



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

August 9, 2022

Good evening:

Tonight's report will be brief as many Department Heads and Town staff enjoyed some time off during the weeks of July and early August.

National Night Out held here on August 2, 2022 was a great success. This annual event promotes town-wide community spirit and emphasizes police-community partnerships. Members of the Police Department were present and available to speak with the residents who attended. Their efforts help to create safe neighborhoods and promote awareness of community police relationships. Many other Town Departments had information booths there and interacted with attendees. The Police Chief extended a special thank you in an email to the Department Heads and Town employees for their participation.

As you know, the Governor signed the Commonwealth's FY23 budget on July 28, 2022. The final budget included an additional 2.7% in local aid, (approximately \$43,000) as well as additional Chapter 70, school choice and charter reimbursement funding. The total additional revenue over estimated figures in the Town's budget is \$195,108.

As noted in Steve Lonergan's financial report, there was a successful close to the fiscal year end. There is a great deal of detail involved in this process and his Department worked diligently to accomplish this obligation. Other departments operated in a fiscally responsible way throughout the year as evidenced by the anticipated turnbacks.

The contract with the Town's new vendor for trash services, Casella Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc. began on July 1, 2022. Trash collections are on schedule. So far, the only issues have been administrative in nature and are being worked out satisfactorily.

Several of the projects under DPW jurisdiction are now under contract, so the public may notice additional infrastructure activity as they travel through Town. Design services on the North Main Street project, sidewalk installation on Parker Street and installation of a new gym floor at Meadowbrook are contracts signed this week. The Town has made application for a Parc grant to assist in financing of Heritage Park.

Our new Library Director, Katie McGonigle, began her employment here on July 18, 2022. She is very dedicated to, and enthusiastic about, the role of the library in the community. We are recruiting a new Building Commissioner as Kevin Duquette is moving on to a new career opportunity. Several other positions in Town remain unfilled which are delaying the accomplishment of some important tasks. A new Veterans Service Officer has not yet been hired, although the Board met again today to discuss the vacancy.

I have reappointed Michael Carabetta to the Conservation Commission and Frank Guimond to the COA Board.

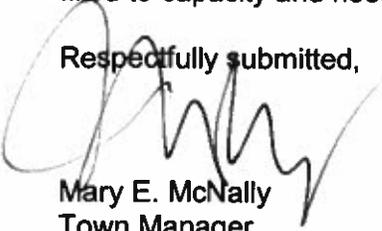
Negotiations have resumed regarding the Town's acquisition of 70 Maple Street. I am waiting for a response to the Town's latest communication to counsel for the Owner. Planning Director Bailey Mitchell has written a letter to the editor of the Reminder to clarify some information about the proposed overlay district contemplated by the Planning Board. A copy is on the Town's website.

In furtherance of the Town's desire to become a Green Community, first discussed last December, the

adoption of a fuel efficient vehicle policy for Town vehicles is Criterion #4 of the required criteria to achieve this status. As a courtesy to the new members of the Council, the minutes of the December 2021 meeting which include an explanatory handout are provided electronically under separate cover.

I am in the process of issuing an RFP for short term lease space for our Town operations. We are filled to capacity and need room for staff to perform their duties in a professional environment.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager