



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

January 11, 2022

Good evening:

Happy New Year to everyone. Hopefully all Town residents return from their holidays refreshed and somewhat renewed for the New Year.

Community Paradigm Associates, LLC. has advertised for the Town Manager position and applications were due on January 4, 2022. Mr. John Petrin, an associate of the firm, was in Town on December 21, 2021 interviewing some Department Heads and familiarizing himself with the Town's personnel and listening to their concerns. He indicated that candidates should be vetted and then selected for interviews by a local screening committee in mid to late January.

The vaccination clinic on the afternoon of Dec. 21, 2021 at the Senior Center provided 143 injections. It was a successful event. However, despite that success, the Town's positivity rate is currently 10.91%, the highest it has been since the onset of the pandemic. 67% of age eligible Town residents are vaccinated but only 29% of those are boosted; Hampden County is at 11.02%. We are looking into acquisition of at home tests for residents through the statewide contract program recently announced by the administration. ARPA funds are available for this procurement. The high rate of infection has impacted the Town's employees, particularly in the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, impacting the overtime budgets in these departments. As a result of these issues, masks will be worn in municipal buildings at least through January. The Board of Health continues to discuss and evaluate the need to re-impose a mandate for all indoor spaces based on these factors. Health Director Tammy Spencer is in the process of arranging additional vaccination clinics.

The building renovation at the Senior Center to accommodate the VSO office is almost finished. The new door is installed, the ceiling is in. New carpet will be installed within the next couple of weeks and thereafter, the office will be ready to address our Veterans office concerns in a more professional setting. A District meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the Town's budget contributions to the District for FY 23.

Negotiations continue with three of the five labor Unions in Town. Initial ratification votes failed to approve the agreements, so we will return to the negotiating table in the next few weeks.

Karen Korpinen and Ryan Quimby attended a ceremony in Pittsfield on December 21, 2021 to accept the Town's Community Compact grant for IT disaster recovery plan awarded by Lt. Governor Polito.

As reported last month, there is also the possibility of obtaining some funding from the MGM Community Mitigation Fund. Karen Korpinen, working again with PVPC submitted a grant application for funding to establish a Business Resource Portal for the Town's website to support local businesses which are trying to overcome the economic consequences of the pandemic. This application received an enthusiastic response from the Gaming Commission, so we are cautiously optimistic about an award.

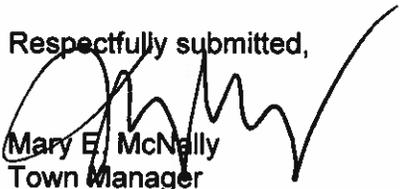
The Recreation Department has been advised that its Foundation has been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) entity. My hope is that this accomplishment will allow for private fundraising to begin and also bring some clarity to the relationship of the various sports associations in Town with Town government.

As is always the case, the Department continues its active schedule of activities. Basketball games began in early January, the liner for the skating rink was installed by DPW, the Ski Club has begun with 40 participants, 12 have registered for an Intro to Theater, bitty ball begins in early January, Spring sports and camp registrations begin on Feb. 1, swim lessons are on hold until March.

The School Building Committee continues to meet on a regular basis, moving forward in the MSBA process as

it pertains to the feasibility study. On January 5, 2022 the committee met to vote on the creation of a local subcommittee of the Designer Applications Review Subcommittee. The task of this committee is to review and evaluate the submissions and made a report to the full School Building Committee. I have attached the Building Committee agenda for your reference and information.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager



ELHS SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

MEETING

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM AND ZOOM MEETING

Zoom Meeting Link: [ELHS School Building Committee Link](#)

Date: January 5, 2022 3:30PM

AGENDA ITEM	TIME	NOTES
1) Welcome and Approval of Minutes from the 12-15-21 meeting	10 Minutes	
2) Selection of the Designer Applications Review Subcommittee (DARS)	20 minutes	
3) Questions on Next Steps	10 Minutes	<p>Tentative Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Building Committee to select a Designer Applicant Review Subcommittee (DARS) to review and evaluate the designer.• Submit the Designer RFP to the MSBA to review, and the MSBA has ten days to review and provide comments.• Skanska is currently targeting 1/13/22 to submit the Designer RFS Advertisement to the central registrar and two other public listings per public bidding laws• 1/19/22 tentative date made available to bidders and public• 1/26/22 tentative date for the designer site visit• 4/5/21 targeted MSBA Designer Selection Panel (DSP) Meeting