



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

February 14, 2023

Good evening:

Efforts since our last meeting in January have involved coordination and refurbishing of physical space for office operations.

As a next step in the Town's fiber to home project, some members of the Broadband Committee accompanied me to a presentation at Westfield Gas & Electric Co., a municipal light plant which operates Whip City Fiber to learn about their implementation of similar service. Another meeting with officials in South Hadley is pending to gather additional information which will be helpful to the Town's plans for expansion of fiber to the home project.

Multiple meetings have occurred regarding Westcomm operations and Veterans Services. All of this time and effort is intended to improve operational efficiencies.

On February 6, 2023 the Fire Department held a swearing in ceremony for the appointment of Deputy Fire Chief Christopher Beecher who began his official duties on January 31, 2023.

Our new Director of Municipal Finance, Kim Collins, began her employment on February 1, 2023. She has begun her review of the Town's FY 24 operational budget and general financial procedures, policies and practices, some of which differ from her prior employment situation. We look forward to her contributions to the Town's fiscal management.

Planning Director Bailey Mitchell has a report tonight on the Town's fuel efficient vehicle policy which is a necessary component to achieve Green Community status. Bailey continues to work on completing the Town's Energy Reduction Plan which is the last of the criteria required to qualify for Green Committee designation. He has also suggested a Volunteer Open House event, an initiative recommended in the Master Plan. Details on this will follow soon.

Negotiation sessions continue with the Town's Fire Department Union and the Town's Clerical and Professional Unions.

As reported previously, COA Director Erin Koebler, is the Chair of the Commission on Disability. Tom Christensen conducted interviews this week with our first volunteer members to that Commission, Jean Delaney and Joanne Welch. We are grateful for their willingness to contribute.

The School Building Committee voted its Preferred Schematic Design for submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority last week. Meetings on this key project continue on a regular basis, including another community forum planned for March 20, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the High School auditorium. Please attend these meetings in person or online to learn about this major development for the Town if your schedules allow.

All other Departments continue to perform their routine duties and responsibilities in an extraordinary way, providing services and coordinating activities for the Town's residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. McNally

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Town Manager