



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

April 27, 2021

Good evening:

The final budget is submitted tonight in compliance with the Charter. It is essentially the same budget as was submitted on March 30, 2021 as there are no changes in the projected revenues as of this date. As I indicated at the last meeting, the core network failure earlier this month caused an emergency purchase of necessary hardware and the removal of a \$200,000 capital expense from our FY 22 requests. Funding for this hardware will be from Department turnbacks in the FY 21 budget or from free cash. This reduction is reflected in the Sources and Uses pages of the budget. Weekly meetings of the Financial Oversight Committee to review the budget including Capital projects recommended by the Capital Advisory Committee for FY 22 are ongoing.

A Department Heads meeting was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Enthusiastic reports were delivered by all about their plans for upcoming and ongoing projects. Planning Director Bethany Yeo is coordinating efforts with the East of the River Chamber for a restaurant week in mid to late May and she is also working with the PVPC on a Local Rapid Recovery grant program to assist businesses which expect to have projects ready for funding in the near future. Attention has focused on the northwest quadrant of Town with discussion primarily involving thoughts on improvements to building facades, sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic flow. This is a program which is a work in progress as far as when funds will be available.

I accepted the resignation of Mary Beth Dowd, COA Director on April 15, 2021. She has accepted a position with a private entity with which she has maintained a professional association for over twenty years. We wish her well and thank her for the contributions she made to the Town services, especially during the vaccination clinics.

Requests for Proposals were advertised this week regarding a property valuation services contract and trash hauling services.

There have been a number of webinars sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association regarding the American Rescue Plan Act. This legislation will provide approximately 4.7 million dollars to the Town of East Longmeadow for a variety of uses, the details of which are pending. The funds can be used to replace lost or reduced revenue as a result of the pandemic, to invest in economic recovery and renewal and to fund water and sewer infrastructure among other things.

Police Chief Williams is working diligently on the policies and procedures project which will memorialize required departmental conduct. I have begun the review of those policy drafts which are quite comprehensive.

The Recreation Department is planning a Farmer's Market event for May 14 and has begun registrations for all spring sports. The DPW, Police and Recreation Departments also worked with Ms. Chrusciel to facilitate the Earth Day clean up event which took place last Saturday, April 24, 2021. The Department has applied for a grant sponsored by the Kubota Co. in the amount of \$100,000 for landscaping improvements at Pine Knoll. This is a beautiful community resource which could use a facelift in many areas.

I have suggested the reappointment of Marilyn Ghedini to the Board of Assessors for another term. Her current term expired on April 19, 2021 and she is currently serving as a holdover. The Director of Assessing, Diane Bishop, has recommended this reappointment.

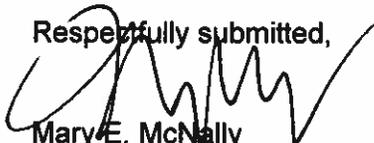
Several other Boards will soon have vacancies due to term expirations, so the appeal for new participants will continue.

The Town continues working through some issues with the Eastern Hampden County Veterans Service District regarding level of service, budget and personnel qualifications. Monson recently voted to withdraw from

the District and budget planning for FY 22 has become more complicated as a result.

Discussions continue with Union representatives from Town Unions regarding terms of new contracts and other matters. The specifics of those discussions will be matters for future Executive sessions.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager