



## TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

April 14, 2020

Good Evening:

This week's efforts were again primarily devoted to the management of Covid-19 issues and FY 21 budget preparation. There continue to be a number of weekly and daily conference calls and webinars to view, absorb, respond to, advise others about and implement as necessary or required. The health crisis gives rise to innumerable, time consuming issues daily.

Despite this incessant pressure, the Town continues to function very well as a result of the efforts of its many dedicated employees. This form of conducting business is extremely difficult and requires all of us to adjust our normal expectations. Working remotely, while better than not working at all, creates additional layers of technological constraints, which, when combined with the absence of physical proximity, exacerbates the difficulty of performing our duties and requires an abundance of patience and perseverance.

Department Heads and other interested parties continue to confer daily on our Emergency Operations conference calls to report progress, problems, difficulties and proposed solutions. The past month has demonstrated excellent teamwork and cooperation. The Town can be rightfully proud of the extraordinary contributions made by many of its employees working together to manage the taxpayers' needs and expectations in this very difficult period.

In the midst of this situation, I have asked all Departments to revisit their operating budget submissions and devise an outline to reduce spending by 5-10% if possible. I am gratified by the response received to date. That information will be compiled and will assist in the budget preparation for FY21.

Palmer Ambulance Service has donated a used, surplus ambulance to the Town. The Fire Department will use this vehicle as its second ambulance pending delivery of the new vehicle previously approved by the Council and on order. The ambulance needs approximately \$2,000 in repairs. It can be registered, licensed to operate, inspected, equipped with a stretcher and mobile radios and in service by next Friday, April 17, 2020. This vehicle is necessary now due to additional Covid-19 demands and call volume. Usual and customary reliance on our mutual aid partners for back up service has become problematic because of increased demands in neighboring communities as well, significantly Somers, CT. and Longmeadow, MA.. The expenses (75%) associated with this ambulance and the supplies for it, will be reimbursed by MEMA and/or FEMA disaster funds. Chief Morrissette had asked MEMA for a loaner ambulance two weeks ago to meet East Longmeadow's needs, but the request was denied due to a lack of availability. Acquisition of this ambulance from Palmer is, at least in part, the result of his working relationships with neighboring communities and is evidence of the goodwill generated by cooperation.

All Department Heads continue to track their expenses and time spent in anticipation of submission of these costs for reimbursement.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. McNally  
Town Manager