

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday June 3, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

Also Present: Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Dr. Stephen Metz, Westcomm Director Erin Hastings, Steve Marantz, James Tourtelotte, James Ryan, Peter Greenberg, Elizabeth Tyson, Eleanor Stolar, Philip Hallahan, Marilyn Hurst, Elizabeth Woods, Rowland Hawthorne, Caitlin Cronin, Marcie Kearing, John Robbins, Ryan Shanks, Jonathan Jordan, Margaret Rakas, Jeffrey Welch, Alexander Berry, Atty. Jack Egan, and Atty. Jesse Belcher-Timme

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

Announcements:

1. Mr. Gold reminded residents that the Annual Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at the Community House from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please come out and vote.
2. Mr. Lachiusa noted that June 4 will be the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote.
3. Mr. Crane noted that it is road construction season. Dwight Road will be finished up in the next couple of weeks. Road construction information can be found on the town's website and Facebook.

Resident Comments:

1. James Tourtelotte, 64 Prynwood Road – Mr. Tourtelotte spoke in regards to the TN Gas pipeline and Columbia Gas project to bring a high pressured gas pipeline and metering station to Longmeadow. He encouraged residents to vote “yes” on question 2 on June 11. This is a non-binding referendum to see if the town wants to pursue the first right of refusal on the Longmeadow Country Club parcels on which TN Gas has an agreement to purchase an easement. If question 2 passes on June 11, the issue will be brought to a town meeting for residents to decide. The Attorney General has found the project to be unnecessary; the cities of Northampton and Holyoke have said “no” to this in their communities.
2. Steve Marantz, 117 Rugby Road – Mr. Marantz thanked the Select Board and Town Manager for their support of the Solarize program. The program is on track to have 30-40 solar installations in Longmeadow. Mr. Marantz also thanked the Select Board for putting question 2 on the June 11 election ballot. The non-binding resolution helps educate residents about the gas facility being proposed in a residential neighborhood. Mr. Marantz encouraged residents to vote “yes” on question 2. A “yes” vote will encourage the Select board to investigate alternatives to this potentially unsafe and unhealthy and increasingly unpopular project.
3. James Ryan, 117 Crescent Road – Mr. Ryan also spoke in favor of question 2 on the election ballot. He asked residents to consider the impacts and long term health effects on children and residents.

Annual Interviews (last group):

Building Committee – Peter Greenberg, 160 Wheelmeadow Drive is currently a member of the Building Committee and has been involved since its inception. He has been on the Finance Committee, School Building Committee, DPW Task Force, and the DPW Committee. He would like to see the new DPW project through. The Building Committee is now involved with the new Adult Center. Mr. Greenberg believes consistency and prior knowledge is important. Mr. Foster asked Mr. Greenburg if he feels that the current Building Committee is properly sized. Mr. Greenberg feels that the more members that get involved with certain skillsets the better. The more eyes looking at a project is always good.

Conservation Commission – Christopher Nolan, 97 Salem Road – did not attend.

Council on Aging Board of Directors – Eleanor Stolar, 29 Meadow Road is a current member of the COA and would like to continue. When asked what role the COA should play with the final design of the new Adult Center, Ms. Stolar replied that the seniors should have more say. She would like it to be suitable to attract more seniors.

Elizabeth Tyson, 108 Maple Road is a current member of the COA and is looking to be reappointed. She has been a member since 2012 and feels this is a very exciting time with the new Adult Center being started. She is hoping the new center attracts the younger seniors.

Philip Hallahan, 74 Eton Road is a current member of the COA and would like to be reappointed. He believes the goal of the new Adult Center is effective and efficient services. The new center can be used for many functions by people of all ages.

Marilyn Hurst, 212 Prynwood Road is a current member of the COA and would like to be reappointed. She has been a member for many years and has been the Chair twice. She would like younger seniors to come out to the Adult Center.

Cultural Council – Elizabeth Woods, 114 Prynwood Road is the current secretary of the council and would like to be reappointed to another three years. Ms. Angelides stated that there is an extra \$1,000 in the Cultural Council's budget for FY20 for more programs.

Rowland Hawthorne, 33 Chandler Avenue would like to join the Cultural Council. He is a good friend of Peg Landon, who encouraged him to apply. He lived in Denver, Colorado at one point and was involved with fundraising and promoting museums and festivals.

Historic District Commission – John Robbins, 1028 Longmeadow Street is a current member of the HDC. He grew up in town and has lived in a number of historic homes. When asked about the Young Mansion he stated that he preferred it be a residence, he knew the Young family, but the new owners of the property are doing the best they can. Mr. Gold asked what the issue was with swimming pools. Mr. Robbins replied that the HDC had a bylaw that did not allow swimming pools. That is now changed and they are allowed. Mr. Robbins would like to create a "new member kit" for new homeowners coming in to the district that would help them to understand the regulations of the Historic District.

Marcie Kearing, 960 Longmeadow Street is a former member of the HDC. Now that she has more free time, she would like to join again. As a former member she is familiar with the responsibilities of the HDC. Her home is one house out of the district. When asked about the Young Mansion she stated that it is sad that it could not remain a home, but she is happy to see what is happening there.

Ryan Shanks, 690 Longmeadow Street is interested in joining the HDC. His home is 298 years old. He was looking into acquiring the old barn on Ely Road but it was demolished. Mr. Foster asked what Mr. Shanks' thoughts were on historic homes that are in bad shape. Mr. Shanks feels there should be some sort of standard of care.

Jonathan Jordan, 756 Longmeadow Street is interested in joining the HDC. He grew up in Longmeadow. Now he is a homeowner, his home abuts Dr. Lam's home. He feels strongly about preserving the charm of the Green and the historic nature of the town.

Parks and Recreation – Margaret Rakas, 67 Shady Side Drive has been a member of the P&R Board for six years and would like to continue. Mr. Low asked why so many people feel the baseball fields are unplayable. Ms. Rakas replied that she is not sure where this came from. There are volunteers along with the DPW employees that do a good job.

Recycling Commission – Jeffrey Welch, 19 Allen Road is currently an associate member of the Recycling Commission and is interested in a regular term. He has been a resident for less than a year. Mr. Gold asked about the new barrel program. Mr. Welch feels that the new 35 gallon barrels will offer consistency. Mr. Welch feels that the plastic bag ban will help spread the importance of recycling.

Tree Committee – Alexander Berry, 206 Colony Road would like to become a new member of the Tree Committee. He has lived in town for 12 years and has met the Tree Warden, Dave Marinelli. He also knows Peter Greenberg. Mr. Berry walks his dog and sees trees that have fallen or have issues and would like to help.

Select Board Comments:

1. Mr. Lachiusa spoke with someone from Solarflair about the solar project. The deadline has been extended to June 21 (complete site visits) and June 30 (signed contracts). Visit the town's website for more information and to sign up for a free assessment of your home.

Town Managers Report:

Science Lab Flood/High School – a ruptured hot water supply line in one of the sinks caused flooding in five rooms, four of the rooms were on the floor below. Damage was done to the ceiling tiles, walls, and cabinets. The rooms will remain out of service and will be repaired this summer.

DPW Project – the trees have been removed from the dingle. Drainage structures installation and foundation prep are being done.

Tina Lane Landfill Cap – MA DEP approved phase 1 which includes a membrane over the areas where impacted soils from the DPW project were deposited. This will be paid for with an Annual Town Meeting appropriation. A vegetative barrier will be put over the rest of the landfill (phase 2) in 2020; this will need an appropriation. Additional erosion controls are being added now due to runoff from the excessive spring rain.

Adult Center Bid Award Process – bids came in on budget. The OPM is reviewing the bids. Once an award has been made, a groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled.

Dwight Road Construction – the new traffic signals should be operational by June 7. The road is being milled and readied for final paving the week of June 17.

Grassy Gutter Raised Crosswalk – Gomes Construction will look at milling the raised crosswalk at Grassy Gutter and Williams and will prepare an estimate.

Streetlight Audit – Paul Pasterczyk has been working with Realterm to review the GIS audit. Inventory maps have been requested so the Town’s Engineering Department can review electronically. Green Communities has approved the use of the grant for the next phase of design. We have two options for the next phase to be reviewed. The Towns of Agawam and West Springfield have committed to working together when Longmeadow is ready to find a vendor for the new streetlights.

Town Manager Resignation – Mr. Crane will formally submit his resignation tomorrow morning. He will start work in Concord, MA on August 12.

Old Business:

1. Approve Minutes: *Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 20, 2019 as presented. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
2. Water/Sewer Retained Earnings Policy – The policy was included in the meeting packet for discussion. Mr. Gold asked if anyone wanted to modify it. No response. Mr. Pasterczyk asked Mr. Gold if he wanted to include a capital reserve item. Mr. Gold believes the town is potentially overcharging for water. Mr. Gold would like to take the \$100,000 out of the reserve line. Mr. Pasterczyk noted that it could be defined as capital; Mr. Gold would be more comfortable with that. Mr. Foster feels we need to bring up the reserves.
3. Set FY20 Water and Sewer Rates – *Ms. Angelides made a motion to accept the FY20 water rate of \$3.45/100 c.f. as recommended by the CFO. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Gold). Mr. Gold made an amendment to move the \$100,000 out of the reserve line and put it into capital. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 1 in favor and 4 opposed (Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides, Mr. Lachiusa). Motion failed.*
Mr. Foster made a motion to accept the FY20 sewer rate of \$2.58/100 c.f. as recommended by the CFO. Ms. Angelides seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Mr. Gold believes at some point the Select Board should re-look at fixed vs. variable rates.
4. Set FY20 Stormwater Fee – *Ms. Angelides made a motion to accept the FY20 stormwater fee of \$3.39/ERU/month as recommended by the CFO. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
5. Annual Board/Committee Appointments (some):
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint Nehal Patel and William Sceery to three-year terms on the Audit Committee expiring June of 2022. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Ms. Patel also applied to the Finance Committee. If she is appointed to the Finance Committee she will have to resign her position on the Audit Committee.
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint Carolyn Reed to a three-year term on the Board of Assessors expiring June of 2022. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint Dr. Barry Izenstein and Dr. Richard Steingart to three-year terms on the Board of Health expiring June of 2022. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint Daniel O’Malley to a three-year term on the Building Demolition Committee expiring June of 2022. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint Daniel Healy to a three-year term on the Capital Planning Committee expiring June of 2022. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint James Ryan to a three-year term on the Energy and Sustainability Committee expiring June of 2022. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
Ms. Angelides made a motion to appoint David Lavenburg to a five-year term expiring June of 2024 and Suzanne White to a three-year term expiring June 2022 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.
6. Town Manager Search – Ms. Angelides supplied the Select Board with packets of information on search firms. Ms. Angelides recommended Community Paradigm, their prices are reasonable and they are familiar with the town. Mr. Crane will make a list of priorities and can suggest people for a search committee. Mr. Gold has put together a list for a search committee. Agenda items for the next meeting are Search Committee Composition and Advertisement. *Ms. Angelides made a motion to enter into negotiations with Community Paradigm Associates, LLC. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

New Business:

1. Capital Planning Committee/Update – Dr. Stephen Metz, Chair attended the meeting and reviewed a spreadsheet with updates on the FY19 DPW projects. Most projects are complete. Dr. Metz has a concern with the Wolf Swamp Fields well project; three phase power is needed in the building. Eversource has been a little difficult to work with. Dr. Metz suggested asking them to come in to a meeting to discuss this. Mr. Gold commented on the “mis-estimated” projects. Maybe funds could have been spent elsewhere if the estimates were closer to actual costs. Dr. Metz noted that this is a moving target.
2. Westcomm Update – Erin Hastings, Executive Director of Westcomm attended the meeting. She has had 30 years of dispatching experience and has worked for the State Police regional dispatching in New Braintree with a staff of 15 that took care of 10 communities. She was an officer for 15 years and on the ambulance for a number of years. Westcomm received a grant for \$1.6 million from the State 911 Department. Other towns may want to join Westcomm in the future. Longmeadow will be brought in at the end of September. There will be little change for the current Longmeadow dispatchers. The major challenge will be getting people in and trained. The state offers a lot of incentives to regionalize. State 911 is looking to reduce call taking points in the state. Mr. Gold asked about assuring residents that we will have the same response. Ms. Hastings believes residents should expect a better response since more people (dispatchers) are delivering services. October 1 would be a good time for a Westcomm visit, the Longmeadow employees will be there. If there was a major emergency, or if the call center had problems, calls would roll to a secondary call center. Westcomm will have 27 employees, including Ms. Hastings. Mr. Crane will have a transition plan for someone to fill in at the Westcomm meetings while the town looks for a new Town Manager.
3. Approve Annual Election Warrant – *Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve the Annual Election Warrant as presented. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed. Mr. Foster was temporarily out of the room.*
4. Approve Block Party Request – *Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve the block party request for Captain Road on June 15, 2019 with a rain date of June 16, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed. Mr. Foster was temporarily out of the room.*
5. Raised Crosswalk/Bliss at Blueberry Hill – The town received a Safe Routes to School grant for a raised crosswalk and sidewalk on Bliss at Blueberry Hill. Mr. Crane asked the Select Board for guidance as to whether they would like to pursue the raised crosswalk or not. Mr. Gold asked what problem do we have that we are trying to solve? Mr. Crane commented on the heavy volume of traffic with the school there, this is beneficial to pedestrians. Mr. Gold added that if the raised crosswalk is going to be on Blueberry Hill, then he is all for it. If it is going to be on Bliss, then he would like the raised crosswalk put up by the fields where the kids already cross. Mr. Crane noted that there are too many crosswalks and congestion near the “triangle”. The grant was given on the solidness of the plan. Mr. Gold is opposed to it in that location. Ms. Angelides and Mr. Lachiusa are in favor. Mr. Low added that there are already 5 crosswalks in the area.

Subcommittee Reports: None

Mr. Lachiusa made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:52 p.m. and enter into executive session for the purposes of (1) Approve minutes from May 20, 2019, and (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, to possibly reconvene to open session. Ms. Angelides seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Richard Foster–Yes, Mark Gold–Yes, Marie Angelides–Yes, Tom Lachiusa–Yes, William Low–Yes.

The next Regular Select Board Meeting will be on June 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

The meeting did not reconvene back to open session.

Documents:

Agenda
Applicant Interview Schedule and applications
Town Manager Report

06/03/19 Regular Meeting
6/17/19 Approved
Solarize community metrics summary
Draft Minutes 5/20/2019
Water Enterprise Fund Policy
Sewer Enterprise Fund Policy
Water rates spreadsheet FY14-FY20
Sewer rates spreadsheet FY14-FY20
W/S Billable Units FY15-19 spreadsheet
W/S and Stormwater Rates FY20 memo
Recommended FY20 Stormwater Fees chart
Board/Committee Appointments memo
Collins Center Town Manager Profile 2012
Profile amendments for 2019
Community Paradigm Assoc. proposal
Collins Center proposal
List of Items to be Handled by an Interim Town Manager
Town Manager Search Committee Member Suggestions
FY19 Capital Projects Status spreadsheet
Election Warrant June 11, 2019
Block Party Application – Captain Road
Cable Advisory Meeting Minutes 5/13/19
Tree Committee Meeting Minutes 4/25/19 and 5/23/19
Correspondence: email from R. Edwards
 FERC notices dated 5/22/19 and 5/21/19
 TN Gas Pipeline letter dated 5/20/19