

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, June 26, 2023- 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow Adult Center, Multi-Purpose Room
211 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA
Hybrid Meeting

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

Staff Present: Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri, Corrin Meise-Munns, Sean Van Deusen,

Also, Present: Michelle Keane-Moore, Elliot Greenberg, Anastasios Angelides, Judith DeLong, Andrea Chasen, David Dumais, Katherine McGonigle, Stephanie DeAlmeida, Sara Grzyszcak Fernandez, Aime Clark, Jerold Duquette, Jeffrey Rintoul, Richard Sypek, Mehulsinh Pravinsinh Gohil, Meayuri Pravinsinh Gohil, Frank Collachino, Jeffrey Roberts, Moira Day.

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.

Mr. 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](#).

Select Board Reorganization

Mr. Levine commented that it has been his pleasure to serve this Board as chair for this past year.

Mr. Levine made the motion to nominate Mr. Gold as Select Board Chair. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3 - two in favor and three opposed (Lachiusa – No, Zwirko – No, Hemavathi – No). Mr. Zwirko made the motion to nominate Mr. Lachiusa as Select Board Chair. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2 (Levine – No, Gold – No).

Mr. Lachiusa took over the meeting a Chair.

Mr. Levine made the motion to nominate Mr. Zwirko as Select Board Vice Chair. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion.

Mr. Zwirko stated that he appreciated the nomination but due to his duties on Long Range Planning consuming a lot of time, he would prefer someone else to take on the Vice Chair role. Mr. Levine withdrew the motion.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to nominate Mr. Levine as Select Board Vice Chair. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 (Levine – No).

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to nominate Vineeth Hemavathi as Select Board Clerk. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Announcements

Select Board Summer Meetings The Select Board will have a change in meeting location for the remainder of the summer (2023), due to the air handler replacement project at Longmeadow High School. We will meet in the Adult Center multi-purpose room this summer, hopefully to return to meeting room A15, at the Longmeadow Public Schools Central Office, in September. These meetings will be streamed live by LCTV as

usual and there will be virtual options for attendance as well.

Age-Friendly Task Force: Listening Session Series The Longmeadow Long-Range Plan Steering Committee's Age Friendly Task Force seeks input from the community to help create a vision to make Longmeadow an age-friendly community for all. Residents of age 50 and older, caregivers, and service providers are encouraged to attend! The Age-Friendly Listening Series will include one virtual and two in-person sessions. The first listening session will be held via ZOOM on June 28, 2023, from 6-7:30 PM. in-person session dates will be announced soon. Visit, www.longmeadowma.gov/1358/Longmeadow-Long-Range-Plan for additional information.

Interviews

A. Board and Committee Annual Interviews (To watch the full recording of the interviews, please click [here](#) 9:00-30:00 and 41:00 – 1:02:00 in the recording)

Michelle Keane-Moore, of 116 Brooks Road, Elliot Greenberg, of 122 Ellington Street, and Anastasios Angelides, of 199 Tanglewood Drive, attended to interview for reappointment to the Board of Health.

Judith DeLong, of 100 Arlington Road, attended to interview for appointment to the Council on Aging Board of Directors.

Andrea Chasen, of 236 Crestview Circle, and David Dumais, of 76 Sheffield Avenue, attended to interview for reappointment to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Chasen also applied for reappointment to the Energy and Sustainability Committee.

Katherine McGonigle, of 95 Benedict Terrace, attended to interview for reappointment to the Cultural Council. Stephanie DeAlmeida, of 33 Allen Road, attended to interview for appointment to the Cultural Council.

Sara Grzejszczak Fernandez, of 302 Williams Street, and Aime Clark, of 64 Nevins Avenue, attended to interview for appointment to the Historic District Commission. Ms. Clark also applied to the Historical Commission.

Jerold Duquette, of 69 Clairmont Street, and Jeffrey Rintoul, of 27 Cranwell Lane, attended to interview for reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Public Hearings

A. Longmeadow Package Store – Transfer of Liquor License Application

Mr. Levine made the motion to enter into the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Attorney Richard Sypek, representing Om Shiv Sai Ram LLC, d/b/a Longmeadow Package Store, and applicants Mehulsinh Pravinsinh Gohil and Meayuri Pravinsinh Gohil attended for this hearing. Attorney Sypek explained that they were here this evening for a transfer of license application from Bottle and Brew INC to the newly formed OM SHIV SAI RAM LLC. Mr. Sypek explained that the purchase and sale agreement of the existing package store was also included in the application packet. He went on to say that, there is no bank financing with this transaction and that it is a 100% cash deal. The purchase price is \$400,000 plus inventory. The inventory will be determined the night before the closing, which is procedural, according to Mr. Sypek. In addition, the applicants have negotiated at great length the amendment to the existing lease, which is coming to the end of its first 10-year term expiring in 2025. Mr. Sypek detailed that there are now three five-year options thereafter, which will take the amendment up to 2040 at a minimum with the amendment. The applicants seek the Board's approval tonight and look forward to the submission to the ABCC for their approval. Mr. Lachiusa confirmed that the applicants were local residents and would be attending operations regularly at the business. Mr. Sypek confirmed and stated that the applicants currently live in West Springfield. Mr. Levine asked the

applicants if they have been TIPS trained to learn how to check identification, and questioned if there will be a scanner in the store. Mr. Gohil explained that he did obtain these certifications and that they plan to have an identification scanner in the store as soon as the purchase is approved. Mr. Levine commented on the importance of the scanner and properly identifying everyone who comes in. A discussion ensued about parking in the plaza with the new restaurant and Mr. Gold mentioned that the lot is Town property and making modifications to parking will have to be discussed in an updated agreement with the property owner. Mr. Gold reiterated Mr. Levine's point about identification and mentioned that LPD would conduct compliance checks as well. Mr. Gold wished the applicants the best of luck and encouraged them to be diligent in their identification process. Mr. Lachiusa also mentioned the importance of not selling to anyone who may already be inebriated when coming to the store, on top of identifying for underage persons.

Mr. Levine made the motion to close the public Hearing. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Transfer of Liquor License Application for Longmeadow Package Store as proposed with a 16c finding that there is no detrimental impact to a school, church, or synagogue within 500 feet. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Guest Speakers / Presentations

A. Davey Tree – Hazard Tree Assessment Presentation

Moriah Day, of Davey Tree Group, attended to give a presentation on the Hazard Tree Assessment, which was just completed this spring. The full recording of the presentation can be viewed [here \(1:02:00 – 1:41:00\)](#). Ms. Day began by introducing herself and explained that she specialized in tree inventories, risk assessment and Urban Tree Management. Ms. Day went on to explain the study in general with a particular focus on the maintenance needs and budgeting, and next steps for managing the public trees in Longmeadow. Tree inventories give you the tool to know how many public trees you have, where they are located, what condition they are in, and what their needs are. Tree inventories also help communities mitigate risk and reduce liability, Ms. Day went on to say. To summarize, Ms. Day spoke about the benefits and impacts of the conditions of public trees, analysis on the inventory of trees, overview of species and genera diversity compared to the industry recommendation, pest and disease susceptibility, tree condition / age and current defects, maintenance needs based on the risk assessment, and budgeting priorities for maintenance / removal / inspections. Ms. Day concluded the presentation by discussing what a five-year maintenance schedule would look like and gave examples of state grant funding for tree related work not just for inventories, but did mention that grants cannot always be relied on and that there should be budgeted funds for this work as well. Mr. Levine questioned if a new small tree were to be planted, how long is it before they reach a state of maturity becoming a public shade tree. Ms. Day stated that it is the industry recommendation that a tree is planted at a two ½-inch caliper at the time of planting. It is about six to eight feet tall when it goes into the ground, and the amount of time it takes to reach maturity can vary significantly depending on the species, location, and how much maintenance is put into it, Ms. Day commented. Generally about 30 years to get a tree sizable enough to start ramping up those benefits. Mr. Gold questioned if the budget outlined in the presentation was based on work being performed by Town employees or outside contractors and if prevailing wages were taken into account. Ms. Day stated that this is contractor pricing, and Davey generally reached out to their contractor contracts to get their average estimate on what it costs to do each of these tasks. It is also broken down by size so it is not just one price for every tree removal; it is a price for a five-inch tree versus a 20-inch tree, etc. Ms. Day explained that the actual cost of work could vary depending on which specific contractor the Town signs, and how much work is being done in-house versus through contracted work. Ms. Day commented that this budget in the presentation is an

illustration, but they do provide the excel template so that the Town could make alterations if necessary if this is under or overestimating what the actual costs will turn out to be. Mr. Gold also questioned if Davey would take into account the loss of trees from the 2011 storm into this inventory. Ms. Day stated that those losses from the 2011 storm would have been reflected in the 2017 inventory/study. A planting plan or strategy could provide some guidance on where the Town has available space to plant trees and at that point the investment in time and budget priorities can be solidified, Ms. Day went on to say. A discussion ensued about lumping multiple tree hearings into one to address a bulk majority, and it provides public education and education to explain why and what you are doing. Mr. Lachiusa commented that it would be good to look at what we are already doing internally at the DPW and how close we are to meeting some of these goals, and then look at where the gap is to move forward. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if there was any risk involved with trimming Evergreens. Ms. Day commented, not necessarily, as there is a low risk for branch failure, but they are prone to different types of stem rot and they are much more likely to have stem breakage and fail at the stem. The Board thanked Ms. Day for giving this presentation and requested a copy of the presentation slides.

Resident Comments – None

Select Board Comments

Mr. Levine commented about the playground incident at Bliss Park that will be mentioned later on in the Town Manager report. Mr. Levine stated that he is grateful to everyone in Town who stepped up and the response was amazing. This was a unified response to a horrific event and commended everyone who took action. Mr. Levine also spoke about the follow up from LPD to prevent incidents like this from occurring by organizing the installment of cameras and continuing their investigation. Mr. Levine also stated that he went on the pipeline walk with the Longmeadow Pipeline Group last week where Climate Chief, Melissa Hoffer, and two of her employees attended. The walk included the proposed route starting on Hazardville at Longmeadow Country Club and then concluded at the Bliss Street transfer station where they met with Jesse Lederman to discuss the impact on Springfield. Mr. Levine commented that he was very happy with this meeting and thanked Ms. Hoffer for taking time to meet with the group.

Mr. Zwirko agreed with Mr. Levine's points and expressed his appreciation for his leadership as Chair over the past year leading the Board through the proposed pipeline project initial steps.

Town Manager's Report

Bliss Park Playground As you likely know, the playground has reopened. A claim has been made with the Town's insurance company for the damage. The police investigation is ongoing. A quote for running a fiber connection to both Bliss Park playground and Greenwood Park playground is being worked on with the goal of adding cameras to these locations in the near future.

MSBA Middle School SOI Ms. Simmons was pleased to report that at the June 21, 2023 Board of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) meeting, the MSBA voted to invite the Town of Longmeadow to partner with the MSBA in conducting a Feasibility Study for the Glenbrook Middle School. The Board's vote follows the Town's timely completion of all of the requirements of the MSBA's Eligibility Period. The invitation to collaborate on a Feasibility Study is not approval of a project but an invitation to the Town to work with the MSBA to explore potential solutions to the problems that have been identified. The invitation to enter into a Feasibility Study Agreement allows us to secure an Owner's Project Manager and a Design Team. A full feasibility study, with costs shared between the town and MSBA, will take many months. It will allow us to assess existing conditions, evaluate existing and needed educational space, establish design

parameters, develop and evaluate design alternatives and ultimately identify the most cost effective, educationally effective option for the future of our middle schools.

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant As you know, the Town applied for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to fund a Tree Inventory Expansion for Schools and Parks and Expanding the Role of Longmeadow's Tree Warden. Ms. Simmons was pleased to say that the grant application was awarded in the amount of \$3,800 for the inventory expansion and \$36,012 for the tree warden position. As a reminder, the Tree Warden position was discussed during the FY24 budget presentation. This position will be full time (40 hours) but shared with approximately 10 hours per week devoted to Conservation Agent duties. A job description has been created and with the grant award announcement, the position was posted. Once this position is filled, we will have a fulltime Tree Warden/Conservation Agent, a first for Longmeadow.

Ellington Line Removal Line removal work on Ellington has started and is almost complete (at the time of this report drafting). The work was expected to take place Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21. However, one piece of equipment broke during the removal so a delay on the remaining area is likely while the equipment is repaired.

Mass Gaming Commission Public Safety Grant Another great grant award announcement! The Town, led by the Police Department and specifically Captain Mazzaferro, was successful again in receiving a Mass Gaming Commission Public Safety grant. This is to complete phase 2 work for the purchase and installation of traffic cameras and associated fiber connections for Converse Street in the amount of \$192,400. The grant provides funding for cameras and SpeedAlert radar message signs with data management system. The cameras will be installed at the four main intersections along Converse Street. The SpeedAlert signs will be installed in high volume traffic areas and a side street camera detection system will be installed at the intersection of Longmeadow Street and Edgewood Avenue (to assist with traffic exiting Edgewood Avenue).

Elementary School Playground Replacements The architect has met with all the school councils and principals and has presented the design changes for each location. A meeting with the school's Director of Special Education is scheduled to gather further input. The architect was impressed with the engagement and thought from all he has met with. Discussions included equity in play, self-esteem, and preserved dignity through inclusive play. The architect is now working on final quotes for surfacing and equipment. Installation documents and specs are being gathered so those can be included in the labor bid for site work and installation. Ms. Simmons also spoke of the promotion of Captain Rigney to Deputy Fire Chief, following the retirement of Deputy Chief Macsata who retired at the end of May. Deputy Chief Rigney has been with the Town for 25 years, the last 7 as Captain and Shift Commander. Ms. Simmons congratulated Deputy Chief Rigney on the promotion.

A. Department Monthly Reports – May *(All Department Monthly Reports can be found in the Select Board Agenda Packet, linked under “documents” at the end of these minutes”)*

Mr. Gold commented about the DPW report and stated that the water and sewer updates are very helpful. Mr. Gold stated that it was difficult to understand the project update spreadsheet and wondered if there was a different version to that. Ms. Simmons commented that there was an overview written memo detailing project updates that was accidentally omitted from the uploads. Ms. Simmons stated that we would provide this update to the Board.

Mr. Lachiusa questioned if the lights going up on Converse Street are going to be used for any type of enforcement. Ms. Simmons explained that those are traffic cameras being installed and tickets are not generally given out from those cameras. Mr. Lachiusa also commented on the Building Department report particularly in the code enforcement section. Mr. Lachiusa stated it was good to see that businesses were also being held to high standard when it comes to complying with regulations and bylaws. Ms. Simmons commented that the

Code Enforcement Officers are very proactive in their approach specifically with the sign bylaw violations on the tree belt as well.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 15 – Deferred

B. Updated Application for Reconsideration – One Way Brewing Alteration of Premises

Jason Tsitso, Manager of One Way Brewing attended to discuss the modifications requested by the State for the proposed Alteration of Premises Amendment for construction of an outdoor seating area/patio. Mr. Tsitso explained that the initial application approved by the Select Board called for a patio on the side of the building. The ABCC informed One Way Brewing and the Town Managers Office that due to the space on the side of the building being non-contiguous to the business, they could not license that space. The investigator from the ABCC suggested modifying the application to have a layout in front of the building where it is contiguous to the business. Mr. Tsitso stated that the property owner and neighboring businesses were also conferred with before submitting this application. Mr. Levine questioned if this site will be removed in cold weather months. Mr. Tsitso responded, yes, the plan would be weather dependent, to install the tent somewhere around mid-April and then probably close it at the beginning of October. Mr. Levine asked what the plan if from a safety perspective for traffic barriers. Mr. Tsitso commented that there is a document in the application that shows a cut sheet from an orange traffic barrier. The plan would be to line these barriers around the closed in patio, which will be two parking spaces wide and in length. Lastly, Mr. Levine talked about the flooding in front of Frankie's and One Way this spring from a storm and questioned of that would impact the patio. Mr. Tsitso stated that this was a freak occurrence, but mentioned that they did speak with the property owner about the catch basins on-site, and they will be looking at cleaning them so an incident like that is avoided in the future. Mr. Gold questioned if the Planning Board has reviewed this updated site and design and approved it, and do the new number of parking spaces meet the standards for the number of square footage of retail space. Mr. Tsitso commented that the Planning Board has also approved this updated site and design at a recent meeting. Mr. Tsitso went on to say that we are not changing the number of spaces that were approved in the original plan. The two spaces that were originally being used for the patio on the side of the building will remain parking areas; the only difference is now they will be taking two spaces in the front of the building. Mr. Gold commented about the parking lanes are angled parking spaces, and assumed they would need to take up more than two spaces. Mr. Tsitso commented that they plan to angle the patio to fit within those two spaces solely. Mr. Lachiusa commented that he could not tell that from the diagram. A discussion ensued about understanding the design of how patio and how it would fit in the angled lanes. Assistant Town Manager and Director of Planning, Corrin Meise-Munns, explained that the Planning Board was presented with renderings of what the patio would look like from top to bottom; it is angled taking up two parking spaces. Unfortunately, it is not included in this packet so you were unable to see what the Planning Board saw and approved. Mr. Gold requested that the Select Board receive all of the documents that the Planning Board acted on in the future so that they are working off the same information. Mr. Zwirko questioned of Mr. Tsitso spoke with the neighboring businesses. Mr. Tsitso commented that he does have letters of support from both neighbors as well as from the property owner. Mr. Hemavathi commented that he was glad that One Way did not give up on this idea and that providing outdoor seating is what many people in Town are looking for. Mr. Zwirko agreed and commented that One Way is always working well with other businesses and supports this initiative.

Mr. Levine made the motion to approve the Amendment Application for Change in Alteration of Premises for No Malt Extract, LLC, DBA One Way Brewing. Mr., Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 (Gold-No)

C. FY2024 Legal Counsel Appointment

Mr. Levine recused himself from this agenda topic. Ms. Simmons stated that this was a follow up to the discussion from the previous Select Board Meeting where we discussed appointment of counsels. Ms. Simmons explained that she did have a conversation with Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy P.C. (DWPM), who stated they would be happy to resume office hours, which is something they offered pre-Covid at no cost to the Town at one-two hours per month. Ms. Simmons stated that they made a reduction in their hourly fee from the original \$250/hour to \$200/hour, but no change in paralegal or support staff rates. There was a note that said they rarely do use paralegal or support staff rated, Ms. Simmons added. Mr. Hemavathi spoke about the conflict of interest that occurs from time to time with DWPM, like the one that just happened at our last Town Meeting, due to the firm representing many different entities and folks around our area. This would be one of the benefits of moving over to Mead, Talerman and Costa, LLC (MTC), because a conflict is less likely to happen, Mr. Hemavathi added. Mr. Gold explained that he does not believe that DWPM has the breadth we need to serve our needs in a timely manner. He went on to say that, we have several instances of things being held up due to their limited amount of staff being devoted to Municipal Law Services, and this could slow down our progress on a number of items. Mr. Lachiusa commented that he was glad to hear that DWPM agreed to a lower financial arrangement. Mr. Lachiusa opposed moving to a different a larger entity as a firm and supported the local firms from this region. Ms. Simmons clarified that the change in billing would move from a monthly retainer to a strict hourly rate of billing. Mr. Zwirko wanted to understand the traveling fees for MTC, and wished that we had met with the attorneys when first initiating this process. Mr. Zwirko commented that if the Board decided to go this direction, he feels we need to go back to the firm, discuss, and negotiate with them on some of these costs. Mr. Zwirko stated that if we make the switch we should look back and iron out some of the cost savings and other benefits moving forward. Ms. Simmons stated that when this went out to bid, she had reported to the Board that we had received eight bid results. Ms. Simmons commented further that this was the time to figure out how to handle the process, and at this time, the Board directed her to convene Department Heads to review the proposals. Ms. Simmons went on to say that, we could have had all of the firms at a Board meeting to discuss, but there was never an ask for that because we went a different route. Ms. Simmons stated that we could do an extension and initiate the process again if the Board wishes to do so. The previous retainer had been \$32,000/year for DWPM, and it was raised to \$64,000 shortly after Ms. Simmons came on board due to DWPM not being able to provide services at that previous cost. Mr. Gold commented that although it would be nice to take more time, because we need legal representation on a fiscal year basis, he believed the Board should vote on this tonight.

Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Mead, Talerman and Costa, LLC, as Legal Counsel for the Town of Longmeadow for FY2024. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Zwirko stated that the big sticking point for him is some of the costs that are not really showing in the plans. Mr. Zwirko was concerned that some of these issues are not completely ironed out, as if they will be in-person at Town Meeting and what those travel costs would be. Mr. Gold commented that it is expected they would be at Town Meeting as an obligation. Mr. Gold went on to say that, if we happen to have a split vote, the rule of necessity from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts could be invoked if necessary, to allow the recused member to participate. Mr. Gold explained that this rule might only be used as a last resort. Ms. Simmons commented that the rule of necessity could not be invoked to break a split 2-2 vote. Mr. Lachiusa stated that in his opinion there has never been an issue with current Town Counsel and called the discussion for vote.

Original motion - Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Mead, Talerman and Costa, LLC, as Legal Counsel for the Town of Longmeadow for FY2024. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-

1 (Lachiusa-No)

D. Town Manager Annual Evaluation Continued

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve a 2.5% annual salary increase for the Town Manager, in addition we offer the Town Manager a bonus of \$7,500 payable, and a \$5,000 bonus to a Deferred Compensation Plan that would hopefully provide tax benefits to the Town Manager. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lachiusa commented that this was based on the Town Manager Evaluation that was discussed previously in executive session and open session at the last meeting and commended Ms. Simmons for her work as Town Manager.

E. DPW Recommendation: Trench Collapse and Pavement Patch Policies

Sean Van Deusen, DPW Director, prepared a memo to address the policy changes that the Board requested. Mr. Van Deusen attended this meeting to provide further detail. Mr. Van Deusen explained that he discussed this with the Town's Insurer, MIIA, about what it would look like if we were to have an alteration from OSHA standards. MIIA suggested that we did not have different standards, Mr. Van Deusen added. He explained that we did see some deficiencies in terms of training that the DPW has addressed in the last eight months or so. There were also conversations with staff about reporting and private contractors, and it turns out the Town does have an obligation to report OSHA violations by private contractors in Town which is something that we had not been doing historically, Mr. Van Deusen explained. OSHA is present in Town quite often and DPW staff are taking it very seriously as well. Mr. Van Deusen recommended taking no action on the Trench Collapse Policy; if there is continuous training for staff and that we make sure, we are monitoring private contractors and reporting any violations to OSHA. Mr. Gold stated that he fine with taking no action on this. His concern was that as a Select Board member there is a legal obligation to protect the Town and a moral obligation to ensure someone does not do anything dangerous. The intent to initiate a policy was to address the moral obligation, for contactors to understand, and follow proper standards and hold them accountable. Mr. Van Deusen commented that the OSHA regulations requires every person who operates an excavator or gets into a trench to take those state mandated classes, or anyone on the job site. The OSHA regulations take into consideration various types of sand and ledges and have specific requirements for boxes, ladders and shoring. Attaching the OSHA standards should be our standards because they are universal, Mr. Van Deusen added. He cautioned that changing or altering these standards would make it difficult for people to understand and it could create liability to the Town. The next recommendation is for pavement patch policy, which Mr. Van Deusen recommended to enhance cost savings with projects that are going to be looked at for paving within a specific period if the paving of that road will occur within the next year. Mr. Van Deusen explained that this would be utilized for private contractors to provide coverage for paving roads after a project that requires undercutting the surface. Mr. Van Deusen explained that it is usually a year limit when entering an agreement with a contractor for patching requirements.

Mr. Levine made the motion to allow the DPW Director to waive the patch paving requirements and circumstances for the road that will be repaved within one year. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

F. HCRRB 5% COLA Adjustment

Mr. Levine questioned if we still need to vote on this, as it seemed to be approved by enough Towns in Hampden County. Ms. Simmons confirmed that they need to report our vote to inform the State which Towns voted to approve the adjustment.

Mr. Levine made the motion to approve the increase of Cost of Living Adjustment for FY2023-24 for up to 5% of the base amounts specified. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gold stated that we received a bunch of letters from a group of retirees and he had sent a response individually to each one. Mr. Gold commented that the State authorization to increase COLA for retirees is based on state pensions that only give pensions on the first thirteen thousand dollars of earnings. He went on to say that, the State is going from 3% to 5% and Hampden County Regional Retirement Board (HCRRB) is already giving 3% on the first \$18,000 dollars of earnings. Mr. Gold commented that the State was trying to fill this gap but mentioned that our local retirement board was already doing 80%. Mr. Gold stated that the strong impetus to give additional COLA benefits was much less convincing for him in Western Mass because local retirees were already getting a COLA greater than \$500 from the HCRRB. Mr. Gold stated that he does not believe the HCRRB has done a good job in managing this or if they understand the process. Ultimately, this change will cost the Town more money, Mr. Gold went on to say. Mr. Zwirko shared similar sentiments when it comes to the HCRRB, but he is in support of approving this COLA adjustment for our retirees who gave so much to the Town in their time. He believes we owe it to them for their service to the Town. Mr. Levine also agreed with Mr. Zwirko that our retirees can benefit from this and they deserve this adjustment. Mr. Levine stated that the general misunderstanding of the process and the miscommunication involved along the way was concerning from the HCRRB.

Original motion - Mr. Levine made the motion to approve the increase of Cost of Living Adjustment for FY2023-24 for up to 5% of the base amounts specified. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1(Gold-No)

G. Updated ARPA Plan

Ms. Simmons stated that she had mentioned as we moved through the process of playground replacements, and if we were successful at Town Meeting, that she would come back to the Board to amend the ARPA plan to include portions of this project. We could sign a contract for the project as early as July 1, and reprogramming the ARPA funds is the first priority. Ms. Simmons went on to say that, we could go out to bid for this in late July. Ms. Simmons went on to explain another project not seeking approval tonight, but wanted to bring to attention, was the fiber and cameras for both parks. The quote came in over the initially anticipated \$20,000, but she believes we can get a lower quote. Ms. Simmons stated that out of the \$100,000 authorized in ARPA for IT there would be \$45,000 remaining if we authorized \$20,000 for the fiber and camera. Mr. Zwirko requested we look into installing at Wolf Swamp Fields as well. Ms. Simmons stated that this would have to follow a different process, as there is no current fiber connection in that area.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to reprogram the ARPA funds in the amount of \$600,000 for the elementary school playground replacements. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

H. Electric Vehicle Charging Update

Ms. Simmons explained that all four locations have been installed and we have on boarded NLX Company. We are in the process of obtaining a merchant processor so that you can pay the charging. Ms. Simmons explained that the intention was to power these systems up while we continue to explore what the best plan is for the town, i.e. managing these locations with NLX, or outsourcing to another company. Eversource is allegedly rolling out in July a demand charge rebate program.

I. Dog as Nuisance Complaint Update

This was included on the agenda to close out this topic. Seemingly, the investigation was concluded and no follow up from the parties involved has occurred since the last meeting.

New Business

A. Zone Change Referral – Colvest Group, 916 Williams Street

This was a procedural process to initiate the referral to the Planning Board for further hearings concerning a zone change petition to change a residential zoned area to business. Frank Collacino and Jeffrey Roberts were present from the Colvest Group to discuss this petition involving the property at 916 Williams Street.

Mr. Levine made the motion to refer the zone change from residence A1 to Business for 916 Williams Street, to the Planning Board. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

B. AARP Age-Friendly Commitment

Ms. Meise-Munns spoke about the Long Range Planning process including a targeted engagement strategy for seniors in Longmeadow. This plan will allow us to plan for and receive age-friendly designations through AARP. The policy was attached as the Select Board endorsed it a few years back. The Town also applied for Dementia Friendly designation around this time as well. This updated letter would announce to AARP our intention to go through the perspective process that they developed. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if this has been vetted through the Adult Center. The Long-Range Plan has designated an Age-Friendly Task Force, in which the Adult Center staffs, Ms. Meise-Munns commented. This would promote outreach for the engagements, she added.

Mr. Levine made the motion to endorse the AARP Age-Friendly commitment. Mr. Hemavathi 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 (LACCF) – Two Applications

Mr. Levine made the motion to approve the One-Day Liquor Licenses for LACCF for events on July 6 and July 26. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

b. Glenmeadow One-Day Liquor License Application

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the One-Day Liquor License for Glenmeadow for an event on June 30. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

D. FY2024 Goal Setting

Mr. Lachiusa spoke about the FY24 Goal Setting document was in the agenda packet. Ms. Simmons stated that this was a rough draft and was open to conversation about the goals as there are also Select Board initiatives on this spreadsheet as well. Mr. Levine mentioned the possibility of increasing the priority of the Municipal Fiber initiative, addressing the HAA5 water concerns, prioritizing Waste Management reliability and communication, and finalizing the LCTV Operating Agreement. Mr. Hemavathi agreed about the town-wide internet and fiber initiative taking a priority for this upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Zwirko spoke about similar topics and stated that he gets inquiries about the municipal fiber conversation a lot. Trash collection improvements are also important on the goals list and looking at having a policy review of all Select Board policies. Mr. Zwirko mentioned Field improvements as well and looking at ways to improve the water quality in Town and infrastructure. Mr. Gold spoke about finishing the recommendations from the Charter Review Committee as a prioritized goal. Mr. Hemavathi spoke about looking into rank-choice voting as well as part of the goals discussion. Mr. Lachiusa spoke about public health and generating progress in bike lanes and places to lock bikes. He went on to talk about solid food waste recycling being an important initiative as well. We will bring this document back quarterly to discuss progress and updates with the Board.

E. FY2024 Select Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to approve the Select Board FY24 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Levine 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 LETTERS (2).PDF

COMMONWEALTHS SEARCH FOR LEASE SPACE LETTER.PDF

HDC APPLICATION DECISION CC. SELECT BOARD.PDF

OTO_PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT LETTER 20230616.PDF

RESIDENT LETTER RE ELEVATED DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS IN DRINKING WATER SUPPLY.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL-2 PERCENT COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR RETIREES.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL-COLA.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL-FWD_2 PERCENT COLA FOR RETIREES.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL-FWD_CHAPTER 269 OF THE ACTS OF 2022, RETIREMENT BOARD COLA.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL-FWD_FW_TOWN COUNSEL APPOINTMENT.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL- STATUS ON THE TOWN EV CHARGERS.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL- WILL LONGMEADOW SUPPORT A STATEWIDE PLASTIC BAG BAN.PDF

Adjourn

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 10:40 p.m. Mr. Levine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned.

Documents

[**SELECT BOARD JUNE 26 2023 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA PACKET**](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri