



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

April 9, 2024

Good evening:

The FY25 draft budget was submitted electronically on April 1st to the Town Council and School Committee. I want to thank everyone who had a part in creating this budget (which is, in fact, everyone). It truly was a team effort. We will now turn our attention to reviewing the draft budget to have the FY25 Operating Budget adopted, with or without amendments by the Town Council, by June 1st, per the Charter.

The DPW will begin administration of a construction contract with D & P Morais Construction for new sidewalk construction on Pleasant Street, from Indian Springs Drive to the intersection of Porter/Pleasant and Mapleshade Drive. This will be about 2500 feet of new sidewalk and close a major loop of our sidewalk network. Additionally, a small section of sidewalk on Hampden Road will also be installed from the intersection of Parker and Hampden Road to Angela Lane to connect to the existing network connecting Mountainview School and Meadowbrook School. Both projects are in concert with the Town's Sidewalk Master Plan.

The Center Town District Steering Committee has been officially named and its members, Nicole Polite, Dawn Starks, Jason Gumpert, Carolyn Ferros, and Steve Graham, are meeting Wednesday morning for the first time to designate a chair and review the rules for conducting official business. The first public meeting of the Center Town District committee will be held on April 22, at Pleasant View Senior Center. This will be an in-depth review of MGL 40R and its designation process. Then, on May 20, we will have a larger public engagement meeting that will be more interactive and hands-on for members of the public participating. At this meeting the public will break up into small groups and go through a visioning process to generate various possibilities for what a Center Town District will look and feel like in the future.

The School Building Committee voted unanimously last month to submit the detailed design for the new high school to the MSBA. We continue to work through the logistics of the project and work with Fontaine on their construction plan. Submittals are being prepared for submission this week for the Notice of Intent to the Conservation Commission and Site Plan Review to the Planning Board. We remain on schedule for site prep immediately following school dismissal in June. There is a Public Forum scheduled for this Thursday at 6pm in the High School Cafeteria to provide a more comprehensive update on the project.

Staff from multiple departments, as well as volunteers from the community will be celebrating Earth Day this weekend. The celebration will kick off on Friday, April 12th at 3pm at the Library with a student art display, crafts and demonstrations. "Clean up East Longmeadow" will begin on Saturday, April 13th at 9am at the Town Hall. Thanks to all for doing your part to help keep EL (and the Planet) beautiful.

The interview process continues as we look to find a Planning Director. Rebecca and I will interview two applicants on Tuesday and are hopeful based on their respective qualifications. We are also working to modify and prepare the Human Resources Director job description and hope to advertise for that position by the end of the week.

We are officially under contact with Westfield Gas and Electric Whip City Fiber to begin the design of the Fiber to the Home Project. Our IT Director, Ryan Quimby, has taken over administration of this contract and the public should expect to see some action in the field from the sub-Contractor, PVC, which is working on the design in concert with Whip City.

Upcoming Events: High School Public Forum – April 11th 6:00 pm in the High School Cafeteria
Earth Day Kickoff – April 12th 3pm at the Library, April 13th 9am Cleanup
EL Lions Club Fishing Derby – April 13th starts at 6 am at Heritage Park
Center Town District Meeting – April 22nd 6pm at the COA
Benefits Fair – April 25th Birchland Park from 1-4 pm
Coffee with the Town Manager – May 1st 10:30am at the COA

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas D. Christensen
Town Manager