

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, March 20, 2023- 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA
Hybrid Meeting

Select Board Members Present: Chair Josh Levine, Mark Gold, Dan Zwirko, Thomas Lachiusa, Vineeth Hemavathi.

Staff Present: Corrin Meise-Munns, Michael Barbieri, Paul Pasterczyk

Also, Present Kristen Carnahan, David Marinelli, Matthew Nichols, Aimee Henderson,

Chair, Joshua Levine, called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Levine 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. To view the full recording of the Select Board meeting, please click [here](#).

Announcements

Annual Town Report Photo Contest Poll - Thank you to everyone who submitted their original photo as part of the Annual Report Photo Contest. We are appreciative of receiving ten (10) entries into the contest. Reminder: The voting poll to help select a photo for the cover of the 2022 report is open until Friday, March 24, 2023. You can participate in the poll online at www.longmeadowma.gov/CivicAlerts or in person at Town Hall, main floor during office hours.

Longmeadow Community Earth Day Clean Up - It is that time of year again to come together and clean up our town! The Earth Day cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2023. In 2022, volunteers collected well over 2,400 pounds of garbage and about 800 pounds of recyclables. For additional information and to sign up to participate, please visit <https://www.longmeadowma.gov/1241/Earth-Day>.

An announcement was also made that the deadline to file objections or withdraw nomination papers is March 23, in anticipation of the June 13, 2023 Annual Town Election.

Interviews

A. Cooley Brook Core Team Resident Advisor

Kristen Carnahan, of 311 Farmington Road, attended to interview for the Cooley Brook Core Team Resident Advisor position. Ms. Carnahan stated that both professionally and personally she is involved with the parks and would love to work in a collaborate setting to establish a vision for Laurel Park and Cooley Brook. Ms. Carnahan stated that she is available for daytime meetings and is flexible in her schedule. The Board asked Ms. Carnahan questions about her experience and how she felt she could relate this to the core team.

David Marinelli, of 9 Overbrook Lane, attended to interview for the Cooley Brook Core Team Resident Advisor position. Mr. Marinelli stated that he would like to be involved in contributing to these next steps of an action plan for Cooley Brook. Mr. Marinelli indicated that he is a certified arborist and believes this experience would reflect well on this team. The Board asked Mr. Marinelli questions about his experience

and how it could relate to the mission of this working group. Mr. Levine stated that we would be appointing a candidate at one of our next meetings as soon as all interviews are complete.

Presentations / Guest Speakers

A. Eversource Notification of Work

Matthew Nichols and Aimee Henderson of Eversource Gas attended to speak about some upcoming projects and updates on current projects taking place. Mr. Nichols started by updating that board on current projects in Town. Lawnwood Avenue and side streets of Longmeadow are going smooth and good progress is being made at this time. Bliss at Burbank was broken in to two stages: Bliss is being worked on this summer to limit traffic concerns, Mr. Nichols stated. Burbank is going well and is almost complete. Mr. Nichols reminded the Board that these projects are intended to switch over existing cast iron pipe to polyethylene plastic. Mr. Gold questioned how big the trenches are for these projects. Mr. Nichols stated that they are about 2 feet and indicated that they would pave 8-10 feet for restoration and will comply with any other local regulations. Mr. Levine questioned if this timeframe is significantly longer than other projects. Mr. Nichols stated that one to two months is usually the work time. A discussion ensued about notification to residents that this work is taking place and advising them of the switch over. Mr. Gold questioned if there would be any street closures associated with these projects. Mr. Nichols stated that there would be detail officers for all of the projects and there would not be any closures but would be one-lane areas for traffic. Mr. Nichols went on to describe similar projects in other areas of Town. Meadowbrook project is within 200 feet of a wetland and Mr. Nichols stated that Eversource is attending Conservation Commission's next meeting to discuss this project. Mr. Levine stated that there would be traffic concerns with this project with the heavily trafficked area. Mr. Nichols indicated that they do not anticipate any closures and would be working mostly in the breakdown lane. They are working with DPW and Police on these details. Meadowbrook would be a three-month project starting in late May. Mr. Nichols explained that the long-term goal is to retire all low-pressure systems on Longmeadow Street and side streets in anticipation of the Mass DOT project looming. They hope to make the final abandonment on Longmeadow Street in the next few years. Mr. Gold mentioned that the repaving of Route 5 is a few years out, potentially more. Mr. Nichols explained the Longmeadow Street Abandonment project would begin in August and would take less than a month. Another project that is in the scoping stages is on Inverness Road and would be a betterment in the system according to Mr. Nichols. This small project would switch the pipe from two inches to four inches. Mr. Zwirko questioned what the date of the project on Inverness was. Mr. Nichols stated that this would be less than a month long project but did not have a start date as this is in the scoping phase. Mr. Zwirko suggested having this project done after school completes in late June or during the summer to limit traffic concerns in this area. Mr. Nichols went on to talk about tying a medium pressure system together for the majority of Maple Road from Longmeadow Street to Hazardville. This project is also in the scoping phase. Mr. Nichols stated that they would be in touch with DPW and Police about future projects and scopes. Mr. Levine questioned why there are so many projects on the slate currently. Mr. Nichols indicated that working in the winter is drastically reduced and on this year's prioritization, system and schedule had many projects high on the list. Mr. Gold requested that Eversource notify workers and contractors about a trench collapse policy or training for safety working in trenches to prevent accidents similar to ones that have happened in Longmeadow in the past. The Board spoke about great feedback on notifications and messaging for the projects that are underway now.

Resident Comments – NONE

Select Board Comments

Mr. Hemavathi took the time to thank the people of Longmeadow for putting their trust in him and is grateful for the confidence that have in him to serve the community. Mr. Hemavathi explained that he is eager to get started and looks forward to working with the Board and the Town as a whole. Mr. Hemavathi stated that he attended a legislative event at the Willie Ross School for the Deaf and mentioned some of the great work that they are doing. Mr. Hemavathi spoke about raising awareness about supporting the school and encouraged others it get involved.

Town Manager's Report

A. Town Manager's Report – March 20, 2023

Assistant Town Manager, Corrin Meise-Munns presented the March 20 Town Manager Report.

Department of Mental Health Jail/Arrest Diversion Grant Program Through the great work of the Longmeadow Police Department, a grant application was submitted to the Department of Mental Health Jail/Arrest Diversion Grant Program. The proposal creates a shared arrangement with the East Longmeadow Police Department (ELPD) with the Longmeadow Police Department (LPD) serving as the lead community. The application requests grant funding to improve delivery of services to those in our communities who struggle with their mental health and wellness. To achieve this, the departments would work with a co-responder from the Center for Human Development (CHD), which is a local non-profit specializing in mental health care. The master's level clinician provided by CHD will assist officers at the onset of the call for service in which a community member is in crisis of suffering from a mental illness. The goal of the co-response is to enhance the agency's response to assisting persons in crisis, suffering from a mental disability, or with an ongoing and/or co-occurring substance abuse problem. This goal can be achieved by connecting those individuals in need with crisis and other mental health resources in the community. This connection will divert persons with mental health struggles from the criminal justice system or local hospital emergency departments and shift them to behavioral or mental health providers that can offer assistance that is more specialized. If links to services are effectively made, LPD and ELPD will see a reduction in calls for service with that community member. Success in attainment of these objectives will also be determined by a reduction in transports to emergency departments at local hospitals. If successful, fewer people should be going to the ER and more should be referred to non-emergency mental health providers. LPD and ELPD should see fewer emergency calls for persons suffering from mental illness or crisis because of the teamwork approach produced by the co-responder model of policing. Thank you specifically to Sgt. Lombardi who spearheaded the work on this important grant application. While the grant application is pending, LPD will continue to work out the details in a draft Memorandum of Understanding and have conversations with other communities who are currently taking part in this program.

B. Department Monthly Reports – February (*Department Monthly Reports for February can be found in the Select Board Agenda Packet linked under "documents" at the end of these minutes*)

Mr. Lachiusa stated that having this type of combination with forces would be effective and is excited and hopeful that this opportunity comes to fruition. Mr. Lachiusa questioned the length of the program and funding sources. Ms. Mesie-Munns stated that she does not have those exact details but would work with LPD to get additional information. Mr. Levine commented that the Building Monthly Report indicates that Code Enforcement Officers are working in different territories of Town as opposed to working different shifts. Mr. Levine stated that the Building Commissioner mentioned that this method has worked well so far, and would make adjustments as necessary. Mr. Lachiusa spoke about the Library report and was happy to see all of the ongoing programs offered for people of all ages. Mr. Hemavathi questioned how the grant program

would work operationally. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that there are different arrangements that can be set up and would follow up with LPD to get further details.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to accept the March 6, 2023 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes subject to corrections. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

B. FY2024 Capital Plan Vote

Mr. Gold commented about the Town Manager capital request for an additional \$25,000 under project development. Mr. Gold went on to say that he was concerned that the plan did not include guardrails as it has in the past. Mr. Gold requested that the line for road paving be amended to say "road paving / guardrails." Mr. Levine suggested putting the prior year balance on projects toward a line in the capital plan and asked the Board where this should be allocated. Mr. Pasterczyk stated that this can be repurposed and at the end of the year if not appropriated would go back into the Capital Stabilization Fund. Mr. Zwirko supported putting this balance toward the road paving line. A discussion ensued about increasing project development allocation by \$25,000 and the balance from previous projects not closed out to remain in the stabilization fund.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Capital Planning recommendations with the following adjustments: that Project Development will be increased from \$100,000 to \$125,000, and that the road paving line item be renamed to "Road Paving and or Guardrails," for a total recommended capital expenditure of \$2,340,000. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

C. FY2024 Budget Vote

Mr. Gold asked Mr. Pasterczyk to go over some of the changes that were made since last week's department budget meetings. Mr. Pasterczyk stated that the Code Enforcement line item went from \$50,000 to \$64,000. He went on to say that, we had looked at the Opioid Settlement money, which was \$132,000 in the budget. We looked at what is expected for next year based on the current scheduling, that amount was dropped down to \$23,000. If additional money comes in, we can appropriate it at that time, Mr. Pasterczyk explained. He also spoke about an adjustment that was made based on an estimate for state reimbursement for exemptions. The \$46,000 balance of this can be found in a warrant article for wage settlements. Mr. Gold stated that he read that the Governor is submitting a supplemental budget for next year for Special Education and Out of District Tuitions. Mr. Gold questioned if we appropriate this budget with a 4.7% increase to the School Department, and then the State comes in with a supplemental budget to cover these costs, how the Town recovers this money back to taxpayers. Mr. Gold explained his concern that we were close to a 2.5% increase and we would like to be below that. Mr. Pasterczyk stated it is dependent on how the money comes in. It most likely would go to the School Department through circuit breaker and if the amount is known by the Special Fall Town Meeting, the budget can be adjusted. Mr. Pasterczyk commented that alternatively, the Select Board could ask for a commitment from the School Committee to return that money at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Lachiusa stated that historically the School Committee has turned back a good amount of money at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Gold clarified that his concern was not the School Committee, but instead that we have taxed people at 2.5%, and maybe we only needed to tax at 2.1 or 2.2%, if we would have known that the supplemental budget from the State was coming in. Mr. Pasterczyk also stated that Free Cash comes from other sources besides taxation and we may not know what the supplemental budget will look like until later in the year.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget of \$80,802,613 as revised on March 16, 2023. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

D. Set 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

An update was made to the warrant to reflect DPW bills of prior year for Article 2, Mr. Pasterczyk mentioned. The new total is \$16,085.11 and will be coming from different sources. This adjustment will reduce Article 6 to \$169,397. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that any articles that refer to addition or amendments of bylaws, the citations reflect the General Code citations. We are hopeful that we will hear back approval of General Code within the next week, and if they are not approved in this timeframe, we will adjust the warrant to reflect the current General Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw citations. ***Please note that the article numbers as voted at this meeting were current numbers as of March 20, 2023. The articles would be renumbered based on deletion or creation of articles.***

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 1. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 2 as amended. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 3. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 4. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 5. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 6 as amended. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 7. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 8. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 9. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 10. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 11. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve Article 12. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 13. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 14. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Pasterczyk spoke about Articles 15 and 16 being implemented for the Opioid Settlement money to be put into a stabilization fund. Mr. Gold questioned if we can have this be on the slate for the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Pasterczyk stated that this would be a good plan based on the Department of Revenue meeting to discuss and announce new regulations and options for holding these types of funds in a special revenue account. Mr. Lachiusa spoke about being in favor of approving these now. Mr. Pasterczyk stated that we should hear from the DOR on this matter soon, but not before the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Gold made the motion to delete Articles 15 and 16. Mr. Levine seconded the motion. The motion passed

by a vote of 4-1 (Lachiusa-NO).

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 17. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 18. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 19. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to approve Article 20. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 (Gold-NO).

Mr. Gold mentioned as previously stated in a different warrant discussion, he is opposed to Article 20 and will plan to speak and vote against it on the floor of Town Meeting.

Mr. Pasterczyk requested that the language “first from the Community Preservation Open Space” be deleted due to a different funding source being utilized.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 21 as amended. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve Article 22. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve Article 23. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve Article 24. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve Article 25. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Ms. Meise-Munns suggested moving a portion of the language in Article 25 to the explanation for ease of reading.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve Article 26. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 27. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi commented that the last sentence in Article 28 is missing some language and it should be completed. Mr. Levine also suggested editing the language in the description to give additional information.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 28. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

A request was made to modify the description of Article 29 to delete the last paragraph and just provide an overview of what the zone change request is.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 29 as revised. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Ms. Meise-Munns explained that the Planning Board has scheduled hearings for the articles pertaining to zoning changes or updates.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 30. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold requested that the language be changed to “or take any other action relative thereto” for the remaining zoning articles to keep consistency throughout.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 31 as amended. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 32 as amended. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 33 as amended. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve Article 34 as amended. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 35 as amended. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve Article 36 as amended. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

A discussion ensued about timeframe for the Warrant to go out to print and when it would be delivered and posted for residents to view. The 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant will be posted on the website on April 7 and will be delivered to all residents (including opt-outs) via the Reminder on April 20. Public education videos and info sessions will be announced accordingly.

New Business

A. MVP Resilient Capital Planning Process Working Group

Ms. Meise-Munns commented that as a part of the MVP Action Grants we have received finding for a task to put together a working group to look at our Capital Planning process, to incorporate climate resilient criteria into the structure. Ms. Meise-Munns went on to explain the make-up of the committee and that a Select Board representative can be delegated to the process. Mr. Gold spoke about the issues of having another task force to direct the Capital Planning Committee, when there are already improvements that could be made, may be compromising. Mr. Levine stated that this working group is a good step to bringing different initiatives in to help guide capital planning needs and is covered by the grant. Ms. Meise-Munns clarified that this would mostly affect the very beginning of the process when Department Heads are proposing capital projects, to make sure these considerations are built in prior to the approval stages.

Mr. Levine made the motion to nominate Vineeth as Select Board representative to the Capital Planning Process Working Group. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

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

It was confirmed that all is in order with the application and there are not outstanding bills or taxes owed. It was noted that Clubhouse Café does not have any violations to date.

Mr. Gold made the motion to renew the Seasonal Liquor License for Clubhouse Café. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

C. One Day Liquor License Applications

a. Longmeadow Adult Center Community Fund – Two (2) Applications

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the One Day Liquor Licenses for LACCF for events to be held on April 6 and April 20 2023. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence (All Correspondence material can be found in the SB agenda packet linked under “documents” at the end of these minutes)

COMCAST MARCH LETTERS.PDF

Adjourn

03.20.23 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved: 04,18,23

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Documents

[SELECT BOARD MARCH 20 2023 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA PACKET](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri