



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

April 11, 2023

Good evening:

Tonight I am pleased to submit the draft budget for FY 24. As you know, this budget reflects anticipated operational costs and capital project expenses but contains only speculative revenues from the Commonwealth. The actual revenue figures for local aid will not be known for another 4 to 6 weeks at a minimum. A second management review of department operating budgets has been ongoing since the last Council report. This process and compilation of information takes a team effort to complete. I am grateful to all who participated and for their thoughtful contributions.

On April 6, 2023 the Human Resources, Finance and Assessor's Departments relocated to 382 North Main Street. There will be an adjustment period until people get comfortable there, but the premises is modern, clean and ADA compliant. This relocation provides significant and necessary relief to our space constraint issues in the Town Hall. The move is another event which has taken a great deal of cooperation by many parties, primarily the employees of the particular Departments which were involved in the move as well as the IT staff, DPW and Town Manager staff.

Planning Director Bailey Mitchell has submitted the Town's application for Green Community designation. We expect a decision within a few weeks which we hope will be favorable. This designation will accomplish one of the major goals articulated in the Town's recently adopted Master Plan.

There is no progress to report on negotiations with the Town's Fire Department Union. A mediation has been scheduled. Negotiations are ongoing with the UPSEU units as well.

The Town continues to strive to find the solution to our Veterans Service Officer vacancy. I met with the Executive Office of Veterans Affairs personnel and Rep. Ashe's office to discuss the issue and determine if there are any waivers or training issues that could ameliorate the situation and expand our candidate pool.

The Local Emergency Preparedness Committee met on March 22, 2023. Reports at that meeting indicated that our Police and Fire Departments have been chosen to provide training for the Active Shooter training program in Massachusetts. This is a new three year Commonwealth program which unfortunately is now necessary for the protection of our public safety employees. It provides guidance on protocols in the event that such circumstances arise during response. Captain Minehan of the Fire Department has provided CPR training at the COA, will do the same at the Library next and then DPW. This service is vital for employees to respond quickly in the event of an emergency.

The Town is awaiting an executed purchase and sale agreement on 70 Maple St. from the Seller, closing within 30 days.

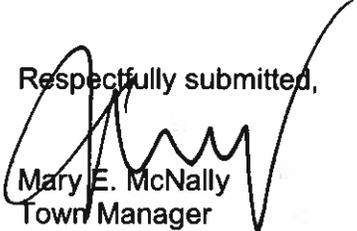
The Council on Aging Department through Erin Koebler's initiative has filed a grant application through the Community Compact Best Practices program for funding and assistance in the continuing development of the Age and Dementia Friendly program. The grant, if awarded, would be used to create a baseline assessment of community needs, ranging from transportation, housing, employment, outdoor spaces, civic participation and social inclusion. It is broad in scope and will serve as an action plan to address needs of the community for the future.

The Town has also begun its work to recreate its Hazard Mitigation Plan, drafted in 2016 but now expired. Chief Morrissette is the lead on this, the Town having obtained a FEMA grant of 20k to hire a

consultant to update the previous plan. A contract with PVPC was entered in February, 2023. The Town's match is \$2,200, comprised of staff and public officials' time. The first meeting was on April 4, 2023 with Mimi Kaplan from PVPC in attendance on behalf of PVPC.

The maps and plans preservation project, driven by our Clerk, Jeanne Quaglietti, and conducted by King Information Systems was also moved forward on Monday, 4/10/23. This is the next phase of the records preservation project approved by the Council last year.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager