



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

December 12, 2023

Good evening:

I had the privilege of attending the 34th Annual Firefighter of the Year Award ceremony in Worcester on November 21st. Two members of the East Longmeadow Fire Department, Matt Adams and Brian Drury, were awarded the Governor's Citation for Meritorious Conduct for their actions, in attempting to save a drowning man from the Westfield River back in April, all while off-duty. Congratulations to Matt and Brian for their well-deserved distinction, and thank you to all the firefighters and first responders who put their lives on the line every day to keep our community safe.

We had a meeting of the Westcomm Board of Directors on Friday the 1st. We discussed the budget procedure for future years. The FY25 budget must be submitted to the state in mid-January so we've scheduled a joint meeting of the Board of Director's with the Finance Sub-Committee and are reviewing the draft budget on Tuesday, December 12th. Also, submissions were received from contractors for the renovation of the new facility.

We have met with Whip City Fiber twice since our last meeting trying to negotiate a contract on services to bring fiber to the Town. Conversations were fruitful and we have received pricing for a phased rollout. Design and make-ready estimates will be prepared first and construction will be based on a marketing strategy that would prioritize those "fiberhoods" with the greatest level of interest to ensure the necessary revenue to make the project more self-sustaining.

Rebecca and I have met multiple times with the Director of Municipal Finance, Kim Collins to prepare this year's budget memorandum and strategy. That memo will go out later this week to provide instruction and direction to all department heads as they prepare their FY25 operating budgets. The process was streamlined last year by having budgets entered directly into MUNIS by the department heads and Kim has added several other processes to make the process even more efficient.

The Mass Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund has recently changed their grant program process and has issued a letter to the Town indicating that we are eligible for \$325,000 in possible grant funding. Town staff met to discuss project submission in eligible project areas such as Community Planning, Transportation, Public Safety and Gambling Harm Reduction. We will meet again to finalize the project list to meet the deadline of January 31st.

The East Longmeadow Police Department coordinated a Toys for Tots event on Decemeber 2nd. The "Stuff a Cruiser" event was sponsored by Monson Savings Bank, Mascaro's Towing and East Village Tavern, who hosted the event at their location. Donations were brought to Channel 22 the next morning, in an amount equivalent to three cruisers! Special thanks to all who took the time to donate and also to Officer Jeff Niznik and Sergeant Mike Ingalls who spearheaded the event.

I just wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. As we look forward to what is sure to be a prosperous and exciting new year for our community, let us take a moment to be thankful for all that we have and all that we will become.....together. Same team. Home team.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas D. Christensen
Town Manager