

**TOWN OF LONGMEADOW
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School Gymnasium
MINUTES

Acting under the authority of the posted warrant, the qualified voters of the Town met at the time and place appointed. At 7:00 PM o'clock in the afternoon the Moderator declared the Annual Town Meeting open, there being a quorum (50 registered voters) present and all provisions of the law having been met. In accordance with the ancient custom, the Moderator called upon Longmeadow resident, James Gould to give the Invocation. Town Moderator, Rebecca Townsend remembered town residents that had passed since the last Annual Town Meeting and had served the Town in volunteer capacities. Steven Marantz, Chair of the Select Board recognized both current and former town staff for their service to the town. Tim Casey, Chair of the Historic District Commission presented a new Historic District Preservation Award for 2020 to Louis and Ruth Robin and for 2021 to Bruce and Julia Cowley.

Consent Agenda #1:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 2, 3 and 4 as part of a consent agenda.

In favor = 151

Opposed = 14

Total Voted = 165

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Consent Agenda #2:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 7, 8, and 9 as part of a consent agenda.

In favor = 207

Opposed = 21

Total Voted = 228

Motion passed by a 4/5 Declared Affirmative Vote.

Consent Agenda #3:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 13, 14, 15 and 18 as part of a consent agenda.

In favor = 190

Opposed = 31

Total Voted = 221

The motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Consent Agenda #4:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 16, 17, 19 and 20 as part of a consent agenda.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 17

Total Voted = 232

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Consent Agenda #5:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 as part of a consent agenda.

In favor: 207

Opposed: 24

Total: 231

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Consent Agenda #6:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 26 and 27 as part of a consent agenda.

Both Articles were held for separate consideration – no action was taken on the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda #7:

It was moved and seconded to approve Articles 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 37 as part of a consent agenda.

Article 33 was held and voted separately.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 1.

It was moved and seconded that the Town chose Frances Miffit, William McGurk, and Erin Koebler to administer the William Goldthwait Bequest.

In favor = 161

Opposed = 10

Total Voted = 171

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 2. (Consent Agenda #1)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of supplementing the FY 2022 Operating Budget for Snow and Ice removal.

In favor = 151

Opposed = 14

Total Voted = 165

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 3. (Consent Agenda #1)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of funding an Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment.

In favor = 151

Opposed = 14

Total Voted = 165

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 4. (Consent Agenda #1)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$75,000 for the purposes of conducting a compensation and classification study for non-union, DPW, and Clerical positions.

In favor = 151
Opposed = 14
Total Voted = 165

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 5.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate, the of sum of \$200,000 to add a pool liner to the Greenwood pool, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town.

In favor = 164
Opposed = 33
Total Voted = 197

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 6.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$30,000 to purchase a pool cover for the Greenwood pool.

In favor = 171
Opposed = 14
Total Voted = 185

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 7. (Consent Agenda #2)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$8,738.32 for the purpose of paying prior year's bills.

In favor = 207
Opposed = 21
Total Voted = 228

Motion passed by a 4/5 Declared Affirmative Vote.

Article 8. (Consent Agenda #2)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings, the sum of \$2,702.92 for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for FY 2021 bills of prior year.

In favor = 207

Opposed = 21

Total Voted = 228

Motion passed by a 4/5 Declared Affirmative Vote.

Article 9. (Consent Agenda #2)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$7,899.42 for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for FY 2021 bills of prior year.

In favor = 207

Opposed = 21

Total Voted = 228

Motion passed by a 4/5 Declared Affirmative Vote.

Article 10.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fix the Fiscal Year 2023 salary and compensation of the Moderator at \$1,000.00 and the Select Persons at \$2,000.00 each, to provide for a reserve fund, and to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget totaling \$76,513,613.33**,and itemized as follows:

General Government \$1,925,023.49

Public Safety 5,766,567.00

Planning & Community Development 244,464.77

Schools 37,395,859.36

Department of Public Works (General Fund) 4,740,438.00

Community and Cultural Services 1,865,863.37

Debt Service & Town/School Employee/Retire Benefits 18,092,653.00

Subtotal General Fund \$70,030,868.99

Water Enterprise 3,179,235.10

Sewer Enterprise 2,225,538.24

Stormwater Enterprise 1,077,971.00

Total \$76,513,613.33

**And to fund the General Fund \$70,030,868.99 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$70,030,868.99 from general taxation; and to fund the Water Enterprise Fund \$3,179,235.10 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$3,179,235.10 from Water receipts; and to fund the Sewer Enterprise Fund \$2,225,538.24 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$2,225,538.24 from Sewer receipts; and to fund the Stormwater Enterprise, \$1,077,971.00 be raised and appropriated as follows: \$546,747.00 from Stormwater receipts and \$531,224.00 from general taxation.

In favor = 154

Opposed = 10

Total Voted = 164

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 11.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$578,218.00 for the purposes of establishing a Wage Settlement Account to cover the FY2023 DPW reorganization, DPW, Police, and Clerical collective bargaining agreements, non-school, non-union wage adjustments, as well as the implementation of the wage and classification study.

In favor = 135

Opposed = 14

Total Voted = 149

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 12.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for capital projects and that any remaining amounts from the capital projects to be deposited into the Capital Stabilization Fund:

From Raise and Appropriate (FY 2023)

Project Development \$25,000.00

Project Reserve \$10,000.00

Fire Truck Replacement Reserve \$75,000.00

Center School Flat Roof Replacement (phase 1 of 2) \$695,000.00

Police Station Kitchen Upgrade \$55,000.00

Double Folding Wing Mower \$115,000.00

Pavement Preservation \$635,000.00

Sidewalk Reconstruction \$400,000.00

Total Capital Stabilization Fund \$2,010,000.00

In favor = 135

Opposed = 8

Total Voted = 143

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 13. (Consent Agenda #3)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate \$471,699 from the state for highway improvements, under the authority of M.G.L Chapter 90, including funds to be received in FY 2023, or any applicable laws, and to authorize the Select Board, if necessary, to apply for, accept, borrow in anticipation of state aid and expend such funds.

In favor = 190

Opposed = 31

Total Voted = 221

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 14. (Consent Agenda #3)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the following land parcels and or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way. This will allow for the construction and roadway safety improvements under a project known as: Longmeadow- Springfield- Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements on Longmeadow Street (Route 5) and Converse Street (MassDOT Project #608881) in the Town of Longmeadow, Hampden County (the “Project”).

Total # of Parcels Area (Square Footage)

Temporary Easements 71 43,077

Permanent Easements 4 1,414

Fee Interest 1 423

Further that the Select Board may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels through all legal means, including, without limitation, donation(s), purchase(s), and eminent domain condemnation. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans drafted by Fuss & O’Neill, Dated: 1-12-2022 and Titled: Longmeadow Street (U.S. Route 5) & Converse Street, Preliminary Right of Way, 75% Submission.

And, further, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$287,000, or a greater or lesser sum, from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Chapter 90 allotment for the purposes to defray any associated right of way expenses connected with the Project.

In favor = 190

Opposed = 31

Total Voted = 221

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 15. (Consent Agenda #3)

It was moved and seconded that the Town, upon the recommendation from the Select Board, vote to authorize the School Department to enter into a lease purchase financing agreement, to acquire IT capital equipment, for a period up to four (4) years.

In favor =190

Opposed = 31

Total Voted = 221

The motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 16. (Consent Agenda #4)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$30,000.00 for the purpose of replacing the flat roof of the Sewer Pumping Station on Emerson Road.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 17

Total = 232

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 17. (Consent Agenda #4)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Stormwater Retained Earnings, the sum of \$101,000.00 for the purpose of improving the drainage on Shady Knoll Drive.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 17

Total Voted = 232

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 18. (Consent Agenda # 3)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate, the sum of \$100,000.00 to pay costs of the Longmeadow Street Water Main Replacement drawings, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges.

In favor = 190

Opposed = 31

Total Voted = 221

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 19. (Consent Agenda #4)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings, the sum of \$100,000.00 to pay costs of the Longmeadow Street Water Main Replacement drawings.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 17

Total Voted = 232

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 20. (Consent Agenda #4)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$200,000.00 to pay costs of the Longmeadow Street Sewer Main Replacement drawings.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 17

Total Voted = 232

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 21. (Consent Agenda #5)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$900,000.00 to pay costs of Emerson Road Water Main Replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges.

In favor = 207

Opposed = 24

Total Voted = 231

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 22. (Consent Agenda #5)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$750,000.00 to pay costs of a water main replacement on Cooley Drive, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges.

In favor = 207

Opposed = 24

Total Voted = 231

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 23. (Consent Agenda #5)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to pay costs of system-wide water quality and flow enhancements, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from water system rates and charges.

In favor = 207

Opposed = 24

Total Voted = 231

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 24. (Consent Agenda #5)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate, the sum of \$195,000.00, for the purpose of funding the Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) multiyear project (year 1 of 2) To meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town’s full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from sewer system rates and charges.

In favor = 207
Opposed = 24
Total Voted = 231

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 25. (Consent Agenda #5)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 for the Longmeadow Stormwater Asset Management Project awarded under the 2022 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan., including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore any such borrowing, while constituting a pledge of the Town’s full faith and credit, is expected to be repaid, in the first instance, from stormwater rates and charges; The amount of borrowing should be reduced to the extent of expected grant funds.

In favor = 207
Opposed = 24
Total Voted = 231

Motion passed by 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 26.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,775.00 for the purposes of paying the FY 2023 District Improvement Financing (DIF) Debt Service.

In favor = 137
Opposed = 3
Total Voted = 140

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 27.

I move that the Town vote to establish a funding limit for the Town’s Council on Aging Revolving Fund with payments from the fund to be expended by the Director of the Council on Aging up to \$85,000.00.

In favor = 132
Opposed = 8
Total Voted = 140

Motion passed by Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 28. (Consent Agenda #7)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$7,194 from the FY 2022 Community Preservation Undesignated Fund for: CPA Fund Balance Reserve for Open Space \$2,398, CPA Fund Balance Reserve for Community Housing \$2,398 and CPA Fund Balance Reserve for Historic Preservation \$2,398.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 29. (Consent Agenda #7)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 from the FY 2023 Community Preservation local surcharge and trust fund for administrative costs for the Community Preservation Committee.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 30. (Consent Agenda #7)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation Project for a survey of structures constructed before 1911 in the amount of \$10,500.00 funded from the Community Preservation Historical Preservation Fund Balance.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 31. (Consent Agenda #7)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation project for a hydrologic and hydraulic study of Bliss and Laurel Parks in the amount of \$75,000 funded from the Recreation/Open Space Fund Balance.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 32.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation project to provide upgrades to the Edgerly Building at Wolf Swamp Field and to provide dugouts and other field amenities at the field, in the amount of \$10,000 to be funded from the Recreation/Open Space Fund Balance, and the amount of \$98,700, to be funded from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance.

In favor = 127

Opposed = 11

Total Voted = 138

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 33.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to provide funding for the repair and/or replacement of windows at Center School in the amount of \$10,000 to be funded from the Historic Preservation Fund, and the amount of \$290,000, or greater or lesser sum, to be funded from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance.

A motion was moved and seconded that Article 33 be referred to the Select Board for a report to the next Town Meeting, and to consider this project be funded as either a Bonded Capital Project, an application be prepared for submission to the MSBA or other funding mechanism to be determined.

In favor = 46

Opposed = 76

Total Voted = 122

Motion to refer failed by a Majority Negative Vote.

Main Motion

In favor = 98

Opposed = 23

Total Voted = 121

Main Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 34.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to take no action to fund the Community Preservation Project to provide funding for the replacement of a fence at the Richard Salter Storrs House in the amount of \$19,619 to be funded from the Historic Preservation Fund Balance.

In favor = 94

Opposed = 19

Total Voted = 113

Motion to Take No Action passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 35. (Consent Agenda #7)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation Project for surveying, mapping and possible permitting for riverfront conservation land in the amount of \$8,500 funded from the Recreation/Open Space Fund Balance.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote.

Article 36.

A motion was moved and seconded to advance Article 36 before Article 1 and after advanced Article 39.

In favor = 214

Opposed = 48

Total Voted = 262

Motion to advance the article passed by a 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation Project to provide funding for the construction of a skateboard park at Bliss Park in the amount of \$350,000 to be funded from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance.

After at least five voters spoke in favor and five voters spoke against, a motion was moved and seconded to call the question.

In favor = 235

Opposed = 42

Total Voted = 277

Motion to move the question passed by a 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

Main Motion:

In favor = 101

Opposed = 177

Total Voted = 278

Main Motion Failed by a Majority Negative Vote.

Article 37. (Consent Agenda #7)

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation project for planting perennial pollinator plants and installing bluebird boxes at the Community Gardens in the amount of \$1,500 to be funded from the Open Space/Recreation Fund Balance.

In favor = 215

Opposed = 22

Total Voted = 237

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 38.

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to fund the Community Preservation project for a study of the Old Town Hall to determine the work needed to preserve it, and the estimated costs, in the amount of \$10,000, to be funded from the Historic Preservation Fund Balance.

In favor = 102

Opposed = 8

Total Voted = 110

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

Article 39.

A motion was moved and seconded to advance Article 39 before Article 1.

In favor = 193

Opposed = 54

Total Voted = 247

Motion passed by a 2/3rds Majority Affirmative Vote.

It was moved and seconded to Take No Action on Article 39.

In favor = 196

Opposed = 50

Total Voted = 246

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

A motion was moved and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 9:49 pm.

In favor = 97

Opposed = 6

Total Voted = 103

Motion passed by a Majority Affirmative Vote

The number of registered voters in attendance was 293 (2.44 % of eligible voters), there being 12,001 registered voters as of April 20, 2022.

Katherine T. Ingram
Town Clerk