

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

**Present:** Chair Marie Angelides, Richard Foster, Mark Gold and Tom Lachiusa. Marc Strange was absent.

**Also Present:** Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Dr. Stephen Metz, Marty O'Shea, Tom Mazza, Armand Wray, Jamie Hensch, Steve Weiss, Jason Ducharme, Maury Garrett, Eileen Morin, Donald Griffith, Dr. Andrew Lam, Walter Gunn, Joshua Rice, Peter Landon

**Open Session** – Ms. Angelides called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Some members of the Finance Committee were in attendance. The School Department presented their FY21 budget, the Capital Planning Committee presented their FY21 recommendations, and the Community Preservation Committee presented their FY21 recommendations.

**Announcements** – Ms. Simmons read this week's announcements.

1. Open Space and Recreation Plan – residents are urge to take the public survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/longmeadowosrp2020](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/longmeadowosrp2020) to determine the wants and needs of the community.
2. The Presidential Primary is March 3, 2020. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office or on the town website. Early voting will begin on February 24 and end February 28 in the Community House. Check the website for hours.
3. Excise tax bills have been sent out and are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment can be made online, by mail, or in person.
4. Citizen of the Year nominations are being accepted in the Select Board's office until April 15, 2020. The recipient will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting on May 12, 2020.

**Resident comments** - none

**Select Board Comments** - none

**SCHOOLS FY21 BUDGET PRESENTATION** - School Committee Chair Armand Wray and Superintendent Marty O'Shea presented the FY21 School Budget. The proposed expenditures for FY21 total \$38,107,246 (which is \$706,073 over last year). The proposed General Fund Revenue is \$36,027,267 (which is \$874,138 over last year), and the proposed Special Revenue is \$2,079,979 (which is \$168,065 under last year). The General Fund increase of \$874,138 is a 2.49% change and the total budget increase of \$706,073 is a 1.89% change. The schools are largely dependent (95%) on the General Fund. Mr. Gold questioned if the looming tax ceiling has been considered. The School Committee and Mr. O'Shea are cognizant of this; hard decisions were made, and they are looking at attendance trends in the next 4-5 years. Mr. Gold asked for a comparison per student vs. the rest of the Commonwealth. Mr. O'Shea can get that information. Ms. Angelides asked if there was an increase in the Chapter 70 funds. The increase was about \$30/student which was less than anticipated. New positions are a LP nurse for the high school to work under the RN as opposed to having two RNs, and a Career Coordinator. The Center School LINC program for Autism support started mid year and needs to be put into the FY21 budget. Reductions in the budget total \$723,003 (attrition...), and additions/increases in the budget total \$1,429,075 which nets to an increase of \$706,073 or 1.89%. Mr. Mazza will send the FTE spreadsheet to the Select Board. Mr. Garrett asked if there was any flexibility in the proposed FY21 school budget. The School Committee is welcome to being collaborative with the Select Board and Finance Committee. Mr. O'Shea's concern is the incoming enrollment. Dr. Lam questioned where the Schools' numbers put us with the town's target. Mr. Pasterczyk explained that the Town Manager's budget has not been presented yet and this is premature. Mr. Foster noted that the tax ceiling is on everyone's mind. Mr. Gold stated that we are growing at a rate we cannot sustain.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY21 RECOMMENDATIONS** – Mr. Steve Weiss, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee reviewed the FY21 recommendations. Eight applications were received by the CPC and six were approved. The approved applications are for:

1. Phase II of the Russell Field erosion project \$20,000 (there will be money coming back from Phase I)
2. Japanese Knotweed management plan on Conservation land, 1.2-acre parcel on Chestnut Road \$4,800
3. Feasibility study for cost and location of a skateboard park \$15,000 (this was a citizen petition at the last May town meeting and failed to pass.

Mr. Foster stated that he believes it is highly inappropriate for CPC to fund this when it was turned down at town meeting.

4. Administration costs \$8,000
5. Storres Library roof replacement \$223,000
6. Community House roof and gutter repairs \$120,000

**CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FY21 RECOMMENDATIONS** – Dr. Stephen Metz, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee reviewed the Capital Budget recommendations for FY21. Approximately \$2 million (2.75%) of the General Fund has been designated for capital appropriations. The recommended capital projects total \$1.987 million. Three requests that were not included for FY21 warrant specific comment; playground equipment at Blueberry Hill School would require commitment of 10% of the capital budget and other smaller projects have a higher priority; Greenwood projects should be deferred pending decisions for final use of the current building; Interior painting of town buildings should be funded through operational funds. The recommended capital projects (\$1.987) include: Project Development, Project Reserve, Fire Truck Fund, Town Wide Asbestos Abatement, Boiler Replacement Wolf Swamp, Boiler Replacement Town Hall, Fire Chief car 2 replacement, Fire Door replacement all schools, EMS Williams and Glenbrook Schools, Blueberry Hill School parking lot drain, guard rails, pavement preservation, sidewalk preservation, Fire Department kitchen, Grounds 4WD p/u with plow (G8), Grounds 4WD p/u with plow (G9), Highway equipment shoring system, Grounds double folding wing mower (G21), District wide exterior doors, Community House door replacements, glass showcase replacement LHS, Glenbrook irrigation, Turner Park Dam, and sign boards. Progress reports on capital projects should be given to the Select Board quarterly. The next update should be in August.

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

A MVP action grant application will be submitted for solar resiliency work and an additional application will be done to design and engineer stormwater infrastructure and erosion control work at the dingle on Dwight Road next to the new DPW facility (application to be done with PVPC assistance). The solar resiliency work will be an application to fund the design and engineering of solar arrays at the new adult center, new DPW facility, high school, and Town Hall/Public Safety campus. Rivermoor Energy will be preparing the application and if we receive a grant award, Rivermoor will do the design and engineering work.

The Cable Advisory Committee is working on negotiations for the next license which expires in June of 2021. There are now 4,967 cable subscribers in town, down from 5,400.

The contract for the second phase work of the North Interceptor Sewer replacement project has been signed. The previous planning study recommended the elevated section be relocated into the backyards of the properties adjacent to the easement. The current project includes the design, permitting, bidding, construction, and easement-support engineering services.

The redesign of the Wolf Swamp Fields is available on the Town's website for review and comment until February 26. Email comments to Park and Recreation Director Bari Jarvis at [bjarvis@longmeadow.org](mailto:bjarvis@longmeadow.org). Three public meetings have been held over the past several months to discuss and develop a design plan that meets the needs of the community.

The Longmeadow News will cease publication on February 20, 2020. This highlights the need for the Town to increase the availability of information on the website. Some Town staff will be receiving additional website

training in the coming weeks. Later in the year Ms. Simmons plans to provide information on a website refresh project to update the longmeadow.org site.

### **Chair's Report - none**

### **Old Business**

1. Meeting Minutes Approval – *Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 3, 2020 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*
2. Board/Committee Appointments – Applicant interviews were held on January 21 and February 3. *Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Kiernan Mulcahy to the Conservation Commission for a one year Associate term expiring June 2020. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*

*Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Craig Pericolosi to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term expiring June 2020. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*

*Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint all six applicants (Gerard Nolet, Eleanor Cress, Roger Wojcik, David Leslie, Richard Brooslin, and Carol Steiner) to the Senior Housing Task Force. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*

### **New Business**

1. Street Closure (Bliss Road) for Lacrosse Jamboree – Mr. Joshua Rice, 171 Westmoreland attended the meeting representing the Girls' Lacrosse Association and explained the Jamboree plans. The annual Jamboree is usually held at Wolf Swamp Fields, but due to the improvements being made over there the Jamboree was forced to find a new venue for this year's event which will be on Saturday, May 16, 2020. The LHS Athletic Director gave permission to use Russell Fields for the Jamboree. The AD feels any damage to the fields will be minimal. If it rains the Jamboree will not be held. Mr. Rice submitted a street closure application for the portion of Bliss Road that is in between the high school track and the fields. The time stated is 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with no rain date. Bliss Road would be blocked from Blueberry Hill Road to Bliss Court. Parking will be at the high school with overflow at Blueberry Hill School and Williams Middle School if needed. Police Chief Stankiewicz and Traffic Sgt. Carl Mazzaferro have developed a draft traffic and safety plan for the Jamboree and submitted it with the application to this meeting (street closure 7am – 4 pm, officers at both ends of closure, vehicles will detour from Bliss, down Bliss Court to Williams to Grassy Gutter to Bliss again). Sgt. Mazzaferro will coordinate with DPW on detour sign placement. Organizers will be required to place the "no parking" signs along designated side streets. Patrol cars will be checking for illegal parking. A week prior to the event the traffic trailer will be placed in front of Russel Field with a message about the upcoming event. Organizers will be asked to contact stores and shops and advise them of the event.

Approximately 30 teams will be participating in the Jamboree (1500-2000 girls). Mr. Rice would like to extend the time of the closure to 5:00 p.m. The Police Chief signed off on the original time of 3:00 p.m. Mr. Gold feels this is the worst time to close the center of Longmeadow (Saturday). Concerns were also brought up about the potential backup of traffic at the raised crosswalk at Williams and Grassy Gutter. Long Meddowe Days might also be the same weekend as the Jamboree.

*Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the Bliss Road street closure request for May 16, 2020, with no rain date, for the Lacrosse Jamboree contingent upon the addition of a duty officer at the intersection of Williams Street and Grassy Gutter, approval of the extension time of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by the Police Chief and contingent upon any other recommendations by the Police Chief.*

*Mr. Foster seconded the motion.*

Discussion: Mr. Gold believes this process is backwards when modifications are made to the request by the Select Board after the Police Chief has approved it. Will DPW repair fields? No cost to town for

duty officers? Russell Fields are school fields, not town fields. Mr. Rice stated that the Lacrosse Association has a group of volunteers to help run the event and clean everything up. The school AD is fully aware of any field damage that may occur. The Lacrosse Association pays for all of the Police Officers. The only thing the town DPW will be asked to do is to move the goals and line the fields. Ms. Simmons will speak to DPW, the School Department, and the Police Chief. This item will be tabled to the February 24<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to table Mr. Lachiusa's motion. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*

2. Proposed Bylaws for the Annual Town Meeting – Planning Board member Walter Gunn attended the meeting. The Planning Board submitted its proposed zoning bylaw amendments to the natural gas facilities bylaw which includes Articles IV, XV, and XI. These amendments are being brought forward by the Planning Board. Mr. Gold stated that the Select Board should endorse the Town Manager and Planning Board to bring these forward to Town Meeting. Ms. Simmons added that she will have more bylaw amendments to submit to the Planning Board soon. The Planning Board needs to hold Public Hearings on bylaw amendments before Town Meeting.

*Mr. Foster made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 0 opposed.*

The next regular Select Board meeting will be on Monday, March 2. A special meeting will be held on February 24 and special budget meetings will be scheduled during the second week of March.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie House

Documents:

Agenda  
Announcements sheet  
Schools FY21 Budget presentation  
Community Preservation Committee FY21 recommendations  
Capital Planning Committee FY21 recommendations  
Town Manager Report  
Department January reports  
Draft Minutes 2/3/2020  
Board/Committee Appointment schedule  
Planning Board bylaw amendments submission for ATM (natural gas facilities)  
Street Closure Request/PD comments for Lacrosse Jamboree  
Correspondence-Xfinity letter 2/10/2020