Columbia Gas is doing in Longmeadow is not related to expansion, it is related to the Global Warming Solutions Act that requires reducing emissions. Columbia is eliminating aging infrastructure which is prone to leakage. There is infrastructure in town that was installed in 1898 (cast iron). Mr. Mueller explained that there are currently about 30 miles of old infrastructure left in town to be replaced. About 59 miles has already been replaced. Mr. Gold questioned what can be done about the corrosion of water pipes due to the gas lines. Mr. Mueller noted that he can take the addresses of those homes that had water main breaks on Williams Street due to the corrosion and look into it. Mr. Bryant feels this is an unusual circumstance. Mr. Crane will send a copy

of Curt Freedman's report to Columbia Gas. Mr. Gold asked what the relationship was between Tennessee Gas Pipeline and Columbia Gas and the high pressure line that comes through Longmeadow. Tennessee Gas Pipeline is an interstate pipeline that moves gas from the area where it is produced to an area where it is consumed and is regulated by a federal commission. The Tennessee Gas Pipeline is a high pressure pipeline. Columbia Gas is a local gas distribution company that is state regulated and moves gas from the interstate pipeline to the consumer. Columbia Gas asked Tennessee if they would entertain constructing a gate station in Longmeadow for a second source of supply to Longmeadow. Tennessee would decide where they could build; they have applied to the DPU for approval of the basic agreement. Briefs have been filed and discoveries and hearings have taken place. Ms. Angelides questioned whether a town could file as an interested party to the agreement. Mr. Bryant felt that it was a very rare occurrence and is unaware of any. Ms. Angelides questioned if there are Columbia Gas grants for municipal buildings to improve insulation. Mr. Bryant replied that Mass Saves is a Columbia Gas agent. Mass Saves audits have been done on the buildings. Residents can call Columbia Gas directly to find out information on a job that is going on in town. Columbia Gas will be posting placards at all of their job sites with an 800 telephone number to call for information.

2. Eversource – Dolly Wrona, Eversource Account Executive for the Town of Longmeadow, Mike Vedovelli, Eversource Community Relations, and Iman Afran, Engineering Department of the Springfield Work Center attended the meeting. Ms. Rona stated that robust maintenance and inspection programs are going on in the Longmeadow facilities. Mr. Gold had two questions: 1) underground vs. overhead wires: how do we move from overhead wires to underground wires going forward? Ms. Wrona asked if the town has considered the environmental effects of going underground, and noted that the cost is borne by the town. Mr. Gold feels that over time as replacements are made the wires should go underground. Eversource will bring the topic back to their engineering people to see how they comment on it.

2) Streetlights purchase – Mr. Gold testified a few years ago at the DPUC hearing about the revaluation of the depreciation schedule of the streetlights that caused the streetlight cost to increase dramatically overnight. The town currently pays about \$475,000/year between leasing/renting and electric costs for our streetlights. Only recently has there been a tariff that allows the town to be charged at a rate equivalent to what the streetlights are actually using. The town currently pays about \$137,000 in electrical cost; LED lights would take the cost down to 20% of that value. Ms. Wrona explained that the depreciation model did change. Eversource was not allowed to recover the costs for infrastructure repairs immediately, and had to follow the DPU schedule of what was allowed. In 2010 there were a lot of infrastructure costs that were moved around internally and it did affect the towns' costs. Mr. Gold stated that Eversource can sell the streetlights to the town at a reasonable cost or not at all and remove all their equipment from the town. Longmeadow has vendors willing to sell the town the equipment from the ground up for \$400,000 - \$500,000 with a 4.5 year payback. Eversource wants to charge the town \$700,000, Mr. Gold believes there is no way the town can afford or would pay that cost. Eversource's charge is \$446/pole. Mr. Gold received quotes from other vendors of \$280/pole and fixture and labor. There are also several incentives. It does not make sense for the town to purchase streetlights from Eversource for the price they are on the books for. Eversource also charges abandonment fees and the labor associated with removing the electricity. Ms. Angelides asked about grant programs to replace streetlights with energy efficient ones. Mr. Vedovelli noted that the grants are available for towns that own their own streetlights. In 2011 there was a leaky underground transformer in town which required a lot of work to clean up and replace. The town has several transformers of the same age. Ms. Angelides questioned if it is possible for Eversource to test those transformers. Ms. Wrona replied that the transformers are tested every 10 years. There are currently 3 transformers in Longmeadow that Eversource is concerned about possibly leaking PCBs. Eversource cannot test the oil in the transformers that are in service as they are sealed and in cement vaults. Visual inspections can be done around the vault. Eversource submitted a 12 page listing of inspections time frames on every piece of equipment, when and how they are done. This was approved by the DPU. Mr. Foster asked for the decommissioning of the streetlights cost to the town. Ms. Wrona noted that it may take a while to figure out. Ms. Wrona

also relayed that Eversource has agreed to a 5 year phase sale of the streetlight equipment, but the net book value has not changed.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Forest Glen/Western Ave. – Columbia Gas has requested to work overnight this week on the intersection due to the high volume of vehicles during the day. The work is expected to take one night. The Police Chief feels that the work can only be done overnight. Columbia's hours would be 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Mr. Foster suggested planning for a two night project just in case it is needed.
2. DPW Groundbreaking – The groundbreaking ceremony is planned for June 1 at 11:00 a.m. at 170 Dwight Road. There will be a brief speaking program and reception.
3. WESTCOMM – The grant application was submitted to the state last week for \$2.5 million RECC development. The funds will allow WESTCOMM to hire an executive director and procure the technology and equipment to achieve operational readiness by July 1, 2019. There will be a discussion with the Police and Fire Chiefs at the June 4th Select Board meeting. Mr. Gold would like the record to show that he went through the last 18 months of Select Board meeting minutes and could not find where the Select Board ever voted to join the district. The last thing that was voted on was a five-town RECC (6/19/17).
4. Snow and Ice Expenses – Two items included in the amount requested from Town Meeting should not have been carried in the snow and ice budget. The truck lease for \$10,714 and the salt shed demolition for \$8,900 belong in different budgets. The \$19,614 will be returned to the Treasury at fiscal year end.
5. Dwight Road Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) – The draft agreement with East Longmeadow is in the packet. Town Counsel has reviewed it and it is currently being reviewed by East Longmeadow. The IMA needs to include a final developer's agreement between East Longmeadow and Fairview. Once easements are finalized a notice to proceed for construction will be issued.
6. Town Center Project – The Town Manager will meet with the owners of Big Y, Longmeadow Shops, and the Longmeadow Mall to discuss future improvements for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrian access to the area.
7. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Application – The Fire Department submitted an application for a "Start Up" LEPC which was approved. The forming of a LEPC will allow the community to engage in joint planning among public and private stakeholders. This will allow planning not only for hazardous material incidents but other natural and man-made events that could impact the community.
8. New Ambulance – The new ambulance is at the dealership for final preparations. This vehicle features many modern improvements and is state of the art. It has improved emission controls and a low noise feature. It is equipped with improved restraint devices for the attendants. Each attendant is restrained by a three point harness with an inertia brake. This allows the attendants to work freely on the patient, but in a rapid deceleration the attendant is securely restrained. The final cost of the vehicle was \$250,699 and should be in service in a couple of weeks.
9. Forestry Account overrun – The Forestry account is overdrawn by approximately \$65,000. The DPW staff is down 2-3 workers and Northern Tree was contracted to keep up with the emergency and dangerous tree work. The tree that recently fell across Longmeadow Street will add another \$11,000 to the deficit. Three more trees were recently tested and are labeled emergency trees and need to come down soon. Ms. Angelides feels that the tree work should be rebid and that it may be worth it to have several contractors working in town.

Ms. Angelides asked Mr. Crane to find out what has been filed with the DPU by Tennessee Pipeline/Columbia Gas in regards to a future Longmeadow gate station.

Old Business:

1. Approved Minutes – *Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 7, 2018 as presented. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
2. Energy Committee – David Miller, 68 East Greenwich Road, Liz Bone, 34 Elizabeth Circle and Rob Kapner, 55 Mill Road attended the meeting.

Mr. Miller explained that in the past few months energy assessments of town buildings were done by Rise Engineering out of Providence, RI (through Columbia Gas). The total cost to the town for improvements to four of the town buildings (Old Town Hall, Community House, Council on Aging, and the Fire Department) to make them more energy efficient would cost the town \$18,000, and cost Columbia Gas \$36,000. The payback would be 4-4.5 years on average. The Library is exempt because there are no cost efficient improvements that can be made. The Library's heating system is 30 years old and should be looked at soon. One building example of energy efficient improvements is the Fire Station. It has a heat index of .53 (.25-.75 is acceptable in New England) so there is room for improvement. More attic insulation can be added (total \$24,000 - town pays \$8,000 Columbia Gas pays \$16,000, payback for town is 4.7 years) and air sealing (total \$9,000 - town pays \$2,900 Columbia Gas pays \$6,100, payback for town is 3.1 years). Significant savings can be made with modest improvements. An electrical services audit will be done at the town buildings by a local agency, the auditor will be contacting the Town Manager to discuss the findings. Mr. Foster thanked Mr. Miller for the work he has done.

Ms. Bone has started a pilot program at the high school to recycle food waste; once a week a volunteer takes leftover food (scraps of fruits and vegetables) to the zoo at Forest Park for the animals. Forest Park Zoo has expressed a need for food for the animals. Ms. Bone would like to do this at all of the schools but more volunteers are needed. Recycling of the food saves on greenhouse emissions. Composting is another way to recycle food waste at home.

Ms. Angelides noted that the Energy Committee handed in a new mission statement and a new composition for the Select Board to review and vote on at a future meeting.

Mr. Miller noted that the next steps would be to complete the Columbia gas piece of the audit, and the Town Manager needs to meet with the Eversource auditor to discuss the findings. The Select Board would then review and move forward.

New Business:

1. Solarize – Steve Marantz, 117 Rugby Road, representing Longmeadow, has teamed up with Springfield to become part of the Solarize program which is to install as many solar panels as possible on residential and commercial buildings in both communities to generate our own energy. Group purchasing will produce savings of about 20-30% better than if a resident did this on their own. The state will help the town and city pick an installer (RFP). The goal is to generate as much publicity as possible about the program and start installations by the end of 2018. Some questions still to be answered are: what happens with slate roofs and solar, and can these panels be leased or bought? The town does not have the liability. The town commits to supporting this program which is a direct benefit to the residents. Building permits are required. Mr. Marantz is the “solar coach” for Longmeadow. Volunteers are needed and asked to contact solarizelongmeadow@gmail.com if interested in helping or having solar panels on their home. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is very supportive of this program and is involved. Ground solar may be possible, the zoning bylaws need to be reviewed. There will be a cut-off point to sign up for this program, it is not known yet when that will be. Eversource charges a small fee for having solar on your home. After January 1, 2019 Eversource may be significantly increasing the amount residents are charged to have solar on their home. The Attorney General's Office has sued to stop this from happening and the state legislature may stop this as well.
2. BAN Renewal - *Mr. Gold made a motion to award to Century Bank the three hundred and sixty (360) day \$1,290,375 BAN at a rate of 2.05% and to award the ninety (90) day \$4,240,000 BAN as follows, the first \$2,000,000 to Century Bank at a rate of 1.90% and the remaining \$2,240,000 to Eastern Bank at a rate of 2.00%. Ms. Angelides second the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed. Mr. Low was out of the room.* The Select Board members will stop in the office during the week to sign the BAN documents.
3. Springfield Water and Sewer Letter and Potential Rate Changes – tabled to next meeting
4. Sign Annual Town Election Warrant – *Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve the Annual Town Election Warrant as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed. Mr. Low was out of the room.* The Town Election will be held on June 12th.

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06/04/18 Approved

5. Town Manager Evaluation Process – The Select Board members were given the evaluation form and ask by the chair to fill it out and return it to Debbie in the Select Board’s office by June 12th.

Subcommittee Reports: none

Ms. Angelides made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:55 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

Documents: Agenda – May 21, 2018
Board/Committee Interview Schedule
15 applications
Town Manager’s Report memo
Draft Inter-Municipal Agreement w/EL
RECC Development Grant
Dept. April Reports (BOH, Building, COA, DPW, Finance, Fire, Library,
Parks & Recreation, Police, Veterans)
Draft meeting minutes from May 7, 2018
Springfield Water/Sewer Commission letter dated 4/19/18
Election Warrant for June 12, 2018
Town Manager Evaluation Form
Open Meeting Law pertaining to Evaluations
Letter from resident Dr. Jeffrey Wint

Submitted at meeting:

Information on Williams Street Water Service Failures – Leo Milshteyn, Resident
8 page Power Point from Columbia Gas
Questions for Columbia Gas – Michelle Marantz, Resident
Maintenance Manual – Eversource