

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, July 2, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

Absent: William Low

Also Present: Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Paul Labowski-Eversource Technician, and Guy Hesketh-Engineer working for Big Y

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. The Adult Center on Maple Street and Storres Library on Longmeadow Street will be used as cooling centers to get relief from the extremely hot weather expected this week. The Adult Center is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the Library is open Monday thru Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If transportation is needed, please call the Adult Center at 565-4150. Please check in on neighbors to make sure they are doing well.
2. There is a vacancy on the School Committee due to the resignation of Jessica Hutchins. Applications (including a cover letter and resume) are to be submitted to the Select Board's office by noon on August 17th. The Select Board and School Committee will jointly interview each applicant on August 27th and jointly vote on and appoint a candidate on September 4th. Mr. Gold read the entire vacancy notice which can be found on the town website, the Reminder News, and Longmeadow News. The application can be found on the town's website, www.longmeadow.org or in the Select Board's office at 20 Williams Street.
3. Mr. Gold wished the Select Board a "Happy New Year" as fiscal year 2019 started July 1st.

Resident Comments: none

Select Board Comments:

1. Mr. Gold gave a quick preview of the upcoming agenda items and asked the Select Board members to notify him if they would like to see a topic placed on the agendas.

7:10 p.m. Eversource Hearing - Petition #4884

Mr. Foster made a motion to open the Eversource Hearing for Petition #4884. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Paul Labowski, Eversource Technician and Guy Hesketh, Engineer working on the Big Y renovations attended the hearing. Mr. Labowski explained that Eversource is seeking permission to relocate the existing transformer feeding Big Y to town property for store renovations. Mr. Hesketh explained that the transformer currently is close to the building and does not meet the clearance requirements. The new transformer will meet the electrical codes and meet the power requirements of the store, but will encroach in the town right of way. An electrical cabinet will be place where the old transformer is currently located; it is a little longer and will also encroach in the town right of way. The store has a generator "trailer" if power is lost for any length of time. Mr. Hesketh is asking for approval of the relocation of the transformer and placement of the power secure equipment (for the portable generator). Mr. Gold asked if there was a "Plan B" if the Select Board did not approve using town property. The town is planning on addressing the traffic flow in the area and may need the right of way. Mr. Hesketh replied that they do not have another plan and would have to figure out something else which would probably include losing some of the store's parking. Mr. Lachiusa asked about putting a fence around the generator trailer for safety.

Mr. Foster made a motion to close the Eversource Hearing for Petition #4884. Ms. Angelides seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve the relocation of the transformer and the relocation of the power equipment for the portable generator on town property per the requirements of the DPW Engineer.

Mr. Lachiusa would like temporary fencing around the generator trailer/cable to keep people away from it.

Ms. Angelides withdrew her motion.

Mr. Gold stated that the town is giving Big Y a variance and the transformer is being put on town property at Big Y's risk should the town require it be moved at a future date. Mr. Hesketh stated that Big Y is willing to take the risk.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve a variance for the relocation of the transformer on to town property and a variance for the placement of a portion of the power switch gear for the portable generator on to town property at Big Y's risk with conditions listed by the DPW engineer: 1. Select Board concurrence, 2. A road opening and trench permit is required prior to start of work, contact the Town Engineering Department, lawn restoration shall be in conformance with town standards. 3. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be installed prior to construction activity, and maintained as deemed appropriate by the Engineering Department. Town trees shall be preserved/protected, and establishment of vegetation shall be warranted for one year. Contractor shall contact the Town Tree Warden prior to commencing work. 4. Contaminated soils, if encountered, shall be removed at the expense of the applicant. The Select Board would also like safety barriers placed around the generator when in use.

Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Gold).

Mr. Gold believes electrical equipment should be put on private property, not town property.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Pasterczyk noted that the town received MIIA Rewards totaling \$37,283 in direct credits.

Old Business:

1. Approved Minutes – *Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 18, 2018 as presented. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*
2. Town Manager Evaluation – The Select Board members individually filled out the Town Manager evaluation form and rated/commented on the ten items using a scale of 1-5 with 1 being “does not meet expectations” and 5 being “exceeds expectations”. The five individual evaluations were compiled (cut and pasted) by the Administrative Assistant, Debbie House into one document. Mr. Gold read each of the ten items and the numerical scores given by each Select Board member. The Town Manager, Mr. Crane was not in attendance for this meeting. The compiled evaluation will be discussed again at the next meeting when Mr. Crane is present.

New Business:

1. Goal Setting – Mr. Gold asked the Select Board to come up with Goals for FY19. Ms. Angelides would like to see a multi-year plan for landscaping town buildings. Mr. Gold would like to see action on the streetlights, work on the Library Agreement, and work on budgeting and contracting for union employees. Mr. Lachiusa would like to work on a tax abatement program for home improvements. Goal setting will continue at the next meeting.
2. Select Board Liaison Assignments – The Select Board reviewed and updated the board and committee liaison assignments as follows:
 - Audit Committee – Ms. Angelides
 - Board of Assessors – Mr. Foster
 - Cable Advisory Committee – Mr. Gold
 - Capital Planning Committee – Mr. Low
 - Community Preservation Committee – Mr. Low
 - Conservation Commission – Mr. Foster
 - Council on Aging – Ms. Angelides
 - Cultural Council – Mr. Lachiusa
 - Finance Committee – Mark

Energy & Sustainability Committee – Ms. Angelides
Hampden County Retirement Board – Mr. Gold
Mass Selectmen’s Association – Mr. Lachiusa
Planning Board – Mr. Foster
PVRTA – Mr. Gold
Recycling Committee – Ms. Angelides
Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust – Mr. Lachiusa
School Committee – Mr. Gold
Technology Advisory Board – Mr. Lachiusa
Zoning Board of Appeals – Mr. Foster

The Liaison Assignment list will be updated and sent to the Select Board this week.

3. Concrete Foundation Policy Discussion – The Select Board discussed whether or not the town building permit fee should be waived for homes that are affected by crumbling concrete and need new foundations. Tax abatements are granted to these homeowners due to the significant reductions in their home values. There is no compensation from the insurance companies. Mr. Foster believes that the permit fee should be waived for this type of situation; homeowners are being forced to put a new foundation under their homes. Ms. Angelides and Mr. Lachiusa agree. Mr. Pasterczyk will draft a policy and bring it back to the Select Board. Mr. Gold noted that his only concern is that some homeowners may try to do more improvements “while they are at it” instead of just replace the existing foundation.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. The Energy Committee has been working on: plastic bag bylaw - ready to forward to the Board of Health and Bylaw Task Force, street light program, hazardous material leakage bylaw, final energy audits on town buildings - July 10, Municipal Vulnerability Grant, and Green Communities report (to Select Board in the fall).

Mr. Gold would like to have a bylaw discussion at the August 6th meeting and discuss how an article gets on the warrant. He would also like to discuss how we can make Columbia Gas notify the town of underground wires that cause corrosion of the water pipes (ex; Williams Street); what areas of town these wires are in.

Mr. Foster would like to have the division chiefs from the DPW express their departmental needs. Other department heads come before the Select Board when something is needed.

Mr. Pasterczyk commented that the liaison to the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust is considered an Associate member with voting rights. A motion should be made and a letter written to SVRHT notifying them of the appointment by the Select Board.

Ms. Angelides made a motion to write a letter to Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust appointing Thomas Lachiusa as an Associate member. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Mr. Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

The next regular Select Board meeting will be on July 16th. Agenda items will include Select Board Goals, bond proposals for the new Adult Center and the new DPW, and the stormwater abatement policy.

The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

Documents: Agenda – July 2, 2018
Eversource Petition #4884
Town Engineer’s comments on Eversource Petition #4884
Draft meeting minutes from June 18, 2018
Town Manager’s Evaluation (SB Evaluations compiled)
Listing of Boards/Committees – SB Liaison assignments
Minutes – Historic District Commission 3/6/18
Tree Committee 6/21/18