



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

June 15, 2021

Good evening:

Primary issues presenting over the last several weeks relate to ARPA funding procedures and uses. No funds have been received as yet by the Town and the guidance issued by the Treasury has not been expanded beyond the general guidelines previously issued over the past month. I attended a webinar on June 10, sponsored by Mass. Municipal Association in an effort to stay current on latest information. A draft listing of potential water and sewer infrastructure projects has been compiled by the DPW in anticipation of the availability of these funds, a copy of which is attached. However, a major caveat is that all funding must have a nexus to Covid. We may have difficulty satisfying this requirement depending on further explanation and guidance from Treasury. The Broadband committee is reviewing its recommendations regarding this type of infrastructure improvement in Town as well.

A Dept. Heads meeting was held on June 1 in anticipation of the reopening of Town offices on June 7. The reopening went very smoothly, which is a credit to the Department Heads and staff. Ryan Quimby reported on the progress of the Rotary Club planning for the July 4 events, including the carnival, fireworks and parade.

The Westcomm Board met on June 4, and is moving forward on renovations to the newly acquired site in Chicopee as well as hiring additional dispatchers and adding communities.

Coffee with a Cop event took place on Saturday, June 5, 2021 at the High School parking lot. This event was a combined effort of the Police and Health Departments and was very well attended. By 10:30 all of the recycling literature and materials were distributed which included Jump ropes, pencils containing seeds which could be planted, and raffle tickets for a compost bin were sold. The event was a great opportunity for the community to meet Chief Williams and interact with other Police officers. Our Health Inspector, Donna Bowman, installed 82 free car seats, obtained on a grant, and inspected or installed an additional 75 seats brought to the event by residents. It was hot and humid, but everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Town elections were held on June 8, 2021 and as usual, Jeanne Quaglietti's office managed all aspects without any problems so the process was very efficient, as expected.

Labor Union negotiations continue with the Town Clerical personnel Union and the Police Union.

I forwarded information under separate cover regarding the appointment of Atty. Nancy O'Connor, Amy Johnson and Amy Pawle as new Library Trustees and Thomas Saulnier as the tenants' representative to the Housing Authority and the reappointment of Jon Torcia to the Planning Board for your review and consideration. Dan Rosen was appointed to Conservation, Mark Manolakis to Recreation and John Makara to the Historical Commission. These appointments were made after interviews with the individuals and the Department Heads involved.

John Comerford will retire from his position as Veterans Service Officer with the Eastern Hampden District effective June 30, 2021. Applications for a new Officer (VSO) are being advertised and will be returned to my office for review. In the future, the Veterans service office will be maintained in East Longmeadow with regular hours once a new Officer is hired by the District.

Stephen Lonergan has agreed to serve on the audit committee of the Hampden County Retirement Board. I applaud his willingness to serve and to assist bringing more responsible oversight to this Board.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary E. McNally
Town Manager