

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 17, 2021 - 7:00 p.m  
Remote

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

**Present via Zoom:** Town Manager Lyn Simmons, CFO Paul Pasterczyk, Michael Barbieri, Nick Jorge, Marty O'Shea, Tim Keane, Eversource Gas Representatives- Amos Barnes, Bryan Mecciarollo and Richard Salvarezza.

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.

**Update on COVID-19-** Chief Dearborn was present to give an update on Covid-19. The Chief stated that the town received good news today. Governor Baker has moved to relax the orders of the State of Emergency in regard to Covid-19. Longmeadow is currently in the green area with active cases and could be designated into a grey area if the numbers trend in the right direction. The CDC still requires masks in certain settings including the schools. On June 15, 2021 the State of emergency will be lifted by the town. The Chief also discussed the COVID Team's operations moving forward with the three sectors to reopening. COVID-19 coordinators have been designated to the schools, town departments, and stakeholders.

### **Announcements**

**Election Reminder:** The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2021. In person voting will be at the Community House, 735 Longmeadow Street. Polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 p.m. Currently, no-excuse voting by mail has been extended by state law until June 30, 2021. No-excuse voting by mail is a type of early voting, and it is available for all elections held on or before June 30, 2021. Vote by mail applications can be downloaded from the Secretary of State Website: Vote by Mail Application. The deadline to apply for a vote by mail ballot will be Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Please contact the Town Clerk at 413-565-4103 for more information. You can also view the ballot on the homepage of the town website.

**Notice of Vacancy - Finance Committee:** The Town of Longmeadow is seeking interested residents to fill two (2) vacancies on the Town's Finance Committee. Each vacancy is for a three (3) year term and would commence on July 1, 2021 and go through June 30, 2024. Interested persons must fill out an application, available in the Select Board Office or online at [www.longmeadow.org](http://www.longmeadow.org) by noon on Tuesday June 1, 2021.

**Board, Committee, and Commission Applications for Re-Appointment / Appointment:** The deadline to submit an application to serve on a Board, Committee, or Commission is Wednesday, May 26 at noon. Board and Committee members whose terms are expiring this June (June 30, 2021) should also submit an application by this deadline as well. Please email your applications to [selectboard@longmeadow.org](mailto:selectboard@longmeadow.org). There is more information on the homepage of the town website where you will find a link to fill out an application.

**Lifeguard Job Openings:** If you know someone who wants to be a lifeguard or has any interest in this position, please advise them of the lifeguard job openings. If the town does not receive more applications within the next few weeks, it is likely that we will only be able to open one of the two pools. Please apply!

Daycare Job Postings: Within the next month, please keep your eye out for Daycare job postings! You will be able to find more information on the town website in the next coming weeks.

### **Resident Comments**

Peter Landon gave a thank you to Paul Pasterczyk for his service to the committees that he has been part of for the past 20 years. Mr. Landon stated that Mr. Pasterczyk demonstrated great stewardship and professionalism towards these committees.

### **Select Board Comments**

Mr. Foster thanked the Town Manager and her staff, along with everyone else who had a role in the meeting, for the hard work and logistics set up for the Town Meeting.

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

Public Health Excellence Grant- Ms. Simmons stated that she is incredibly excited to inform everyone that the Public Health Excellence grant that was submitted with assistance from PVPC for sharing health services with the Towns of Hampden, Monson and Wilbraham has been awarded! Longmeadow will serve as the lead community, the total grant award from the remainder of FY21 and all of FY22 is \$287,500. Public Health Director Finn McCool and Ms. Simmons will begin the hard work of pulling all the pieces of this together. At an upcoming Select Board meeting, Ms. Simmons will be asking the Board to vote on a letter of intent for sharing services, the other member communities will be working to do the same by June 28 in order to fulfill a grant requirement. The work on a shared service is exploratory and each community needs to have their Select Board and/or BOH take a vote to enter into a shared services agreement when we get to that point. The ultimate goal of this grant is to give each community the staff and tools they need to create a progressive and proactive public health department. A little background on the grant - The state funded \$10 million dollars in the FY21 budget for this grant opportunity. An RFR was put out in March. The state received 30 applications, 29 were awarded totaling \$7.7 million dollars. Of the 29 awarded, 18 were for the creation of NEW shared health services agreements of which Longmeadow is one of.

Senior Signs on the Green-Principal Landers, on behalf of the parent/student organizers, has requested permission to place senior signs on the green again this year. This was widely well received last year and they would like to bring it back for the graduating high school seniors this year. Permission was granted and the signs will be set up after school on Wednesday, May 26th and have students come and get them before dusk on Friday the 28th.

Parks & Recreation and Pools-Over the past month we have been recruiting to fill positions in our camps and at the pools. At this time, we do not have enough applications for all the necessary positions to open both Bliss and Greenwood pools. No final decision has been made yet. Additionally, there is a nationwide shortage of pool supplies including chlorine. We are currently taking inventory of all our supplies to determine what we have and what will be needed and how impacted we may or may not be by limited supply. Ms. Simmons wants to avoid opening a pool and having it shut down several weeks later due to lack of chemicals.

Sewer Winter Averaging – Ms. Simmons is engaging a consultant to assist with our MUNIS utility billing modifications. This consultant has a lot of experience working with MUNIS and implementing changes and upgrades for municipalities. With the turnover of a key utility billing staff person at the DPW and the uncertainty about functions our MUNIS utility billing module, we need someone with the experience and a deeper knowledge of MUNIS to implement our changes accurately. This consultant is in high demand and is currently wrapping up MUNIS utility billing projects for the Towns of Dartmouth, Foxboro and Mansfield. As soon as the schedule permits we will begin this work.

### **Old Business**

1. Approve Minutes from May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.*

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

## 2. HCRRB Update and PERAC Letter

Ms. Simmons stated that a Letter was drafted by the Audit Committee for the Select Board to review for endorsement to be sent to PERAC requesting a status update on the audit covering the years of 2018-2020 of the HCRRB. Ms. Simmons is awaiting review from Legal Counsel on alternatives for options available to coming out of the HCRRS.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to authorize and send the letter on behalf of the Select Board and Audit Committee to PERAC as presented. 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 asked the Select Board if they would be willing to support a slate of people from Longmeadow and other communities to represent as an alternative to reform the organization (HCRRB). Mr. Strange agreed with Mr. Gold and thanked him for his leadership on this. Mr. Strange believes that there would be other members of the communities willing to support this as well.

## 3. Eversource Work- Town Right of Way Update

Representatives from Eversource Richard Salvatorezza, Amos Barnes, and Bryan Mecciarollo were present to answer questions from the board regarding two projects on the town right of way. This was a follow up from the last regular Select Board Meeting where these projects were an agenda topic. Mr. Marantz asked for clarification on the gas lines related to this work in regard to mains or sensing lines and if the lines are new. Mr. Salvatorezza mentioned that a small amount of purging would occur relating to this work, and that old lines will remain as they are today but new additional lines will be added. Mr. Gold made the suggestion to add a safety considerations section to the memo to allow the board to see what precautions are in place. Ms. Simmons stated that the work on the right of way does not have to go in front of the planning board as there is no request for a permit involved.

## **New Business**

### 1. Cybersecurity and Municipal Broadband Discussion

Technology Director, Nick Jorge was present to discuss cybersecurity and municipal broadband. Mr. Jorge stated that preventing the likelihood of a potential cyber-attack is an important consideration for organizations. A discussion and conversation ensued in regard to ransomware and backing up segments to ensure minimal threats. The cybersecurity training is very helpful in increasing awareness as well as allowing users to become more knowledgeable with phishing attempts, Mr. Jorge stated. Wilbraham partnered with a network operator to look at the feasibility of a central rollout in terms of broadband. It is available on their website and Mr. Jorge said he found it very useful. Mr. Gold spoke on the Cable Advisory Committee looking into central broadbanding. The Advisory Committee will present at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Jorge stated that there would be no overlap between the municipal broadband network and the internal communication networks between buildings. Mr. Strange stated that Agawam is looking at all of the options available in regard to broadbanding and would be happy to share their findings.

### 2. Middle School Facilities Conditions Assessment

Superintendent Mary O'Shea was present to discuss the Middle School facilities conditions assessment. Mr. O'Shea stated that the report confirms that there are two middle schools whose needs cannot be addressed through typical maintenance or normal capital expenditures. Mr. O'Shea felt that it would be important to engage the services of Colliers International to give a fresh look at the Middle Schools facilities conditions. The details for this report were provided in the packet and residents can find the presentation on the Town Website.

The report prioritized maintenance and repair projects Mr. O'Shea stated. Mr. O'Shea gave a timeline of when the project(s) could potentially occur if the statement of interest was submitted in the spring. Mr. Gold stated that repairing these buildings as they are does not necessarily give them a 21<sup>st</sup> century feel. Mr. Gold asked if the state reimburses maintenance overhaul projects at a higher percentage. Mr. Gold said that at some point a decision has to be made regarding one versus two middle schools for the long run. Mr. Marantz asked if the statement of interest sent to the state would be for all three possibilities presented. Mr. O'Shea stated that the purpose of the SOI is to define the need for the projects to be identified as a partnership opportunity.

### 3. Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) Authorization

Town Engineer Tim Keane was present to discuss the activity and use limitation authorization. The AUL is a form of mediation that is tied to the deed of the property for limitation on land use. A permanent solution statement will be filed for environmental response actions. Mr. Lachiusa displayed the map on the screen for clarification of the land in discussion. Mr. Gold asked Mr. Keane to describe where the fueling area is in relation to the map and if there is anything above this space now. Mr. Keane said that snow could be stored there. The vote for the authorization will take place at an upcoming Select Board Meeting.

### 4. Tax Title Custodian Appointment

Mr. Pasterczyk stated that historically the appointment of Tax Title Custodian is given to the Treasurer and Collector. With the hiring of Erica Brunell, Mr. Pasterczyk is recommending that she be appointed as Tax Title Custodian through June 30, 2022.

*Mr. Gold made the motion that the Select Board appoint Erica Brunell, Town Treasurer and Collector, as Tax Title Custodian through June 30, 2022, and to be renewed annually unless otherwise changed in pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 60 Section 77b. Mr. Foster seconded this motion.*

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

### 5. Bond Anticipation Notes

*Mr. Gold made the motion to award East Hampton Savings Bank a three hundred and fifty-nine-day bond anticipation note for the amount of \$167,495.00 at a rate of 0.37%. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.*

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

### 6. Review Stormwater Fees for Next Fiscal Year

*Mr. Gold made the motion to set the stormwater utility rate at \$5.55 per month for an equivalent residential unit for Fiscal year 2022. Mr. Strange seconded the motion.*

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

## Adjourn

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

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

## Correspondence- None

## Documents

### Agenda Packet from the Select Board May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting.



5.17.21 Select Board Regular Meeting  
Approved- June 7, 2021

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Barbieri**