



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

July 11, 2023

Good evening:

First of all, I want to give a special thanks to former Town Manager, Mary McNally, on her retirement from the Town of East Longmeadow. It's hard to quantify the impact she has had on this community. As the Town's second Town Manager, she instituted many processes and procedures that we were lacking and in the true spirit of the Charter, affirmed the impact that a strong TM can have. I am obviously grateful for the time we spent together, but as a resident, I will sing her praises to anyone that will listen for a long time.

Secondly, I am thrilled for the opportunity that this Council has bestowed upon me. I assure you that I will, in the same spirit, do my very best every day to continue to lead with character and discernment.

A special thanks to everyone involved in another amazing 4th of July celebration! The meeting would go on well into the night if we tried to thank all of the volunteers and Town staff that had an impact on the day. We are fortunate to live in a community where we all recognize the significance of the day and strive to make it fun and enjoyable for all.

We have a special ceremony tonight to honor some of the amazing staff of the recreation department up at Pine Knoll. Their quick action and the wherewithal to rely on their training in a dire situation, helped saved the life of one of the campers. The Council will be honoring some real life heroes tonight to let them know of our appreciation.

Town staff will be meeting with Westfield Gas and Electric's Whip City Fiber team on the 12th to discuss an inter-governmental agreement and scope out some pilot program areas to offer another option for internet in Town. Special thanks to the voters for seeing this great opportunity to provide an upgraded service to the community and, if things go like we are projecting, a potential new revenue stream to the Town.

Chief Williams led a nice ceremony to welcome Michael Ingalls as the newest Sergeant serving the East Longmeadow Police Department on July 3rd at the COA. Sergeant Ingalls brings excellent leadership and a great skill set to an already outstanding Sgt. Room at the PD. Congrats to Mike.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans Board of Directors has entered into contract with Jason Burgerer to be the new VSO for the district and his first day will be July 17th. We look forward to Jason's start date and his assistance with much needed services for all of our veterans in the District.

Council on Aging Director, Erin Koebler, has secured yet another grant for the COA. This one from the Massachusetts Council on Aging to the tune of \$45,000 for the Tri-Town Trolley service. This grant counts towards the 50% match required for the Community Transit Grant stipend we receive through PVTA to operate the trolley.

I submit with this report three applications for appointment to Boards and Commissions. David Boucher is seeking reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees, which I endorse. I would like to appoint Bill Fonseca and Rob Tirrell to the Planning Board to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of George Kingston and John Torcia. Other appointments to Boards, not requiring Council review but offered for your information are as follows: William Arment, Conservation Commission; James Channing, Zoning Board of Appeals (full member); Simon Brighenti, Historical Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Christensen
Town Manager