

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 17, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

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

**Also Present:** Town Manager Stephen Crane, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Peter Greenberg, Mary Beth Morris, Larry Rubin, Robert Rinaldi, Atty. Jerry Plumb, Nick Silvestre, Peter Thurber, Brett Purchas, Mario Mazza, Andy Krar, Geoff McAlmond, Chief John Stankiewicz, Andrea Chasen, Lori Robinson, Rob Kapner, Sophia and Francesca, students from Center School

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

**Announcements:**

1. Mr. Gold noted that he will add an item to tonight's agenda on an unforeseen topic; a discussion about Columbia Gas and responsible management of the gas pipelines.
2. There are five Flu clinics scheduled in October and one in November. These clinics are open to the public. Please see the town's website for dates, times, and locations.
3. Early voting will start on October 22 for the November election. More information will be forthcoming.
4. The annual First Responder Appreciation Day will be on October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fire Department. A ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m.

**Select Board Comments:**

1. Mr. Gold commented on the events that took place last week in Merrimack Valley. Mr. Gold has personally come to the conclusion, as someone who spent 35 years with a major chemical company where safety is overwhelmingly discussed, that he is not sure that Columbia Gas is able to operate their systems in the manner that Longmeadow would like them to. He would like the Select Board to discuss the potential of putting a moratorium on Columbia Gas construction work in town until they can demonstrate their ability to deliver gas to us in a safe and reasonable manner. Mr. Gold expressed his condolences to the family of the gentleman that was killed and to the families whose homes were destroyed.

**Resident Comments:**

1. Sophia Gordon, 84 Elmwood Avenue and Francesca Trotta, 37 Homecrest Street, are part of a group of public school students who are concerned about the effects of plastic bags on our environment. The Energy and Sustainability Committee wrote a bylaw to ban plastic bags in Longmeadow. Miss Gordon and Miss Trotta asked for support from the Select Board in adopting the bylaw to ban plastic bags in our community.

**Town Manager's Report:**

1. Mr. Crane noted that we are expecting heavy rains tomorrow and asked that residents check catch basins near their property. If anyone experiences flooding issues, they can call the Fire Department for assistance.
2. The Dwight Road construction continues, and a construction project will begin this week on the roadway in front of the Community House.
3. Mr. Crane will be meeting with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission representatives and East Longmeadow regarding a regional health district.

Ms. Angelides asked about the Amtrak crossing. The town is waiting for a contract to be signed by Amtrak and DOT.

**Liquor License Transfer Hearing 7:15 p.m.**

*Mr. Foster made the motion to open the hearing for a transfer of liquor license. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

Atty. Jerry Plumb and Manager of Record Nick Silvestre attended the hearing for a transfer of liquor license from Rinaldi's Italian Specialties on Longmeadow Street to Paris/Naples Restaurant Group, LLC d/b/a Mes Petits Oiseaux. Atty. Plumb stated that Paris/Naples Restaurant Group, LLC is interested in establishing a high-end French restaurant and wine bar at the former Rinaldi's location. This is expected take 4-6 months to build out. Atty. Plumb introduced Mr. Silvestre who is the Manager of Record, and has management experience in restaurant and bar concepts. Mr. Silvestre stated that they would like to create an intimate setting with small plates. The Chef will be from a Paris-like restaurant and will offer less than normal restaurant operations. They have already purchased assets from Rinaldi's which includes the liquor license. Anticipated opening of the restaurant is next spring-early summer. Hours of operation were discussed. They would like to be open until 1:00 a.m.

*Mr. Foster made the motion to close the liquor license transfer hearing at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

Discussion: Mr. Low asked about parking issues. Mr. Crane stated that it depends on the number of seats the restaurant will have. The Select Board agreed that the hours of operation will be until 11:00 p.m. for now, the restaurant can always come back and request later/earlier hours. The standard ABCC hours for restaurants are 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday. Sunday hours are noon – 11:00 p.m. Extended hours can be granted by the Select Board.

*Ms. Angelides made the motion to approve the transfer of liquor license from Rinaldi's Italian Specialties to Paris/Naples Restaurant Group, LLC. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

#### **Old Business:**

1. Delegation of Change Order Authority to Building Committee – Peter Greenberg, 160 Wheelmeadow Drive, and Mary Beth Morris, 44 Essex Court from the Building Committee attended the meeting. Mr. Foster met with Building Committee members to create a change order authority policy. Any change in the scope (meaningful change to design) of a project is an automatic referral to the Select Board.

#### Recommendations:

- 0 - \$25,000 Town Manager approval
- \$25,001-\$50,000 Town Manager and Building Committee Subcommittee (3 members)
- \$50,001-\$74,999 Town Manager and Building Committee
- \$75,000 and up Automatic referral to the Select Board with Building Committee recommendation

Mr. Greenberg added that he hopes to take this policy and use it for all projects going forward. Mr. Foster will finalize the policy for the next agenda.

2. Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw – (Moved to New Business and included with warrant discussion.)

#### **New Business:**

1. Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee (LCMAC) Appointment – This committee recommends funding from MGM. A Longmeadow representative needs to be appointed. Steve Marantz was the alternate member and is now interested in filling the vacancy as the primary member.

*Mr. Foster made the motion to appoint Steve Marantz as Longmeadow's Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee representative. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

2. One Day Liquor License Approval – *Mr. Foster made the motion to approve the one-day liquor license request for Bay Path University's Alumni Reunion to be held on October 27, 2018. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

3. Street Light Audit Directive Study – Mr. Crane was charged with doing a street light audit for the potential purpose of buying the town's street lights in the future. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) offers statewide assistance; they have preselected four consulting services who will do independent audits. Mr. Crane will contact them about doing the street light audit, and will reach out to other communities to see if they are ready to join in with Longmeadow on this.

4. DPW Asbestos Change Order – Mr. Crane reported the estimate to haul the asbestos containing material (ACM) to Ohio (10,000 tons) would be about \$4.2 million. To haul it to the town landfill would be about \$1.9 million plus \$600,000 to cap it for a total of \$2.5 million. Moving the material locally is the better option. Weston and Sampson are looking at a third option and reviewing line item pricing. The state has authorized \$5.5 million in capital bond funds. Mr. Crane has been engaging the Governor’s office staff through the Western Mass representative to reinforce the request to release some of the funds to Longmeadow to offset our costs. This topic will be on future agendas and possibly a special Select Board meeting. Contingencies and bond authorization funds are available.
5. Complete Streets Crosswalks – Brett Purchas from Gomes Construction and Mario Mazza attended the meeting. The town has \$202,000 in Complete Streets funds for crosswalks at the high school and on Williams Street by the Community House. Cost estimates were received from Gomes for four options of raised crosswalks. Two of the options would require the roadway to be closed for 72 hours for concrete setup. Mr. Gold noted that his personal opinion was to not move forward on this as there are a lot of negatives to the process. Mr. Foster feels that this deserves further research as one of the crosswalks is near the historic district and should reflect the nature of the green. After some discussion the Select Board chose to take no action and stay with the current design.
6. Big Y Supermarket Street Cut – Big Y is requesting a street cut on Bliss Court (across from the tennis courts) for easier truck deliveries. Big Y will cover the costs of the project. Currently, many of the trucks pull up and block Williams Street while trying to back up to the Big Y loading docks. Emergency vehicles have been stopped at this area while a tractor trailer is backing up across the road.  
*Mr. Low made the motion to approve the curb cut on Bliss Court for Big Y. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed. A sign should be placed at the entrance stating “limited to delivery vehicles only”.*
7. Sign Fall Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Crane and Mr. Pasterczyk reviewed all 10 articles on the warrant with the Select Board.
  - Article 1. Bills of Prior Year – Waste Management bill  
*Mr. Foster made the motion to approve Article 1. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
  - Article 2. Bills of Prior Year – Infractions in a departmental payroll  
*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 2. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
  - Article 3. Bond Authorization and Use of Premiums – This is an administrative correction to our bond authorization. This authorizes the premium to be used for the project. In the article language in the first sentence under (A1) the following will be removed: “and to reduce the amount authorized for such project by the same amount”. Also, it will be indicated in the explanation that this is an “administrative correction” to clarify.  
*Ms. Angelides made the motion to approve Article 3 with the striking out of “and to reduce the amount authorized for such project by the same amount” in the article, and adding the clarification in the explanation that this is an “administrative correction”. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
  - Article 4. Community Preservation Act (CPA) - standard article to move set amounts of FY19 CPA funds to open space, community housing, and historic preservation.  
*Mr. Foster made the motion to approve Article 4. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
  - Article 5. Debt Service on New DPW – this is a debt exclusion  
*Ms. Angelides made the motion to approve Article 5. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
  - Article 6. Transfer Free Cash to the Operating Stabilization Fund – dollar amount will be given on town meeting floor.  
*Mr. Foster made the motion to approve Article 6. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*
  - Article 7. Supplement FY19 Health and Liability Insurances – to cover anticipated increases.

*Mr. Foster made the motion to approve Article 7. Mr. Lachuska seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

Article 8. Purchase of Five Dash Cameras for Police Cruisers – Chief Stankiewicz attended the meeting and explained that he would like to purchase 5 cameras and acquire a 6<sup>th</sup> camera with a MIIA grant. The cameras would be dash mounted, have panoramic views, trigger start recordings, and a rear mounted camera on the rear seat. The cameras have been proven to reduce liability which is a benefit to the town. The MIIA risk management representative is in favor of the cameras. They have also been proven to decrease the number of assaults on officers. As far as video storage, the IT Director said that it will work perfectly fine with the in-house storage. The timing of the request for the cameras was questioned. The sooner the cameras are in place the better, but it can wait. Mr. Pasterczyk added that the “raise and appropriate” in the article can be changed to “transfer from available funds in the Treasury”. Mr. Gold feels that this is a one-time expenditure and should use one-time available money.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 8 with the change from “raise and appropriate” to “transfer from available funds in the Treasury”. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

Article 9. Replace Two Channel Grinders at Emerson Pump Station – Peter Thurber and Mario Mazza attended the meeting. The channel grinders grind up solids. Their life expectancy is about 5 years. They were installed in 2000 and 2007. They are from a sole source, there are not universal replacements. Mr. Thurber looked into rebuilding them but it was not a feasible option. Delivery would be about 4-6 weeks and DPW personnel can install them. Mr. Gold is concerned about doing this out of cycle.

*Ms. Angelides made the motion to approve Article 9. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Gold).*

Mr. Gold would have like the Capital Planning Committee to review this. Mr. Crane added that a capital item has to have a certain life cycle as well as a certain cost.

Article 10. Replace a DPW Skid Steer – Geoff McAlmond and Mario Mazza attended the meeting. The current equipment is 15 years old and has a paver attachment. The request is being made now so that the equipment will be available for spring paving. This is on the capital plan for next year. This is a key piece of equipment for pavement repairs and is a 12-month unit, used all year long. Mr. Foster noted that he asked for a cost estimate on repairs and did not receive it. Mr. Foster also remarked that he has a problem with the estimated allocations to water/sewer/capital stabilization and feels the amounts should be more precise. Mr. Mazza noted that he did contact Capital Planning but it was not in time for their meeting.

*Mr. Foster made the motion to approve Article 10. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Gold).*

Mr. Gold feels that Capital Planning should have reviewed this first.

(Old Business #2 to be included with warrant discussion)

Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw – Andrea Chasen, 236 Crestview Circle, Laurie Robinson, 53 Warren Terrace, and Robert Kapner, 55 Mill Road attended the meeting. A draft bylaw to ban plastic bags in Longmeadow was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Angelides explained that 83 towns have a ban on plastic bags and she would like this plastic bag ban bylaw put on the October warrant. Big Y and CVS are already conforming to plastic bag reduction. The Board of Health and the Recycling Commission need to review the bylaw. Mr. Gold noted that he has communicated with the chairs of the BOH and the Recycling Commission and they have not seen the draft bylaw. Mr. Gold remarked that some bags are not banned in the bylaw; either ban them all or none. Ms. Chasen noted that there are exemptions, but this is a first step. Exemptions would be newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, and produce/deli bags. Mr. Gold again remarked that the Board of Health needs to comment on this. Ms. Angelides believes the reviews by the Board of Health, Recycling Commission and Town Counsel could all be completed by Town Meeting. Mr. Gold feels this should be done thoroughly. Changes to be made to the draft include: after Health Director in 2A and after Department of Health in 4A add “or other administrator assigned by the Town Manager”. Also renumber headings.

*Ms. Angelides made a motion to approve the plastic bag ban bylaw for inclusion on the fall town meeting warrant as Article 11 with amendments to section 2A Definitions and 4A Penalties and Enforcement. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Gold).*

*Mr. Foster made the motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Low seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

8. Select Board Goals – Select Board members are to send their ideas for goals to Mr. Gold. Mr. Crane and Mr. Pasterczyk will draft budget goals.

**New Agenda Item (Mr. Gold):**

Mr. Gold wrote and handed out “A Resolution Concerning Columbia Gas of Massachusetts” for the Select Board to review. Mr. Gold read from the document; in part it reads:

“Therefore, I move that all administration offices of the Town of Longmeadow that report to the Select Board are hereby directed that they may not issue any permits or authorizations to Columbia Gas for any work within the town limits of Longmeadow, MA until all three of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The formal report that lists the definitive cause of the over pressurization and fires in the Merrimac Valley towns of Lawrence, North Andover and Andover has been issued by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and accepted by Massachusetts state officials and Columbia Gas management, and
- 2) that the management team of Columbia Gas demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Select Board of the Town of Longmeadow that they have implemented changes to their policies, procedures, equipment, and/or training to prevent a recurrence of this incident, and
- 3) Columbia Gas management group identify to the satisfaction of the Select Board of the Town of Longmeadow that they have established policies, procedures, and management oversight systems in place sufficient to manage the operations of gas pipelines systems that serve the residents of the Town of Longmeadow in a safe and responsible manner.

This directive shall apply to **all** departments that report through the Town Manager to the Select Board as well as all committees and board that report directly to the Select Board, including, but not limited to, the Department of Public Works and the Building Department, and shall apply to **all** request for permits, or approvals by or on behalf of Columbia Gas, their subsidiaries, contractors, or sub-contractors doing business on behalf of Columbia Gas with the exception of applications for road trench permits for the sole purpose of repairing or maintaining existing gas distribution lines. Requests for exceptions for other purposes may be brought directly to the Select Board on a case-by-case basis.

Further, we ask that other elected boards and agencies (including but not limited to the Planning Board, the Housing Committee, and the School Committee) of the Town of Longmeadow similarly support this moratorium in their actions with Columbia Gas, their subsidiaries, contractors and sub-contractors.”

Mr. Gold is convinced that Columbia Gas has a management problem and a systems problem. He encouraged Mr. Crane to send this resolution to Columbia Gas and to let them know this will be brought up at the next Select Board meeting. Mr. Crane noted that he discussed this today with the Fire Chief, DPW Director, and Building Commissioner and the list of open permits was reviewed (25). Trench permits will not be approved for a set amount of time until questions are answered. Repairing leaks will be allowed. Ms. Angelides will draft a letter to Columbia Gas saying that public forums should be held out here in Western Mass, not just in Boston.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Energy & Sustainability Committee – Energy audits were completed two weeks ago. The Fire Chief will hold public hearings on the Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP) in February or March.

Tax Ceiling Task Force – Looking at expanding zoning and the water tower property. Mr. Crane will engage PVPC on plans for development of the water tower property.

Building Committee (Adult Center) – Contractor to sign the contract, bid in the spring. Lots of design work to be done.

The next Select Board meeting will be on October 1, 2018.

09/17/18 Regular Meeting

10/01/18 Approved

*Mr. Low made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie House

**Documents:** Agenda – August 20, 2018  
Liquor License Transfer memo  
Licensing Authority Certification  
Liquor License Transfer application  
Department August Reports – Building, Council on Aging, DPW, Finance, Fire Dept.,  
Library, Parks & Recreation, Police Dept., Veterans Services  
Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw draft  
One Day Liquor License – Bay Path Univ.  
MAPC Streetlight Consulting booklet, consultant summary  
Mountford change orders PCO 009 and 010  
Gomes Construction crosswalk cost estimate  
Special Town Meeting Warrant draft  
Big Y street cut – map  
Meeting Minutes – Cable Advisory 8/14/18, Charter Review 7/23/18, Historical  
Commission 5/24/18, School Committee 8/14/18, 8/22/18, 8/27/18 joint, 8/27/18  
Resolution Concerning Columbia Gas of Massachusetts – Mark Gold handout