

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, April 5th, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Remote

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Thomas Lachiusa, Mark Strange, Steven 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 7:02 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.

Announcements

Eversource Gas Work- On behalf of Eversource Gas, Feeney Brothers Utility Services will be replacing gas mains throughout areas of town. The map is located on the town website demonstrating where the work will occur. Work is expected to begin today and last through July. Please call DPW's Engineering Department at 567-3400 with any questions.

DPW Has Moved into their new building located at 170 Dwight Road!

Recycling Center Spring Hours- The Recycling and Yard Waste Center's current spring hours are; Saturdays 8-5, Sundays 10-5, and Wednesdays 10-5.

Longmeadow Community Earth Day Clean-Up- The clean-up will take place on April 11, 2021 @ 1 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.

Update on COVID-19: Fire Chief Dearborn gave an update on COVID-19. The chief stated that the town has seen a 29 percent increase in active cases. We are currently at 33 active cases in town. The department is watching and monitoring activities closely. We received 100 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to initiate homebound vaccinations based on a list generated by the COA. Homebound vaccinations are set to begin later this week.

Resident Comments- None

Select Board Comments

Mr. Marantz commented that the Bio Mass plant that Palmer Paving wanted to build in Springfield was nixed by the States Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Marantz stated that he believes this is good for Western Massachusetts and that this project would have not met environmental standards.

Town Manager's Report

SB/TM Admin Assistant- A permanent replacement to fill the vacant Administrative Assistant role has been made. Interim Admin Assistant Mike Barbieri has been selected to fill the role permanently. Mike can be reached at adminassistant@longmeadow.org

Interim DPW Director-We have retained Jay Moynihan to serve as interim DPW Director while working to secure a permanent replacement.

Russell Field Dugouts-A contract was awarded to Campora Construction to build 2 dugouts at Russell Field in the amount of \$32,000. Work will be completed by April 30, 2021.

Bliss Park Baseball Fields-Little League has made a very generous donation to the Town to purchase and install fencing at Bliss Park for the baseball fields, the total of the donation is \$2,682.

DPW Farm Fields Lease- Historically the Town has paid the farmer between \$9,500 - \$14,500 annually to turn the fields over with the leaf disposal at the end of the year and the town received nothing by way of lease payments for use of the fields outside of that. With Chad Thompson's perseverance to take this out to bid, the town will yield approximately \$58,155 in revenue annually for the next 3 years (174k over 3 years), after the cost to dispose of the leaves and mow the landfill is taken care of.

Traffic Rules and Regulations-These rules and regulations will undergo a review and be incorporated into the e-Code work that General Code is doing for bylaws. It will then be turned into an easy to find and search document on the Town website.

Board of Health-The Board of Health met on Tuesday, March 16 and discussed basketball courts, amongst many other topics, there have been inquiries and complaints lately about the basketball courts being closed. The BOH voted to reopen the courts on 4/1/21, if the community case counts and test positivity rate remains the same or less than what it was on 3/16 (21 cases, 1.38% test positivity). Unfortunately, as of Wednesday night (3/31) our cases have increased from the number on 3/16 (38 cases, 2.38% test positivity) and the courts will remain closed. The new Public Health Director Finn McCool started on March 29.

Historic District Commission-On Tuesday, March 9, the HDC met and heard an application on Certificate of Appropriateness from the Veterans Services Director and the Veterans Council on the installation of American flags on the ornamental light poles along The Green. Ms. Simmons drafted a letter of support for this application, which is something Ms. Simmons has been working with Lena and the Veterans since January 2020.

Hampden County Regional Retirement Board- The PERAC Commission has issued a Temporary Order to the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board (HCRRB). The order includes a weekly conference call between PERAC and HCRRB staff to review the status of audit findings, as well as the establishment of internal controls relative to these findings.

Middle School Facilities Assessment -The Longmeadow Public Schools has submitted Statements of Interest to the MA School Building Authority to address the facility-related needs of Glenbrook and Williams Middle Schools. LPS has partnered with Colliers International to complete a Facilities Condition Assessment at each school. The study will help us understand the cost and scope of needed repairs and upgrades and provide conceptual, broad strokes estimates of renovation and replacement costs.

Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services-DPH has launched the Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services for communities who are exploring sharing public health services. The grant makes funding of up to \$300k annually available for communities to create a shared public health program. Longmeadow's application includes the communities of Hampden, Monson and Wilbraham.

Mr. Foster commented on the Farm Fields Lease stating that it was fantastic work done by Chad to put this item out to bid and reach this end result.

Old Business

1. Approve Minutes from March Meetings

Mr. Gold stated that he was unable to view and did not have access to the minutes documents uploaded to the agenda at the time of the meeting.

Mr. Foster made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 9 Special Select Board Meeting. Seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Foster made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 10 Special Select Board Meeting. Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- Abstain, Mr. Foster- YES. Mr. Foster made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 15 Regular Select Board Meeting.

Seconded the motion.

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

2. Appoint Audit committee member

Richard Foster made the motion to appoint Joseph Santaniello to the Audit Committee for a one year associate term ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

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

3. Water and Sewer Rate Follow Up

Mr. Strange questioned what would happen if the board implements winter averaging and if the sponsor of the petition warrant article would pull the article from Town Meeting based on that decision.

Mr. Pasterczyk stated that whichever route is decided upon, there should be consideration when the rates are established through the method chosen. Mr. Strange stated that we could have a winter averaging approach with secondary meters allowed.

Mr. Marantz stated that if the board implemented winter averaging that the economic incentive to add a secondary meter would be diminished.

Mr. Gold asked the board if an independent opinion on this topic to present information differently through this process would be helpful. He also stated that MUNIS can eliminate zeros from the average.

Mr. Foster stated that MUNIS can cover all of the scenarios that Mr. Gold and he had discovered when going through the database.

Mr. Gold made a motion to implement a 5 month winter average with 0 months set as the town wide water use average that would be the maximum bill for sewer usage for the year. Mr. Lachiusa seconded this motion.

Mr. Marantz intended to amend the motion to include water usage into the original motion. (This motion was never seconded, nor voted on, so the motion failed)

Mr. Marantz made a motion to add quarterly billing to the main motion. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Lachiusa reiterated the main motion to implement a 5-month winter average for sewer bills, with an average figure used as a fill in number for those with a zero for winter sewer use.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- NO, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

4. Select Board Procedures

Members of the Select Board discussed each section of the procedures and voted for amendments to be made or approved the items as written.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to amend the section one title of the procedures to read "Officers and their roles." Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve section one of the procedures with an amendment to subsection c. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Foster made the motion to approve section two of the procedures with the adjustments made. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve section three of the procedures with the adjustments made. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve section four of the procedures as modified. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- NO

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve sections five and six as written. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES. Mr. Marantz made the motion to approve sections seven through twelve with an amendment to section seven. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

New Business

1. Appoint Board of Registrars Member

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to appoint Erin Freed to the Board of Registrars for a three year term ending March 31, 2024. Mr. Strange seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

2. Approval of The Meeting House Temporary Use of Patio

The Meeting House in Longmeadow is requesting the temporary use of their patio for the sale of alcohol in accordance to order 35 given by Governor Baker. The Meeting House will also be working towards permanently altering their premises for the sale of alcohol on their patio in the near future.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve The Meeting House's request regarding temporary authorization for the sale of alcohol on their patio until 30 days after the state of emergency and order 35 concludes. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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

3. Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for Clubhouse Café LLC

Ms. Simmons stated that since the inception of the stormwater fee in 2018, Clubhouse Café LLC has never paid those expenses. There was some question of whether or not there was an agreement between the two municipalities that this fee would not be paid. This matter is currently being investigated by Legal Counsel. Mr. Gold suggested that the board only approve issuing this seasonal liquor license through June 30, 2021 while more research and information can be obtained regarding billing.

Mr. Strange stated that the board should approve and agreed with the provision of issuing the license through June 30.

Mr. Foster requested that the Town Manager and CFO follow up on this matter and bring to the board by June 30.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the liquor license for Clubhouse Café LLC through June 30, 2021. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- NO, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Foster- YES.

4. Citizen of the Year Discussion

Ms. Simmons stated that there is no exemption in open meeting law allowing this topic to happen in executive session. Ms. Simmons gave a few examples of what some other towns are doing in terms of voting and appointing award recipients.

Mr. Gold suggested this award be voted on by a Town Manager's task force consisting of two select board members and two prior award winners.

Mr. Foster stated that Select Board members could still have their input suggested in open meeting.

Mr. Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

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

Correspondence

HCRRB CORRESPONDENCE.PDF

MARC STRANGE CORRESPONDENCE.PDF

PAUL PASTERCZYK CORRESPONDENCE.PDF

Documents:

Select Board Packet with all of the documents included:

https://www.longmeadow.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_04052021-3353?packet=true

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri