



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

October 12, 2021

Good evening:

The Town's Health Department reorganization has been the primary focus for the last several weeks. I am pleased to report that I have hired Tammy Spencer as the Town's new Health Director. Ms. Spencer has over 20 years of experience in the Public Health field and most recently served as the Health Director for the Town of Southwick. She will begin her service here on or about November 1, 2021. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Hampden County Health Coalition and impressed me with her thorough understanding and appreciation of the myriad challenges presented to a community in a public health crisis. Additionally, I have named Alix Roncarati as the Town's new Health Inspector, effective October 4, 2021. Alix will also continue temporarily as the Department's Administrative Assistant. To facilitate Alix' transition and until Ms. Spencer is available here, I have engaged the services of Western Mass Food Safety, a private inspection service to conduct food inspections. Our prior Inspector, Donna Bowman, is on their staff and she will be performing East Longmeadow's food inspections during this transition period. The Town will post the administrative position soon after Ms. Spencer's arrival. The remaining staff position which should also be filled is a Public Health Nurse, as our nurse recently resigned.

I have submitted the application of Dr. Kathryn Jobbins to serve on the Board of Health. Her application was previously forwarded to you for review on or about September 24, 2021. Dr. Jobbins is an internal medicine physician at Baystate Medical Center who is committed to advocacy for a safe and healthy community. She indicated a willingness to serve on the Board in order to help the community through the very difficult public health issues which we currently face. I think she will be an asset to this Board. Interviews with applicants for the remaining seat are pending.

The Health Department conducted the flu vaccine clinic on October 5 and 6 in cooperation with Big Y Pharmacy. Approximately 500 residents received the vaccination. On Covid matters, as you know, the mask mandate for public indoor spaces in Town continues in effect. The Town remains in the "yellow" zone, meaning that we are still experiencing higher than moderate positivity rates. The Health Department staff continue to closely monitor the Town's Covid case numbers and positivity rates.

Peter Benjamin, our Assistant Treasurer, has indicated he will retire on October 22, 2021. Peter will be missed for a number of reasons, among them his conscientious dedication to his responsibilities, his willingness to help others at any and all times and his cheerful demeanor in the office. Interactions with Peter were always pleasant and productive. We wish him great happiness and good health throughout his retirement.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans District met on October 7, 2021 in a continuing effort to reorganize in compliance with statutory administrative requirements governing Districts. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive written notification of a waiver for our non-compliance for FY 22. Despite these continuing setbacks, the DPW is working to construct a new office space in the COA building to house the Veterans Officer.

ARPA update: Bidding documents were received from one contractor for the Permanent Wastewater Flow Monitoring Structure Project. This project would be funded through ARPA in the amount of \$860,000. Details on the price increase over the original estimate are submitted herewith as an attachment. Mr. Fenney will be able to provide the detailed explanation of the issues responsible for this increase upon request. No contract has yet been entered for this work.

The Westcomm Board met on October 1, 2021. The District continues to move forward onboarding new communities, Ware will be added in November of this year. The Sheriff's Dept. has suggested it would like to join the District. This possibility is being vetted by the Executive Director and we await her report. The

maximum fee for the required Project Manager was voted at 3% of the project cost and will be included in the Request for Qualifications for said position.

Negotiations continue with the Police Union. I am waiting for legal Counsel to opine on the draft settlement offer recently submitted to them for review. I am waiting for a response to the Town's contract offer from one of the units in the municipal employees administrative Union.

An Open House event will take place on October 21, 2021 in two sessions (one afternoon, one evening) to capitalize on the energy created by the completion of the Master Plan. Bethany Yeo and Karen Korpinen have been working on the program outline and other necessary arrangements to accomplish this event.

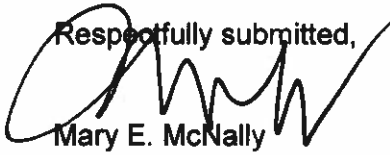
Once again our Planning Department, through the efforts of Bethany Yeo, has moved the needle forward on another issue which is critical to the Town's future, namely, a Housing Production Plan. The Town has been awarded District Local Technical Assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission which will allow for development of a proactive strategy for planning and developing affordable housing by creating a strategy to enable it to meet its affordable housing needs in a manner consistent with MGL 40B.

I recently appointed Peter Shorrock to the Recreation Commission.

I have also reappointed all members of the Broadband Committee for an additional one year term. The committee will meet on October 13, 2021 and will present their report to the Council at a meeting in November. The primary matter under consideration is the extension of fiber to all households in East Longmeadow, which would provide an opportunity for other internet service providers to service the community. The technical explanation and Q & A will be addressed by Messrs. Maki and Quimby. We are also still pursuing a responsive proposal (since May) from Spectrum regarding the extension of the Town's cable license.

I anticipate the review of Capital project submissions to begin in late November and be completed by January of 2022. This topic and budget preparation in general were among the topics discussed at the quarterly Department Heads meeting held on October 6, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
60 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028

Attachment #1

Bruce Fenney, Superintendent

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RE: Bid Results for the Permanent Wastewater Flow Monitoring Project

The Permanent Wastewater Flow Monitoring Project was originally designed and bid as Add Alternate to the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission's (SWSC's) Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Contract No. CA-1912-19. It is my opinion of probable construction cost (OPCC) for that 2019 project was \$305,000. Two bids were received on July 12, 2019 as follows:

	Ludlow Construction	Baltazar Contractors
Base Bid (SWSC Sewer Infrastructure Improvements)	\$2,578,610	\$2,795,405
Add Alternate #1 (East Longmeadow Flow Monitoring)	\$589,375	\$333,200
Combined Bid (Base Bid + Add Alt #1)	\$3,167,985	\$3,128,605

Ludlow Construction submitted the lowest Base Bid (without with Add Alternate #1), whereas Baltazar Contractors' submitted the lowest combined bid (with Add Alternate #1). If SWSC had accepted Baltazar's combined low bid, the intermunicipal agreement between SWSC and East Longmeadow would have required East Longmeadow to compensate SWSC for the increased cost between the lowest base bid (Ludlow bid of \$2,578,610) and the second low base bid (Baltazar bid at \$2,795,405) for an additional payment to SWSC of \$216,795. Added to the Baltazar Add Alternate #1 bid value of \$333,200, this would have totaled \$549,995. East Longmeadow decided not to participate in the combined project, opting to rebid the project separately with the intent of obtaining bid proposals closer to the original anticipated project cost range of \$300,000 to \$350,000 range. Note that the OPCC for this project was very close to the Alternate #1 low bid (\$305,000 vs. \$333,200).

SWSC contracted with Ludlow Construction for the base bid project, and construction proceeded in late 2019 and into 2020. When East Longmeadow revised the Permanent Wastewater Flow Monitoring Project documents for potential rebid later in 2020, field observations of the constructed work identified that the SWSC portion of the project had not provided for a future connection for the East Longmeadow structure as had been originally designed. Therefore, additional pipe and manholes are needed to make East Longmeadow's connection to the SSWSC



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system while maintaining flow through the system. These changes also resulted in the need for a formal temporary bypass system that can maintain uninterrupted flows from East Longmeadow. Combined, these changes were increased the OPCC to \$510,000.

The revised design for the Permanent Flow Monitoring Structure Project was advertised for bid with a June 16, 2021 bid opening, but **no bids** were received. The Town decided to re-bid the project in the hopes of obtaining bids and moving the project forward. The project was re-bid and with a September 22, 2021 bid opening at which only one bid was received by Ricciardi Brothers for \$860,000. This bid value, being significantly greater than the \$510,000 OPCC, is likely the result of several issues including Covid-19 related impacts, material supply-chain issues, and skilled-labor shortages.

Based on all the information provided, I believe the project is within the range needed to complete the work outlined.

Thank you,

Bruce Fenney