



## TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

September 12, 2023

Good evening:

Elected officials and Town Administrators/Managers from surrounding communities attended a Regional Government Meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Monson, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow discussed a wide range of topics including, Broadband, Veteran's Services, School Enrollment, Crime Statistics, Health Services and Trash Collection to name a few. The meeting was extremely beneficial and we intend to continue to collaborate quarterly. It is a great opportunity to pool resources to ensure our communities communicate and collaborate on issues that affect us all. Special thanks to the Town of Wilbraham for hosting the event.

We had a meeting of the Westcomm Board of Directors on Friday the 1st. As you may know, Westcomm, purchased the old Salter College building in Chicopee and we are planning a large scale renovation. The initial estimate was \$13.3 million and like everything else, the construction costs continue to increase. We are currently doing some value engineering and prioritizing the alternate bids to bring that price back down. The timeline would have bids opened in January and substantial completion in February of 2025.

Scanlon and Associates completed the Town Audit last week. As of this writing, there is nothing of consequence to bring up. (I will let you know if there are updates on Tuesday)

A hearing in Land Court is set for September 22<sup>nd</sup> with regard to East Longmeadow Redevelopers vs. The Town of East Longmeadow Planning Board. Arguments will be heard regarding the possible intervention by The Fields at Chestnut and consolidation of those defendants, including possible dismissals of some claims. I will keep you posted as this case develops.

The Town has entered into a contract with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to assist us in the creation on the Center Town District. Obviously, our Planning Director, Bailey Mitchell, has done a lot of work on this already so PVPC will help us push this across the finish line. The process will include public participation and we expect to establish the district next fall.

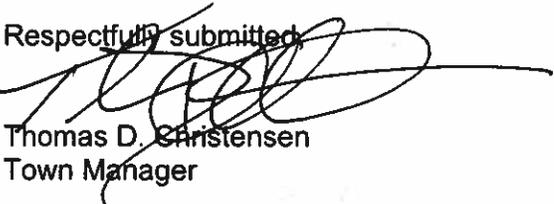
In the interest of one of my personal goals to communicate better with the public, I've accepted an invitation for Coffee with the Town Manager at the Council on Aging, Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope this is just the start of at least monthly meetings to engage the public and allow for civil discourse in a relaxed setting. If you have time to come ask some tough questions or just say hi, please do. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone.

Introduction: Jason Burgener, Veteran's Service Officer

### Upcoming Events:

- September 11<sup>th</sup> 9/11 Ceremony, Fire Station 8PM
- September 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Lockton regarding Insurance Analysis
- September 14<sup>th</sup> Coffee with the Town Manager
- September 21<sup>st</sup> ELHS Public Forum, 6p at ELHS
- October 14<sup>th</sup> Celebrate East Longmeadow, Center Field 11a-5p
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Oktoberfest, Brown Farm 12p-4p
- October 19<sup>th</sup> ELHS Public Forum, Time and Location TBD

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas D. Christensen  
Town Manager