

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting (Draft)
Monday, March 15, 2021 - 7:00 p.m
Remote

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Thomas Lachiusa, Steve Marantz, Mark Gold, and Richard Foster.

Staff Present via Zoom: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, CFO Paul Pasterczyk, Fire Chief John Dearborn, Michael Barbieri.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Lachiusa. Due to COVID-19 concerns, and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting was held remotely with residents having the option of calling in or sending in their comments. All votes were taken by roll call. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Lachiusa confirmed that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda were present and could hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting allowed for public comment.

COVID-19 Update- Fire Chief Dearborn gave an update on COVID-19 in the community. Community numbers continue to decrease and Longmeadow is now in the yellow category for active cases. The vaccine clinic finished their allotted 200 doses that they were given. Chief spoke on the plan in place to vaccinate homebound people in town. There is also a new website for vaccine registration. Lyn Simmons reflected upon the fact that we have now been in this pandemic for a year.

Announcements

Moderator's task force on electronic voting: The purpose is to investigate the feasibility, security, costs, and outcomes of electronic voting technology and processes. The report will then be available to the public when complete. The task force will be appointed by mid-March, with a report due by the end of 2021. Electronic voting is the use of hand-held electronic devices for the purpose of recording a vote in a large gathering.

Longmeadow Community Earth Day Cleanup: The clean-up will take place on April 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Residents can sign up to volunteer on the homepage of the town's website.

Accepting Nominations for Citizen of the Year: The Longmeadow Select Board is accepting nominations for its annual "Citizen of the Year" award. The recipient will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting on May 16, 2021. Letters of nomination should be mailed to the Select Board's Office, 20 Williams Street or emailed to adminassistant@longmeadow.org by Friday, April 16, 2021.

Recycling Center Spring Hours: The Recycling and Yard Waste Center will begin spring hours on Wednesday, March 31st. Hours of operation will be: Saturdays 8-5, Sundays 10-5 - closed Easter Sunday, and Wednesdays 10-5.

Resident Comments

Tom Shea, 81 Greenmeadow Drive spoke about the water and sewer rate charges. Tom suggested that the board move to appoint a task force to work on goals pertaining to equitable rates. He also suggested that the town should move to study and implement quarterly charges. Mary Rogeness, 22 Warren Terrace was present representing the trustees of the Storrs Library. Mary thanked the board for their proposal in funding the library. She also spoke of an additional stipend from the state for discretionary use by the library. Andrew Fox, 29 Lorenz Street asked the board to remove Article 37 from the town warrant and questioned what the intent of this article was for. He spoke of the Bylaws regarding parking of commercial vehicles in town.

Interview

Audit Committee - Joseph Santaniello, 156 Sheffield Avenue applied for a position on the Audit Committee. Joseph Santaniello was present for this interview.

Select Board Comments

Mr. Gold responded to the comments presented on water usage charges. He stated that their goal was to gather and organize water usage data on inferring summer sewage uses.

Town Manager's Report

Interim Administrative Assistant- Michael Barbieri is filling in as interim Administrative Assistant while interviews are being conducted.

Cyber Security Grant Funding- The IT department secured another round of grant funding. This grant program is funded through the states executive office of technology services and security. This program makes assessment and simulation tools available.

Fire Department- David Kida and Abigail Candee graduated from the Fire Academy. David and Abigail both performed excellent training and represented LFD very well.

DPW- The Department of Public Works has just contracted with DPC engineering to perform a water and risk assessment. This is an EPA requirement for the community.

PVPC / Health Department COVID-19 Emergency Funding- All DPH funding for COVID-19 will come from PVPC. This new funding round will give the town \$8,300.

Community Compact Best Practice Program- The town was awarded a grant to fund an organizational study of the DPW and to provide a supervisory leadership development training program. The total grant awarded was \$35,500 and will yield years of benefit for the town. __

New Business

Approve Appointed Health Director- Town Manager Lyn Simmons presented Finn McCool to the Select Board to be appointed as the new Health Director.

Mr. Gold made a motion to endorse the nomination of Finn McCool to be appointed as the new Health Director. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

Old Business

1. Approved Minutes-

Mr. Gold made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2021 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

2. Appointment to Historical Commission- *Mr. Gold made a motion to appoint Thomas King to fill the vacancy on the Historical Commission for a three year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Marantz Seconded the motion.*

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

3. FY22 Capital Plan Vote-

Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the capital appropriation article that would offer \$25,000 for project development, \$10,000 for project reserve, \$110,584 for the Fire Truck, \$50,000 for the Fire station kitchen upgrade, \$124,639 for the radio replacement, \$60,000 for town wide S2 system access, \$175,000 for core technology infrastructure, \$25,000 for data backup and recovery system, \$165,000 for the Center School boiler replacement, \$44,416 for the oil tank removal at Blueberry Hill and Wolf Swamp Schools, \$75,000 for the High School glass showcase replacement, \$80,000 for the purchase of two 4X4 pickup trucks with plows, \$500,000 for pavement preservation, \$400,000 for sidewalk reconstruction, \$25,000 for guardrail, for a subtotal of \$1,869,639. Mr. Gold Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

4. FY22 Budget Vote-

Mr. Marantz made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Richard Foster Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

5. Water and Sewer Rate Discussion- *Mr. Gold gave a presentation on the water and sewer rate structure in town. Members of the board agreed that a public forum on this topic would be effective. Mr. Marantz suggested that the public forum take place in two weeks so that residents have time to prepare and are given notice of said discussion forum. Mr. Gold suggested the Select Board hold a public forum on water and sewer rate usage on Monday, March 29, 2021.*

6. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Vote- *CFO Paul Pasterczyk amended Article 3 to \$200,000 and reduced Article 4 to \$175,000. Article 8 will be changed to \$1.6 million dollars. He recommended that Article 16 be changed to read "see if the town will vote to transfer from the sewer retained earnings fund" Paul also recommended that the town funds Article 17 out of the general fund. Mr. Gold asked that a map showing Article 28 be added to the warrant.*

Mr. Marantz made a motion to remove Article 34 from the warrant. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr Foster- YES.

Article 40 discussion-

Mr. Gold made a motion to remove Article 40 from the warrant. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Following discussion on whether or not the Select Board was required to place this article on the warrant, the motion was withdrawn with the direction to the town manager to verify with town counsel whether the Select Board was obligated to place this article on the warrant. The town manager noted that the cost to run a special meeting during this time would be \$10,000. Mr. Gold stated that the topic was of interest to a large number of people and the issue deserved a separate meeting where there could be a full discussion of the issue. Mr. Marantz and Mr. Lachiusa said that this should be included in the annual Town Meeting because residents are already present and we'd avoid the cost of a special town meeting.

Mr. Gold made a motion to adopt the warrant as written with the following amendments: Article 3 be amended to \$200,000, Article 4 be reduced to \$175,000, Article 8 to amend the amount to \$1.6 million dollars to add to the stabilization fund, Article 16 amended to reflect that the funds

3/15/21 Select Board Regular Meeting
Approved- Pending

will be raised by a transfer from the sewer retained earnings fund, Article 17 to be amended to reflect that the funds will be transferred from available funds the amount of \$131,500, Article 28 amended to include a map insertion, Article 34 to be removed as voted, and the rest of the articles be left with Article 40 removed unless asked to be added back following this motion. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

Mr. Marantz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 pm. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

Correspondence

Correspondence from resident Tom Shea. [TOM SHEA CORRESPONDANCE.PDF](#)

Documents

Agenda

Announcement sheet

Appointment Historical Commission- Thomas King

Interview Audit Committee- Joseph Santaniello

Appointment Health Director- Finn McCool

3/1/21 Draft meeting minutes

[CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECCOMENDATIONS.PDF](#)

[TOWN MANAGER FY2022 CAPITAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS - SHEET1.PDF](#)[CAPITAL PLAN](#)

[WARRANT ARTICLE SHOWING DIFFERENCES.PDF](#)

[FY22 BUDGET WORKSHEET MASTER 3-9-21.XLSX](#)

[FY 2022 BUDGET 2-24-21C.XLSX](#)

[FY 22 BUDGET MESSAGE TM TO SB.DOCX](#)

[TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL - SEWER RATE STUDY.PDF](#)

[LONGMEADOW SEWER RATE STUDY.PDF](#)

[LONGMEADOW SEWER RATE PRESENTATION.PDF](#)

[TOWN MANAGER TO SELECT BOARD ON WARRANT CHANGES.PDF](#)

[WARRANT ATM 2021 PJP W LNS EDIT 3-11-21.PDF](#)

Correspondence

- Tom Shea. [TOM SHEA CORRESPONDANCE.PDF](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Barbieri