



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

October 10, 2023

Good evening:

The Town has reached an agreement in principle for contract negotiations with East Longmeadow Permanent Firefighters Local 2426, United Public Service Employees Union Local 424M – MADIV 119, both Clerical unit and Professional unit and the Local 169 of the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO (DPW). All contracts will be revised and updated based on those negotiations and I expect to have them soon for your review and approval.

First round interviews are underway for the Deputy Town Manager position. The town received numerous applications from all over the country. Provided interviews go the way they should, based on the quality experience of the candidates, I expect to fill the position by the end of the month.

Values and new growth have been certified and it looks like we will be having a tax classification hearing at the Town Council meeting in November. Special thanks to our Assessor, Diane Bishop and her team and the Board of Assessors, Martin Grudgen, Marilyn Ghedini and Luci Gicuerre for all of their hard work.

We are awaiting some additional revenue information from the state to complete Schedule A for FY23 and Free Cash should be certified soon (hopefully by the end of this week).

The MassDEP has awarded the Town of East Longmeadow Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program to the tune of \$24,200. Special thanks to our DPW and Health Departments for all of their hard work and in particular, our Recycling Coordinator, Liz Bone.

IT Director, Ryan Quimby and I continue to negotiate with Westfield Gas and Electric regarding our Fiber to the Home project. Lead times and pricing continue to skyrocket as we look for the most efficient way to phase and fund the project. We meet again on the 18th.

The Region B Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee met on September 19th to hear ideas for a new program structure for the review and distribution of Community Mitigation Funds. The Massachusetts Gaming Commission will hold a public hearing on October 26th at 12:00pm to hear input and comments on these major changes. Essentially, it has been difficult for the communities affected by the casino, to quantify that impact into a viable grant application. The proposed structure will be in more of a block grant style, which most communities are more familiar with, hopefully increasing eligible projects.

Introduction: Jason Burgener, Veteran's Service Officer

Upcoming Events:

October 14th Celebrate East Longmeadow, Center Field 11a-5p

October 19th ELHS Public Forum, ELHS Cafeteria 6p

October 21st Oktoberfest, Brown Farm 12p-4p

October 26th Coffee with the TM, COA 11a

November 7th Election Day - VOTE VOTE VOTE

November 11th Veteran's Day

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Christensen
Town Manager