

**Hybrid- Select Board Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, April 4, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15**  
**535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA**  
**Remote participation available**

**Select Board Members Present:** Chair Steven Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachiusa  
**Staff Present:** Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri.

**Also Present:** James Tourtelotte, Brian Prast, Richard Fontaine, Betsy Hubert-Port, Jeff Grime.

**Present via Zoom:** Matthew Fuller (Eversource), Andrea Chasen, David Marinelli, Kathy Burroughs.

Chair Marantz called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting was a hybrid meeting at Longmeadow high school, with a remote option available for residents and participants to call in or send in their comments. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Marantz 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 law requires such participation. This meeting allowed for public comment.

### **Announcements**

*Citizen of the Year/Commendation Awards:* The Longmeadow Select Board is accepting nominations for its annual "Citizen of the Year" and "Citizen Commendation" awards. Letters of nomination should be emailed to [selectboard@longmeadow.org](mailto:selectboard@longmeadow.org) by Monday, April 11, 2022. For additional information and to fill out a nomination form, please visit [www.longmeadow.org/CivicAlerts](http://www.longmeadow.org/CivicAlerts) or the Select Board's page on the town website.

*Springtime is time for Tick & Lyme Disease Awareness:* With springtime just around the corner, now is the time to freshen up on tick and Lyme disease awareness! According to the CDC, there were 2143 reported cases of Lyme disease across the State of Massachusetts in 2021. Visit [www.longmeadow.org/CivicAlerts](http://www.longmeadow.org/CivicAlerts) before you head outdoors to take these quick steps to lowering your risk of tick bites. You could also learn more about Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses at [www.CDC.gov/ticks](http://www.CDC.gov/ticks)

*Town Clerk's Office: NEW HOURS:* On March 28, The Longmeadow Town Clerk's Office implemented a temporary change in hours open to the public. The new hours are Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Friday - 8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. These hours are subject to change for election deadlines

### **Board and Committee Appointments**

*Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Elliot Greenberg to the Board of Health for a one-year associate non-voting term expiring June 20, 2023. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

*Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Kirstin Avery to the Building Committee for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2024. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

### **Resident Comments**

James Tourtelotte, of 64 Prynwood Road, was present to speak during the resident comment section of the meeting. Mr. Tourtelotte stated that State law requires emissions in Massachusetts be reduced by 50% below 1990 levels by the end of the decade, and effectively eliminated by 2050. According to Mr. Tourtelotte, utilities did spend 500 million dollars in 2020 replacing gas pipelines. Mr. Tourtelotte suggested that we would not want to be a part of this by approving the building of the unnecessary backup for an existing and quite adequate pipeline. The pipeline would involve digging up roads through the heart of Longmeadow and Springfield during a two-year period, Mr. Tourtelotte stated according to Eversource. Eversource has not responded to the Select Board's public requests, neither for a cost benefit analysis or a needs analysis for this project, Mr. Tourtelotte went on to say. Mr. Tourtelotte commented that the state allows Eversource a ten percent profit on this proposed 40 million dollar project. Mr. Tourtelotte stated that gas companies have made more profit on their construction projects than they do on selling consumers gas. Mr. Tourtelotte is hopeful that the Select Board and the Town as a whole continue to be vigilant concerning this possible project.

Andrea Chasen, of 236 Crestview Circle, was present via zoom to speak during the resident comment section of the meeting. Andrea Chasen spoke about Earth Day, and what the group has found in the process of preparing for the clean-up event. Ms. Chasen sent along some images to be shared as correspondence for her comments. The Earth Day clean-up event will occur on April 10, 2022 and Ms. Chasen announced that there are 23 sites in Longmeadow that have been identified as areas that need to be cleaned. There are roughly 200 volunteers who will be assigned throughout the sites, according to Ms. Chasen. Ms. Chasen went on to present photos of trash examples / illegal dumping on conservation land near the river. (To view the photos, please click [here](#) (11:00 mark of video)). Ms. Chasen stated that this area is both too cumbersome and hazardous for the Earth Day volunteers to attempt to clean. Ms. Chasen also noted that there is an area in Turner Park where a similar situation is occurring. Ms. Chasen will be coming back to the Select Board and Town Manager with some recommendations and some hope for ideas on how to clean-up, protect, and monitor this conservation property. Ms. Chasen then stated that we need to make this a beautiful walkable area that is continually accessible to residents and to visitors.

### **Select Board Comments**

Mr. Gold commented that at a meeting in early March, the Select Board authorized the pursuit of recovery of funds lost by the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board. Mr. Gold stated that he has discussed with the Town Manager and Town Attorney and wanted to report to the board that the process is moving along. Mr. Gold also attended a recent meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), and stated that there was a request from the City of Springfield of free bus transportation that has yet to be determined. Mr. Gold indicated that a balanced budget was set for next year, and Town assessments are essentially, what they have been in the past. Mr. Gold also attended a meeting of the PVPC Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Gold stated that there was a significant review of the federal funding in the approved 1.4 trillion dollar budget passed for roads and bridges. Mr. Gold was reluctant to report that none of that money is coming to the towns in terms of additional Chapter 90 money, as was previously thought. Most of the allocation will go to the state for major projects for the Department of Transportation (DOT). Lastly, Mr. Gold stated that he attended a meeting of the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust. Mr. Gold reported that the finances of the SVRHT are turning around in terms of their reimbursement based on actual claims organization. As of February, their finances seem to be normalizing a bit and they feel comfortable with the amount of money they have limited on the increase in raises for the next coming fiscal years.

Mr. Lachiusa commented that he was saddened to hear that a Police Officer killed a Pittsfield man with mental health difficulties. Mr. Lachiusa stated that the call center has limited access to mental health support and in times of a crisis, having a team available is important. Mr. Lachiusa believes that it would be beneficial to

Police Officers to have a known person available 24 hours a day by phone to develop a relationship with the officers to be able to provide the type of support needed. Mr. Lachiusa is looking to do some additional research on this topic. Mr. Lachiusa suggested looking into see what other regional call centers are doing as far as involving mental health professionals in helping police make proper assessments that can save the lives of individuals with mental health difficulties.

Mr. Levine encouraged all residents, if able, to get out there and volunteer during the Earth Day clean-up on May 10. Mr. Levine participated in clean-up efforts in 2021, and stated that it is gratifying to do and was astonished to see the unbelievable amount of trash that was collected last year.

Mr. Marantz echoed Mr. Levine's comments about the clean-up efforts. Mr. Marantz stated that the information this board acts on in terms of the proposed pipeline project comes from Eversource. Mr. Marantz went on to say, that the proposed pipeline would not add one bit of energy to anyone in this area for new supply, but instead to serve as a backup in case the Memorial Bridge collapses. Mr. Marantz stated that this pipeline has nothing to do with getting more energy at cheaper prices, based on one of the few pieces of information we have received from Eversource.

### **Town Manager's Report**

COVID-19 Update As of today, April 4, 2022 there are 27 reported cases, according to Ms. Simmons. The numbers have been steady the last several months.

Quarterly Legal Expense Update To view the quarterly legal expense update, please see the full Town Manager's report to the Select Board linked under "documents" in the agenda packet at the end of these minutes.

Solid Waste Disposal Community Eco Power, LLC or CEP, the company under contract with the Town to accept our solid waste disposal at its waste-to-energy facility in Agawam, filed for bankruptcy in 2021. Longmeadow, along with the other communities under contract with CEP, were notified that as part of the terms of the bankruptcy sale, the contracts would be terminated as early as April 15. Since we learned of this termination on March 8, a group of local officials have been meeting and exploring options all of which are appearing to be more costly than our current arrangement.

Adult Center Ms. Simmons stated that we are continuing to work through construction punch list items as is expected with new building construction. The power-assisted front door has not been functioning; a part is on order and will be installed as soon as it is available. Defects in the pickleball courts have been identified and the contractor is working on a repair, which will begin as soon as the daily temperatures improves.

Mr. Marantz questioned how many communities were involved in contract cancellations due to CEP filing bankruptcy. Ms. Simmons stated that many communities, including private haulers had contracts with CEP. Ms. Simmons commented that she did not have the exact number, but it is quite a big impact to the region. Mr. Levine asked if there would be an interruption in service, or would we continue to dump there at a higher cost. Ms. Simmons stated that we are looking into all options, but mainly will come down to cost. A full analysis of what we are willing to pay, and what makes sense for the Town is underway. Mr. Levine asked for an update on the Greenwood Pool. Ms. Simmons stated that the pool will open on the anticipated start date, and work to fix the issues will be completed after the season.

### **Public Hearing**

#### **A. Eversource Petition for Sole Pole Locations**

*Mr. Gold made the motion to open the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

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Brian Prast, of 47 Ellington Street, was present to speak during public comment of the hearing. Mr. Prast questioned the actual need for a new transformer on Ellington Street. Mr. Prast quoted the petition by reading that the purpose of this petition is to accommodate a service upgrade to his house at 47 Ellington Street. Mr. Prast indicated that their service was upgraded in December, including the connection to the manhole down the street. Mr. Prast believes that the petition should be rewritten to reflect why the work needs to be done and where. The petition proposes the transformer being built between buildings #33 and #47, and Mr. Prast questioned if this location still makes sense, and believes the Town and its citizens should have a say in the placement of the transformer. Mr. Prast recommended that the location be down at the intersection of Route 5 in between the road and sidewalk, instead of in front of someone's home. With the chance that it has to be in front of someone's house, Mr. Prast is hopeful that it would be placed on the tree-belt and not on a resident's yard. Mr. Prast then questioned to Eversource what the transformer would look like and if there would be something above ground. Mr. Prast commented that he was opposed to the petition as drafted, including the language of requesting to add poles, and believes it should be updated to reflect a reason for and scope of the electrical work. Mr. Prast is hopeful that language-surrounding poles could be struck from the petition.

Richard Fontaine, of 54 Ellington Street, was present to speak during the comment portion of the public hearing. Mr. Fontaine stated that information is not clear from the petition as to what Eversource intends to do. Mr. Fontaine passed along a document from a news insert written by Betsy Hubert Port, which referenced Mr. Olmstead, who designed many projects in Longmeadow. Mr. Fontaine went on to say that the gentleman who designed Ellington Street in the 1920's, named Clifford W. Kibbe, consulted with Mr. Olmstead on the project. To summarize, Mr. Fontaine stated that it was the hope of the Longmeadow Historical Commission to use this document as a useful tool for educational purposes to come into place with the chance that improvements or updates are requested for areas of historical importance, including Ellington Street. Mr. Fontaine went on to explain that this neighborhood was intended to reflect a certain aesthetic and character that is rare to see today. In the attached petition as written, Mr. Fontaine believes the language indicating the placement of utility poles on Ellington Street is worrisome for the integrity of the historical neighborhood. Mr. Fontaine urged the Select Board to be against this petition as written.

Betsy Hubert Port was present to speak during the comment portion of the hearing. Ms. Port described that anyone who is preservation minded of historic districts would be against this petition as written. Ms. Port mentioned Longmeadow Historic District North, and that Ellington and Farmington Streets are part of this district. Ms. Port was against the notion of putting above ground poles on a street that has been functioning for over 100 years with underground wires. Ms. Port is in favor of the utilities being underground as they are now.

Dave Marinelli, of 9 Overbrook Lane, was present via zoom to speak during the comment portion of the hearing. Mr. Marinelli explained that he is a part of the Historical Commission, and Chair of the Tree Committee in Town, both of which are in interest of Eversource projects in Longmeadow. Mr. Marinelli as well was not in favor of the petition as written with the language-surrounding utility poles included. Mr. Marinelli expects that all Eversource wants to do is underground work, which no one would object to. Mr. Marinelli mentioned that if a pole were to be placed this would be of significance because the street does not currently have over ground utility wires. Mr. Marinelli suggested the order coming back with the pole language removed.

Kathy Burroughs, of 104 Ellington Street, was present via zoom to comment during the public hearing. Ms. Burroughs commented that Eversource has made it somewhat confusing by the description of adding a utility pole in this petition. Ms. Burroughs agrees with all that has been said about the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Matthew Fuller, representative from Eversource, was available via zoom to address some of the concerns from the residents. Mr. Fuller stated that he would like to clear up some of the confusion surrounding the details of this petition, and illustrate what Eversource is looking to build. Mr. Fuller explained that the petition is proposed due to a service upgrade that requires additional capacities from Eversource. A service line running

from the street to the house was replaced last year, and work was completed before the winter moratorium. There is more work needed to upgrade the equipment feeding the customers on Ellington Street and according to Mr. Fuller, there are 18 homes fed off a single point of transformation. If the customer uses the service that was built, it will require another transformation on the street. The petition requests to add a submersible, below grade transformer, that is the same size as the existing one on the roadway, which will allow Eversource to divide the number of homes fed from either point of transformation, Mr. Fuller stated. Mr. Fuller went on to explain that with the chance there is a failure, Eversource will now have an additional transformer to serve electricity to the rest of the customers fed on Ellington Street. Mr. Fuller asked if there were any additional questions from the board or residents that he could address.

Jeff Grime, of 87 Ellington Street, was present to speak during the hearing. Mr. Grime asked Mr. Fuller if all Eversource is requesting is to add a new transformer similar to the one that is in his front yard of 87 Ellington. Mr. Fuller confirmed that this was correct. The language drafted in the petition is standard template language that is submitted for all petitions. According to Mr. Fuller, the reason and specifics are detailed in the drawing that is submitted. Mr. Grime urged the Select Board to reject this open-ended language concerning poles.

Mr. Gold thanked the residents of Ellington for coming out to speak on this petition. Mr. Gold stated that he has seen many petitions from Eversource and all of them read this way. Mr. Gold acknowledged that the petition is poorly written. Mr. Gold stated that he would like to exclude overhead wires and poles, and this has been a policy of the Select Board. Mr. Gold assured the residents that there would be no poles or wires on Ellington Street. Mr. Gold reiterated Mr. Prast's questions made at the beginning of the hearing as to why you need new transformers if service is upgraded already, and why is it going in the yard as opposed to the tree-belt. Mr. Gold also questioned what other work will need to be done by Eversource in terms of accessing this. Mr. Fuller detailed that when Eversource did the walkthrough with members of the DPW, the maps they had showed where the high voltage primary exits route 5, and enters Ellington Street. The location to divide the houses had to be ahead of where the high voltage exits on route 5. The location was chosen so that Eversource would not have to disturb the road any more than is necessary. Mr. Fuller explained that these are all design parameters to keep adequate and normal voltage to it. Mr. Fuller reiterated that the upgrade was not completed last fall. Mr. Levine questioned if the additional transformer was not added, would it mean full capacity would not work and no one else on the street would be able to upgrade service. Mr. Fuller confirmed that at this time without an additional transformer, Eversource would not be able to accommodate any other service upgrades with existing infrastructure. Mr. Lachiusa questioned the diagram and requested additional information concerning this. Mr. Fuller clarified that at no point is Eversource seeking permission for any overhead facilities, nor do they have any intention in installing any overhead facilities along Ellington Street. Areas, in which facilities are already below grade, will remain below grade. Mr. Marantz stated if no poles are intended to be placed, than why is that language in the petition. Mr. Fuller explained that no other upgrades could be accommodated without the addition of the new submersible transformer. He also reiterated that this was "boiler-point" language that is used on petitions, and no poles are being requested. Mr. Gold stated that he understands the need to upgrade and the need to supply greater power through additional transformers. Mr. Gold wanted to confirm if this would be located on town property (the tree-belt) or on Mr. Prast's property, and if it required digging up the street. It was confirmed that this would be placed on the tree-belt. Mr. Fuller stated that this would also call for conduit installation for the high voltage primary and secondary returns to and from the transformation. Paving restoration was discussed with DPW at the site walkthrough according to Mr. Fuller, where Eversource explained they would expand the paving and milling to the 8-12 feet required. Mr. Gold stated that although this is a poorly written request that the residents and Town received, this is a routine Eversource request to put in a silo and upgrade service on Town property. Mr. Gold explained that based on the board's ability to specify where this will be located, it is ultimately needed and ought to be approved, but not as written. Mr. Levine

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stated that there would never be poles on Ellington, and if the board needs to cut this back to say no poles, we are happy to do that. Mr. Levine explained that every utility in the state uses the language “right to erect poles” in the petitions because that is what the easements said. Mr. Levine agreed that utilities should update their language to limit confusion.

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to close the Public Hearing at .... Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the instillation of a single underground silo to be built on Town property between the curb of the street and the sidewalk between building #33 and #47, and all of the underground wires necessary, and to not authorize any poles, and that Eversource repave the road where they dig in accordance with Select Board policy of the minimum eight foot wide in the smallest dimension. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

#### **Old Business**

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes - (Minutes were not available for approval at the time of the meeting)

B. 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Update

Ms. Simmons stated that this is an updated version of the Warrant to include amendments made at the March 21 meeting and to reflect the Finance Committee’s recommendations. Ms. Simmons indicated that there was a change to include an additional bill of prior year article.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant with the additions of Articles 7 and 8. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

A suggestion was also made to move Article 20 (pool liner) to Article 5 to group it with Pool Cover article.

Mr. Gold stated that the bylaw details that the Town Warrant should be delivered to every household in Town, and if opt-outs are included in this delivery. It was confirmed that the Town contracts with the Reminder to deliver to all households including opt-outs of the Reminder publication.

C. Select Board Member for Citizen of the Year Group

As Chair, Mr. Marantz will represent the Select Board for the Citizen of the Year voting group.

#### **New Business**

A. Set Preliminary Town Election Warrant

*Mr. Gold made the motion to set the Preliminary Town Election for Tuesday, April 26, 2022, to be held in the Community House from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

B. Operating Agreement Between The Town of Longmeadow and LCTV

Ms. Simmons stated that she wanted to bring the draft agreement to the attention of the Select Board. This is in relation to the Cable Licensing Agreement that was approved last year with Comcast. Historically, the cable money that we receive from Comcast designated for PEG access television has been directly sent from the Town to LCTV. Ms. Simmons explained that there should be an agreement in place to do this. The draft agreement has been shared with LCTV, as well as the Town’s Cable Attorney to review. Ms. Simmons stated that she would bring this back to the board once she receives comments back.

C. Seasonal Liquor License Renewal – Clubhouse Café LLC (Franconia Golf Course)

Mr. Barbieri confirmed that all taxes and bills owed to the Town were current. This standard seasonal renewal comes through every April.

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to grant a renewal seasonal liquor license to Clubhouse Café LLC, to expire on January 15, 2023. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

**D. One Day Liquor License Applications – Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund**

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the One Day Liquor Licenses for the Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund, for events to be held at the Adult Center. Mr. Levine seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued.*

Mr. Gold's concern is the amount of applications that are coming to the Select Board for one-day liquor licenses by the Adult Community Center Fund, and the use of Town Facilities with these licenses. Mr. Gold questioned what the purpose of these liquor licenses are, and if they are fundraisers whom are they fundraising for. Mr. Lachiusa stated that there was an art event last Thursday night and the wine that was served was free and not sold as part of a fundraiser. Mr. Lachiusa did not get the impression that these events were purposed to sell drinks to attendees. Mr. Lachiusa suggested not charging the group for one-day liquor licenses every time. Mr. Gold stated that because they are a private 501c3 organization, and not a Town group, we are unable to not charge them for licenses. Mr. Gold does not want to start a precedent in saying whom we charge one-day liquor licenses to and whom we do not. Mr. Gold explained that the fundraiser may not be through the sale of liquor, but could be for the sale of artwork for example. Is the Town facilitating the Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund to conduct fundraisers on a frequent basis, and is this something we want to do, Mr. Gold commented. Mr. Gold described that at one point we did not allow one-day licenses for liquor into community buildings. Mr. Gold stated that what started as a thank-you get together for the Grand Opening of the center, now turned into the request for three licenses in a 3-week period. Mr. Marantz suggested that the applications be updated to reflect supporting information on the fundraiser. Mr. Lachiusa stated that these events are part of cultural development and brings many different groups together. Mr. Gold stated that if the Adult Center were running these events, he would probably look at it differently, but it is being run by a non-profit organization in a Town building. Mr. Levine questioned if there is a fee charged for the rental of the space. Ms. Simmons commented there is no charge. In the new facility rental policy, the Adult Community Center Fund falls into the special category, similarly if FOLOCA was to do an event as well. A discussion ensued about ensuring that future applications are filled out completely. Mr. Lachiusa commented that these are socializing events for residents and thinks it is great for the Town. Mr. Gold modified the request to have future applications completed in full by requesting that these applications in front of the board today also be resubmitted in full. Mr. Lachiusa accepted the amendment to the motion.

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the One Day Liquor Licenses for the Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund, for events to be held at the Adult Center, contingent upon these applications being resubmitted in full, and that no future applications will be considered if not completed in full. Mr. Levine seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1. Mr. Gold- NO*

**E. Street Closure Request – Center School Field Day**

Center School has submitted a Street Closure Application to the Select Board for a Field Day event. The closure would be on Longmeadow Street (east of the green) from Longfellow Drive to the gymnasium driveway, on June 3, 2022 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with a rain date of June 6, 2022.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the street closure request for the Center School Field Day Event on June 3, 2022, with a rain date of June 6. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

**Correspondence**

**Adjourn**

*Mr. Levine made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

**Documents:**

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[\*\*April 4, 2022 Select Board Agenda Packet PDF\*\*](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri