



## TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

November 14, 2023

Good evening:

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the people of East Longmeadow voted overwhelmingly in favor of a debt exclusion to fund the new High School and Natatorium projects. The voter turnout was massive and the people let their voices be heard. The SBC will now turn their efforts to the construction phase of the project and contractor selection. RFQs will be opened on November 15<sup>th</sup> with contractor interviews to follow shortly thereafter. Once a Contractor has been selected the Town will finalize the school design and break ground on the new school at some point in the summer on 2024.

I won't steal Jeanne's thunder as she will provide a report on the election shortly, but it goes without saying that she and her team deserve a world of credit for another smoothly run election. Most people don't realize the amount of work and planning that go into running an election, especially one as well attended as this. All the while, one of our most public facing and busiest departments, remains open providing services to the community. Many thanks to Jeanne and everyone in the Clerk's office, as well as the many volunteers, for all that they do.

I am pleased to introduce Rebecca Lisi as our new Deputy Town Manager. Her first day was Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, unfortunately she is finishing up fall semester and her teaching schedule did not allow her to be here tonight. Rebecca was previously a Holyoke City Councilor for 14 years. She holds a Master's Degree and PHD in Political Science from UMass and has been an instructor/lecturer in the Political Science Department at UMass since 2012. She has policy expertise in Planning, Zoning and Economic Development, grant writing, and an intimate knowledge of budget preparation and the budget process. She is a smart, articulate and thoughtful individual who will be a tremendous asset for the Town of East Longmeadow.

Unfortunately for us, we have to say goodbye to our Planning and Economic Development Director, Bailey Mitchell, who is on his way back to the Midwest to be closer to his family. He has accepted a position for the City of Chicago as the Coordinator of Economic Development I and our loss is surely their gain. Bailey accomplished a tremendous amount in his nearly 18 months of service to the Town and we wish him nothing but the best in his new position. He will be dearly missed for his work ethic and diligence as a professional and thoughtfulness as a human being. Best of luck to Bailey.

Contract negotiations with the UPSEU Clerical and Professional units, the DPW Local 169 of the Utility Worker's Union and the East Longmeadow Permanent Firefighters Local 2426 have been completed. Memorandums of Agreement will be before you tonight for signature authorization to make them official.

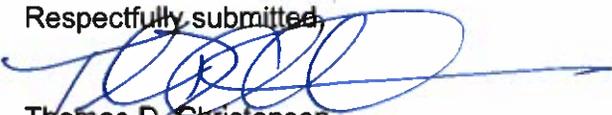
October was a busy month for outdoor activities. Celebrate East Longmeadow was held on Center Field on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Katie Hill and the Rotary Club, countless volunteers, Town Departments and all the vendors who helped make the event a smashing success. The 2nd Annual Oktoberfest at Brown Farm was rained out on its original date but we got a beauty of a day on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Recreation Department, Recreation Commission, volunteers and vendors for another wonderful day at Brown Farm.

Upcoming Events:

November 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day Parade – Town Hall 11am

November 30<sup>th</sup> Capital Submissions Due

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas D. Christensen  
Town Manager