

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

Absent: Marie Angelides

Also Present: Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Chief John Dearborn, Chief John Stankiewicz, Sgt. Carl Mazzaferro, and Liz Bone

Interviewees: Peter Landon, Bill Dierken, Peter Vanassche, Arlene Miller, Marybeth Bergeron, Paul Calento, Bret Lukezic, Melissa McDonough, Carri Greenman, Margaret Cohn, David Marinelli, and David Horowitz

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

Announcements:

1. Mr. Gold asked that the Select Board have a brief discussion later in the meeting regarding the Town Manager evaluation process. Evaluations are to be sent to Debbie House by June 12 to be compiled for the June 18th meeting. Department heads were also asked to fill out a Town Manager evaluation form and forward it to the Select Board's office by June 8. Mr. Foster prefers not to review the department head evaluations.

Annual Board/Committee Interviews:

1. David Marinelli, 9 Overbrook Lane interviewed for reappointment to the Historical Commission. He has been a member for the past 2 years. He believes the Commission works well together and he enjoys working with them.
2. Carri Greenman, 186 Lynnwood Drive interviewed for a position on the Historic District Commission. She is a realtor and has lived in town for 9 years. The Town Green is the first thing she fell in love with when she moved to Longmeadow and she would like to be part of preserving its history. She does not have an agenda and does not live in the district. She learned of the Commission from the publicity generated regarding the Young Estate rezoning. Ms. Greenman believes she can approach issues with fresh eyes and can add to the Commission.
3. Peter Landon, 5 Meadowbrook Road is reapplying for a position on the Audit Committee. Mr. Landon was the first Chair of the Audit Committee when it started in 2005 with the Charter. The CAFR was mostly the work of the Audit Committee. Mr. Gold questioned whether the town should audit other things besides finance. The Audit Committee was involved in writing policies for capital and debt management. Mr. Foster questioned whether the current oversight is adequate; Mr. Landon feels that it is.
4. William Dierken, 196 West Road is reapplying for a position on the Building Committee. He enjoys working on the Committee and is still learning. He comes from the non-profit world and is adjusting. He feels that it would be helpful to see the Audit reports. Mr. Pasterczyk informed him that they are on the town's website. Mr. Gold asked about the Committee's role in change orders on some of the big projects coming up. After a certain threshold (\$25,000) the Building Committee would get involved with the change orders. They have formed a subcommittee of two members who would be the advisory on change orders to the Select Board. Mr. Dierken would like to be reappointed to a three year term.
5. Peter Vanassche, 171 Homestead Boulevard, is reapplying for a position on the Capital Planning Committee. He is a current member and enjoys the process and the people he works with. Mr. Vanassche would like to continue on the committee and be reappointed to a three year term.
6. Arlene Miller, 68 East Greenwich Road, is reapplying for an at-large position on the Community Preservation Committee. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Committee which was created in Longmeadow in 2006. The town voted to put a 1% surcharge on the taxes and the state, at the beginning of the program, matched 100%. Now the state only matches 17%. Projects to date total 66. To date over \$3 million has been received from the town surcharge and over \$1.2 million has been received from the state. Mr. Gold asked about the state decision to invest in religious projects. Ms. Miller replied that they

are looking at the historic preservation part of a project not the religious aspect. The CPC has stayed away from it. Mr. Gold also noted his concern with “multi-phase” projects where funds are approved for a couple of years in a row. He cautioned the Committee to look at the total cost. Mr. Foster feels that there is something wrong with a policy for trickling money up to the total cost, which could keep growing.

7. Historic District Commission – Melissa McDonough, 38 York Drive, Bret Lukezic, 38 Crescent Road, and Paul Calento, 40 Wilkin Drive applied for positions on the HDC. Ms. McDonough has live in town since 2002 and became interested in the Green when her son was a cub scout. She has no preference on terms if she is appointed. She lives near the district and is interested in maintaining the Green. Mr. Lukezic has lived in town for about 5 years and does not live in the district. He enjoys renovating old homes and knows what is involved with that; he would like to help people keep up and maintain their older homes. Mr. Calento builds businesses and sells them. He feels the district needs to evolve and would like to help homeowners to make this work. He feels that the success of the Green is the success of the town. Everyone travels by the Green and sees it.

Mr. Gold explained that there are three separate and distinct historical groups in town:

- Historic District Commission – maintains the character of the Historic District
- Historical Commission – maintains the historical nature of the town
- Historical Society – private, nonprofit group

Mr. Foster questioned whether the applicants were concerned with the preservation of structures and environment or ownership. Mr. Lukezic is concerned with the structures and the environment and currently owns a 1912 home. Ms. McDonough is concerned with the preservation of structures and maintaining structures, and feels that the Commission needs to be reasonable with maintenance that is allowed. Mr. Calento feels that materials can be looked at over time.

8. Marybeth Bergeron, 497 Inverness Lane is reapplying for a position on the Council on Aging Board of Directors. She has been on the Board for a number of years. The COA BOD is realizing that there is a change in attitude regarding retirement. There are active, younger retirees interested in fitness and learning later in life. There are programs to meet these needs and also services for the frail and elderly.
9. David Horowitz, 18 Circle Road is reapplying for a position on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He has served for two terms and is currently the Chair. Mr. Horowitz believes there is great synergy with the Adult Center. This year there are 4 additional baseball teams on the 90’ diamond. Mr. Low asked if there was a plan for Wolf Swamp Fields. Mr. Horowitz explained that it will be a phased approach. Phase 1, well and irrigation is funded. The egress in and out of the parking area will be a big project; this will be another phase.
10. Margaret Cohn, 66 Woodland Road is reapplying for a position on the Historical Commission. She has been a member since 2014 and has worked to preserve Longmeadow’s history, maintain the character of the town, move along with the changing times, and accommodate changing demographics. Mr. Foster asked if she had any feelings about the Young Mansion. Ms. Cohn noted that she was impressed that so many people were concerned on both sides and glad that it went to a vote and that the zoning issue was democratically decided. She feels that it was handled well.
11. Arlene Miller, 68 East Greenwich Road is reapplying for a position on the Recycling Commission. She would like a three year term. The Recycling Commission was formed in 1981-82. The dump was closed in the Meadows and a lot of evolution happened. Longmeadow is now a leader in recycling and has established a Swap Shop to reuse items. The Recycling Commission is an advisor to the Select Board and DPW and supplies ideas, policies and recommendations. Shredding events are held. Compost bins are available for \$25 at the DPW and includes a free scrap bucket for the kitchen.

Patrick Carnahan (Tree Committee applicant), Michael Michon (ZBA incumbent), Virginia Reiter (Recycling Commission incumbent), and Tim Somers (Historic District Commission applicant) were scheduled but did not attend. This was the last interview session for the Annual appointments. The Select Board will make the appointments at their June 18th meeting. The Quarterly interviews will start in August with appointments in September.

Mr. Gold announced that the Select Board, by statute, has to wait at least 7 days and up to 90 days before appointing applicants to positions on town boards and committees.

Resident Comments: none

Select Board Comments:

1. Mr. Foster remarked that the groundbreaking for the new DPW complex was held on Friday, June 1 and was well attended. There were a couple of speakers and lunch was provided.
2. Mr. Gold remarked that he was happy to see that Columbia Gas had finished the work on Laurel Street. He was disappointed though that the trucks had been parking on the tree belt for the last 6-8 weeks and encouraged the town departments to enforce the “tree belt parking” bylaw.
3. Mr. Lachiusa noted that Brynn Cartelli visited the elementary and middle schools last week. The kids were very excited and happy to see her. The Select Board gave her a plaque in recognition of her achievement on The Voice.
4. Mr. Lachiusa noted that a letter was received from Eversource in response to concerns raised at the last meeting.

Town Manager’s Report:

- Mr. Crane reported that there was a lot of behind the scenes work that went into Brynn Cartelli’s visit to the schools and he thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their efforts.
- There was a pool chemical leak last week that was resolved quickly.
- The DPW groundbreaking was held June 1; DPW employees were acknowledged.
- Hydrant flushing is still going on this week.
- A \$5,000 reserve fund request will be submitted for half the cost of drainage work on Shaker Road near the Longmeadow Country Club. The LCC will pay half of the total cost for a catch basin to be installed to take care of the runoff from their driveway.
- Mr. Pasterczyk noted that the two banks that had a Veribanc rating of yellow are now rated green. The CAFR was recognized this year for an award on the financial reporting.

Old Business:

1. Approved Minutes – *Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 21, 2018 as corrected. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*
2. Springfield Water and Sewer Rates – The Select Board set the rates in January/February of 2018. For the second year in a row, the Springfield Water Commission has changed their projections. Mr. Pasterczyk recommended increasing the water rate from \$3.22 to \$3.32/100 cubic feet of water and increasing the sewer rate from \$2.50 to \$2.56/100 cubic feet of water. Mr. Gold suggested not budgeting the \$41,000 to reserves and increasing the water rate by .05 instead of .10. Mr. Lachiusa noted that the water rate has gone up almost \$1 in the past five years. Mr. Gold added that this is the second year in a row that Springfield rates have come in late and suggested the Select Board set the rates later in the year instead of in January/February. Mr. Crane noted that the Springfield Water Commission is under new leadership and is working on upgrades and a long term plan.
Mr. Gold made a motion to set the water rate for FY19 at \$3.27/100 cubic feet of water and eliminate the \$41,000 current budget for reserve funding. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1 with Mr. Foster opposed.
Sewer rates – *Mr. Gold made a motion to take no action on the sewer rate and hold the rate at \$2.50/100 cubic feet of water. There was no seconded.*
3. WESTCOMM Discussion – Fire Chief Dearborn and Police Chief Stankiewicz attended the meeting. Chief Dearborn reviewed the System Costs chart which compares the radio communications system costs for Longmeadow only against WESTCOMM integration. In 2020 WESTCOMM would cost \$45,500 less than Longmeadow alone, and by 2023 WESTCOMM would cost \$1,425,700 less than Longmeadow alone. Chief Stankiewicz reviewed the dispatcher budget. A state 911 grant was submitted for FY19 for \$2,500,756 and a grant was awarded in FY18 for \$1,305,963. A grant for FY20 in the amount of \$2,404,558 is proposed. These grants are for equipment (capital). Mr. Gold questioned how much we trust the state to pay the full amount of the grants in the future. Mr. Crane believes that the funding source (911 cell phone surcharge) and the way the statute is written will allow for the grants to

be awarded at the full amounts. The disengagement agreement allows the town to buy out the equipment. The lobbies of the Longmeadow Fire Department and Police Department will be video covered and there will be access to talk directly to a dispatcher in Chicopee. Administrative duties can be taken care of by the staff in the Longmeadow buildings. Third shift at LPD will be a “dark station” with no one covering the lobby. Mr. Gold questioned how people can get over the emotional concern that 911 calls are not being answered locally. Chief Dearborn explained that dispatchers will come to Longmeadow to get familiar with the community. The state of California has 5 dispatch centers that take care of the whole state. Currently all cell phone 911 calls are answered by the Massachusetts State Police, not LPD.

4. Vote on Energy Committee Amended Mission/Composition – Mr. Gold would like to see the Energy Committee go further and take more of an initiative. *Mr. Foster made a motion to table the discussion until Ms. Angelides is at the meeting. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*

New Business:

1. Walk to School Days Proposal – Sgt. Carl Mazzaferro and Chief John Stankiewicz attended the meeting. The LPD along with the three elementary schools started the Walking School Bus program in the fall of 2017 to promote exercise and comradery amongst the students. This also helps the Green Community initiative by lessening the number of vehicles idling in the car line during drop off and pick up. All three elementary schools conduct a monthly walking school bus. Sgt. Mazzaferro proposed to both the Select Board and School Committee/Superintendent’s Office to designate the third Tuesday of September and the last Friday in April (Arbor Day) as the official “Longmeadow Walk to School Days”. The School Superintendent’s Office has accepted the proposal. Sgt. Mazzaferro reiterated that the walking school bus is done once a month; he would like to set aside 2 days out of the school year as town designed walk to school days. The state currently has 3 designated days.
Mr. Gold made a motion to designate the third Tuesday of September and the last Friday of April as Longmeadow Walk to School Days. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.
Sgt. Mazzaferro added that programs like this help to enhance the Police/School relationship. The state recognizes the program and gives out rewards. This year all three of the elementary schools received the award.
2. Solid Waste Discussion – Arlene Miller, 68 East Greenwich Road and Liz Bone, 34 Elizabeth Circle are both on the Recycling Commission and attended the meeting. The waste reduction program was adopted by the town in 2006. The regulation trash barrel size is 35 gallons. There is a barrel size issue in town as many people have barrels larger than 35 gallons. The Recycling Commission has contracted with Waste Management to document barrel sizes to see how big or small the problem is and how to address it to bring the community back into compliance. DPW hands out a newcomer’s packet with trash regulation information for new residents when they hook up to water and sewer.
3. Approve Special Town Meeting Article Submission memo – *Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the Special Town Meeting memo as written. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*
4. OPEB Reinvesting Discussion – The Municipal Modernization Act allows towns to participate in state investing for OPEB. MGL Chapter 32, Section 20 has to be reaccepted, once the paperwork is accepted the state will invest the town’s money. There is only one fund and it will have a greater rate of return. Mr. Pasterczyk noted that once approval is received there will be a 90 day waiting period. All of the town’s OPEB funds will then be invested with the state. This will soften the OPEB liability. This investment will far outweigh the investment in CDs.
5. Budget Policy/Operational Stabilization Fund Revisions/Retiree Health insurance Eligibility Policy – Tabled to June 18th meeting.

Subcommittee Reports: none

06/04/18 Regular Meeting

06/18/18 Approved

Mr. Gold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:25 p.m. and enter into executive session for the purposes of approval of minutes, and 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 – (Opioid Litigation), to return to open session. Mr. Low seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Lachiusa-yes, Mr. Gold-yes, Mr. Low-yes, Mr. Foster-yes

Return to open session at 10:40 p.m.

Mr. Low made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Engagement to Represent from Sweeney Merrigan Law, LLP on behalf of the town. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor and 1 opposed. Mr. Gold opposed.

Mr. Low made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

Documents: Agenda – June 4, 2018
Board/Committee Interview Schedule
16 applications
Draft meeting minutes from May 21, 2018
Springfield Water/Sewer Commission letter dated 4/19/18
Water/Sewer FY19 Budget and Rate Adjustment memo – Paul Pasterczyk
Water Rate Excel sheet 2014-19
Sewer Rate Excel sheet 2014-19
RECC Capital Cost Comparison memo – Chief Dearborn
WESTCOMM Budget
Dispatch Costs Excel sheet
Energy Committee Proposed Mission and Composition
Current Energy Task Force Composition
Police Walk to School Proposal – Sgt. Mazzaferro
Waste Management letter dtd 5/8/18
Draft trash barrel survey sheet
Fall Special Town Meeting Article Submission memo
Budget Policies of the Longmeadow Select Board (marked up)
Operating Stabilization Fund Policy (marked up)
State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund Frequently Asked Questions
Chart – Total SRBT Fund Returns
Eversource follow-up letter dtd 5/23/18