



## MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Meeting

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

Council on Aging Conference Room & Auditorium, 328 North Main Street  
East Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01028

Present: Angela Thorpe, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, William R. Gorman, Chairman, Board of Health, Paul L. Federici, Clerk of the Board

The Chairman of the Board opened the Meeting at 6:00P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of Silence. Announcements were made in accordance with M.G.L. 30A, §20 (e), and noted that the meeting was being recorded by the Board of Selectmen, East Longmeadow Community Access Television, Chris Goudreau, The Reminder, Brad Shepard, Pioneer Valley Radio, Sean Teehan, The Republican.

The Chairman of the Board made the announcement that there were some things that were not on the Agenda and some concerns that the public had. The Chairman stated that at the end of the Agenda the microphone will be open to the public to hear some of the concerns and hopefully address them.

### APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 P.M. – Corinne Tranghese, Benefits Administration Manager

Retiree Insurance Eligibility Policy

The Benefits Administrator recapped regarding the request from the retiree for eligibility for health insurance that previously the Board was thinking on entertaining the idea and that it was based mainly on the rate of the Blue Care Elect Plan. The Administrator pointed out that the rates have come down a considerable amount of money for the individual on the family plans. The Benefits Administrator recommended leaving things alone for now and if a Human Resource Department gets voted changes with the policy can be made then if they want to.

Insurance Rates for FY17

The Benefits Administrator handed out the rates to the Board and mentioned that they are increasing.

Dental Insurance Renewal

The Dental Rates are now zero because the rate for the dental plan was coming in at a 24% increase. The Benefits Manager told the Board that she received notification from a previous carrier that they would meet the rates that are currently in place, but she still will need to touch base with them. The Benefits Manager asked the Board for their permission to be able to speak to the Union representatives and have them decide what they want to do; keep the more expensive plan or take the cuts in the benefits to keep the rates the same. This is no cost to the Town it's a 100% employee plan. The Benefits Manager asked if one of the Board members wanted to be involved in the meeting tentatively set for April 4<sup>th</sup> around 3:15; Selectman

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Appointment continued Benefits Administrator

Gorman will attend. The Benefits Manager also mentioned that she had a conversation with the schools and they thought it was a good idea.

Motion:

A. Thorpe made a motion to have the Benefits Manager speak with the Unions on the dental rates and report back to the Board. So moved by P. Federici. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

6:15 P.M. – Paul Morrissette, Fire Chief

FY15 Emergency Management Performance Grant

The Chief reported that the Town received the FY15 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$4,460 dollars. This was approved by MEMA for a large capacity ventilation fan and a hand held portable air-monitoring meter.

Fire Department newly staffed hours

The Chief related that the extended coverage began on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Chief told the Board that the month of February was a very busy month, but everything is working out fine.

Overtime Budget

The Chief told the Board that he compiles this report every year for the Board and Appropriations. Currently running above projection for the year; the budgeted amount is \$105,000 dollars annually. The Chief had further discussion that with the increased hours it could help reduce the overtime budget.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Involved in the Plan beginning back in March 2015 were Nick Breault, Town Administrator then Greg Moyer, Interim Town Administrator, Dan Hellyer, Building Commissioner, Planning Director, Robyn Macdonald, Robert Pierent, Superintendent of Public Works, Brian Falk, Emergency Management Director and Paul Morrissette, Fire Chief. The Chief explained that the Plan is a requirement if wanting to apply for a FEMA Grant funding for mitigation. The draft Plan was submitted to MEMA at the state level for any changes then will go to FEMA for their approval then back to the Board for adoption.

6:30 P.M.- Aimee Petrosky, Health Agent

Mosquito spraying

The Health Agent reported that request for quotes were sent to six vendors; only received one back with an estimate from JIB Helicopters, Pembroke NH. The Health Agent was asking for the Board's approval to offer the contract JIB Helicopters for the mosquito spraying.

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to accept the bid by JIB Helicopters, Pembroke NH, Ray Newcomb, President, to conduct the mosquito spraying. So moved by P. Federici, W. Gorman, seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Board of Selectmen Meeting 3-29-16  
Appointment continued Health Agent

Request from Alternate Dog Officer, leave of absence

The Health Agent explained that Melissa DeFino-Lagacy, Alternate Dog Office has requested a leave of absence from April 5<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>. Warner Cross has been selected as the temporary replacement. Mr. Cross has been a long time resident and owns Porter Road Kennels. Mr. Cross has previously done animal control work for East Longmeadow and Longmeadow. The Health Agent asked the Board to temporarily appoint Mr. Cross for no longer than ninety-days in Melissa's absence.

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to accept Warner Cross as the temporary replacement for Melissa DeFino Lagacy while she is out on a temporary leave of absence for no longer than ninety-days. So moved by P. Federici. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Open Session Minutes

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to approve the open session minutes of May 26, 2015, January 12, 26 & 29, 2016. So moved by P. Federici. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed. 3-0.

Executive Session Minutes

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to approve the executive session minutes of May 26, 2015, January 12, 26, & 29, 2016. So moved by P. Federici, W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

OLD BUSINESS

Interim Town Administrator

The Interim said that at this time he usually updates the Selectmen on things that are going on in Town since he is the full-time representative of the Board of Selectmen, and the job/task is to run the Town on a daily basis. The Interim said that he has been very surprised here in East Longmeadow by the public's recent attitude towards him and he felt that it was something that needed to be addressed. The Interim asked the audience to bear with him and that he would be happy to answer anyone's questions later on. The Interim continued that when he came here the Selectman voted unanimously not 2-1. Selectman Federici interjected that the vote was 2-1 he voted for the woman from Connecticut. The Interim said that it was recorded and that he had a copy, it was a 3-0 vote, that's what the minutes show. The Interim said that he has been here only a few weeks and the Board of Selectmen had a meeting and voted unanimously not to renew the Police Chief's contract. The Interim said that he can't vote on anything, can't do that. The Interim said that he had to move forward with the search for the new Chief and that he is not part of the Search Committee. The Search Committee chose five applicants and Doug Mellis, Police Chief was not one of the five that was narrowed down to three. The Interim continued saying that the Committee is dissolved and they did their job bringing three candidates to the Board. The Interim said that he called the three members of the Board with the candidates and also called the candidates to let them know. The Interim stated that candidate Farnsworth called him and asked if there was a residency requirement. The Interim said that this has been over a

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Board of Selectmen old business continued

month and could not understand how he did not know that and told him to ask the Board of Selectmen. The Interim said that he read in the paper that he knew this weeks before hand and did not tell the Selection Committee. The Interim continued that this kept changing when he was telling his side of the story. The Interim said that he never spoke with Farnsworth until the Selection Committee was dissolved and has proof. The Interim repeated that he thought it was important that all that were in attendance hear what he had to say. The Interim said that he heard that there was a meeting with Frank Keogh and that there was some kind of a deal made and that he was being accused of being corrupt. The Interim stated that he found out a few days ago that there was a third person at that meeting and that person is willing to testify that during that meeting it was about real estate and that his name never came up; the meeting happened after he was hired so there was no deal or anything. The Interim said that he never asked anyone to do anything for him, never asked anyone to speak his name, never asked anyone to lobby for him. Continuing the Interim stated that the person that was in that meeting is willing to testify that Captain O'Brien never came up. The Interim said that he thinks that he deserves some due process. The Interim stated that when he was Mayor people could do that to him, he was there to serve the public. Now he is an employee of the Town and people have no right to say things about him that are slanderous, he has rights as an employee of the Town. The Interim said that if anyone wants to say things about him it would have to be in executive session. You cannot talk about a person's conduct in public, have to do it in executive session; he has a right to be there as well as his attorney. The audience had further comments.

6:45 P.M. – Thomas Florence, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Collector

Special Municipal Employees – Tom O'Connor and Richard Freccero

The Clerk told the Board that the Accounting Office wanted something in writing in order to pay two election workers. The Town Clerk continued with the explanation and that in order to do that the Board will have to vote to have them designated as Special Municipal Employees.

Moton:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to designate the position to be Special Municipal Employees. So moved by P. Federici. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### NEW BUSINESS

SVRHT voting member

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to have Sara Menard, Town Accountant continue as the voting member for the SVRHT. So moved by P. Federici. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

SVRHT Alternate Member

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to continue the process that the Town Administrator continue as the Alternate Member for the SVRHT. So moved by P. Federici. W. Gorman seconded. Motion Passed 3-0.

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Board of Selectmen new business continued

#### Annual Town Reports

The Board of Selectmen Draft report was presented to the Board for their review. All other reports have been received.

#### Annual Town Meeting

The Chairman suggested discussing at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. This date was not good for Selectman Federici. The Interim Town Administrator went over the deadlines and had further discussion. The Board will discuss at the April 13 meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

##### Re-organization of the Conservation Commission

The re-organization of the Conservation Commission was noted by the Board.

##### Thank you Letter from the Town of Amherst

The Board noted the thank you letter from the Town of Amherst regarding the Town of East Longmeadow for their assistance in providing mutual aid to the Amherst Police Department on March 5, 2016 in conjunction with what has formerly been known and the "Blarney Blowout".

#### TOWN COUNSEL

##### OLD BUSINESS

The Chairman of the Board announced that there will not be an executive session for this meeting because of no new developments regarding the TEU and the Recreation Director's Contract.

#### MEETINGS/INVITATIONS/REMINDERS

The Clerk of the Board read the meetings/invitations/reminders into the record.

Annual Town Elections, Tue., April 12, 2016 at Birchland Park Middle School, 7am-8am

Board of Selectmen Meeting, Wed. April 13, 2016 at 6pm, COA Media Room, 328 North Main

Town Offices closed Mon. April 18, 2016 in observance of Patriots' Day

The Chairman of the Board announced that the microphone was being opened to the audience for their concerns/comments and asked that the comments are kept to one-minute to give anyone who wants the opportunity to speak. The Chairman continued saying that this is East Longmeadow and we conduct ourselves in an orderly fashion and asked that the people be considerate when on the microphone so they can hear what everybody has to say and that they (the Board) could respond. The Chairman stated that if for some reason it gets unruly the Board will adjourn. The speakers were asked to state their name and address: The following people spoke: Mark Sullivan, 51 East Village Road, Jim Barkem, 95 Old Farm; Pat Ahern, 43 Power Hill; Richard Turnbull, 243 Somers Road; Ed Brown, 53 Greenwich; Marilyn Richards, 342 Pinehurst; Chris Sand, 5 Marshall; Kelly Degnan, 27 Gerrard; John Maybury, 215 Prospect; Robin Glidden, 27 Gerrard; Anna Page, Knollwood; Bob Hildreth; Phil LaRosa, Sid Starks, 28 Elm; Carl Ohlin, 10 Pease. Some speakers came to the microphone more than one time.

Board of Selectmen Meeting 3-29-16  
Citizen speak continued

A copy of the audio is attached to these minutes and also a full video/dialogue can be viewed on the Town's Web Site.

During the citizens speak some concerns/comments from the speakers were the police department budget/overtime, Chief Mellis' contract, Jeff Delessio's contract for police chief, people getting elected to positions, MGM grant money to survey the rotary, Interim Town Administrator signing forms without the approval of the Board, asking for Selectman Gorman's resignation, Selectman Gorman explaining the Calcasola issue to the audience, Interim Town Administrator contract, Town Administrator living in Town and department heads living in Town. A motion was made by Selectmen Gorman to have the Town Administrator live in Town; the vote failed. Town Counsel gave explanation on the vote and the open meeting law. Selectman Gorman and Selectman Federici had discussion regarding Mr. Keough, Mr. Santaniello and Mr. O'Brien, the IT Director's salary and violation of open meeting laws.

Motion:

A. Thorpe entertained a motion to adjourn. So moved by P. Federici. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lorraine Banspach, Assistant Executive Secretary.

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING OF WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 13, 2016

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Paul Federici, Clerk of the Board