



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

November 9, 2021

Good evening:

The Board of Health met on November 2, 2021 to reorganize and to receive information regarding the Town's Covid 19 statistics. They voted to rescind the Town's mask mandate which required masks to be worn in all public places. Additionally, the Board voted to issue an advisory which recommends that individuals continue to wear a mask if unvaccinated or in the company of unvaccinated persons or children. The Commonwealth's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has extended its mask mandate through January 15, 2022.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans Service Officer held an informational coffee hour at the COA on Thursday, November 4, 2021. It was well attended and gave VSO Michelle Barrett an opportunity to share information about benefits with veterans and their families in an informal setting. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive a response to the recent letter to the Veterans Secretary which addressed staffing and other concerns regarding our VSO. Despite these continuing delays in obtaining a waiver, the DPW is preparing a more appropriate office space in the COA building to accommodate the Veterans Officer clientele.

There will be a parade on Thursday, November 11, 2021 to celebrate Veterans Day. The parade will begin at 10:45 a.m. from Post 293 and proceed to the Town Hall where a wreath laying ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. Please join in honoring our veterans if possible.

A negotiation session on November 4, 2021 with the Police Union resulted in a tentative agreement. I will address the particulars in Executive session. Hopefully a response will be forthcoming on the other pending Union matters by the end of the month.

The Town has received an estimate from Hill-Engineering, Architects, Planners Inc. regarding the feasibility study for the Police Department facility. Some questions about the particulars of this estimate (\$8,839,957 for new construction; \$4,690,688 for rehabilitation) are being discussed and the project will be added to the Comprehensive Capital Plan for review by the Capital committee at a future date.

I have received the DPW Capital Plan requests for FY23 and shared that document with members of the TM's Capital Advisory Committee in anticipation of their meeting at some future date. I have asked Ryan Quimby, Jim Broderick, Ralph Page, Michael Kane and Steve Lonergan to serve on the Town Manager's Advisory Committee.

The Town was offered the opportunity to apply for additional ARPA funding (up to \$250,000 to complete projects) which may be distributed by the Commonwealth in a supplemental budget. We submitted a request to extend the current project in the Ridge and East Circle Drive area to allow for water main replacement on North Circle Drive, this request is \$200,000. The second request is for funding of the feasibility study for extension of municipal fiber to all homes in the community. This request is for \$36,500 and is intended to address the shortcomings with internet service in Town which were exacerbated by and during the pandemic.

The Westcomm Board of Directors met on October 27, 2021 and again on November 5, 2021 to discuss ongoing administrative matters pertaining to the growing staff at the dispatch center. It now employs 49 individuals and the need for a Human Resources position has been recommended. The center operates three shifts, seven days a week so the organizational needs are growing and merit more attention.

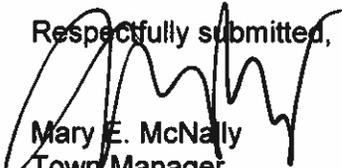
The Town has negotiated a new contract for Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Services with Casella Waste

Management of Massachusetts, Inc. The contract term runs for five years, beginning July 1, 2022 and is the amount of \$4,829,236.00. There is a Motion before you seeking approval of the 5 year term of this contract.

The Town's Benefits Administrator, Corinne Traghese has submitted her resignation effective November 15, 2021. Her experience and expertise acquired over twelve years and her enthusiastic dedication will be sorely missed. There will likely be the need to outsource some of the many tasks she performed as there currently is no one on staff with that particular knowledge.

I have appointed Michael Fox to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Fox is a local business owner, has children who participate in Town sports and is currently a coach in Town. His appointment was recommended by Donna Prather.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager