



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

July 12, 2022

Good evening:

Many thanks and congratulations to everyone who contributed to and participated in the Town's 4th of July festivities. The energy, coordination and cooperation to accomplish these events is a testament to the community spirit here in Town. As reported by Ryan Quimby, a member of the Rotary Club, all of the events were very well attended and free of any significant problems. The parade route was filled with spectators of all ages who seemed to enjoy the event.

Recruitment for the new positions authorized in the budget is underway by our HR Department. We have also signed the contract to begin the Heritage Park design and permitting phase of this redevelopment project. Several other capital projects/acquisitions are underway, with detail below.

On July 5, 2022, the Town's State representatives, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and Brian M. Ashe filed a Home Rule Bill, House Docket, No. 5238 to remove certain positions in the East Longmeadow Police Department from Civil Service law. A copy of that bill is attached for your reference. I am thankful to both representatives for their quick response to our request for action on this matter. Progress will be followed carefully. In other Police Department news, please mark your calendars for National Night Out which will be held on August 2, 2022. Many other Town Departments will have information booths there as well. Please plan to attend if your schedules allow.

As you know, the Commonwealth's budget is not yet passed, so we continue to watch carefully to determine what our level of state funding will be in the final budget. As noted in an earlier email, there is a House amendment pending which would mandate remote access to all public meetings. The Senate version allows continued remote meetings through December 15, 2023.

The contract with the Town's new vendor for trash services, Casella Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc. began on July 1, 2022. The recent collection problems through June 30, 2022 were ameliorated by the extraordinary efforts of our Health Dept. and DPW employees. In particular, Health Director, Tammy Spencer, Recycling Coordinator, Elizabeth Bone, Health Inspector, Alix Roncarati and most especially, Dept. Administrative Assistant, Renee Suckau who fielded countless calls with patience and aplomb. In addition, the intense manual efforts of Public Works Superintendent, Bruce Fenney, Deputy Superintendent, Tom Christenson, Highway Manager, Darrell Keane and staff members, Sergio Freitas, Walter Swan, Robert Johnson, Joseph Commisso and Josh Crochetiere are so appreciated and they serve as a wonderful example of Town employees who came to the aid of their neighbors in need. All of these individuals deserve a sincere thank you from all of us.

Lest anyone think these employees rest on their laurels, please see the attached description of projects currently underway under DPW jurisdiction. The sixteen projects listed are overseen by the DPW management staff and funded through our Capital appropriations, ARPA and Community Development Block Grants. The Town was also recently awarded an IT Community Compact grant of \$159,000 to extend the fiber connections to our pump stations. That work will begin soon by a third party contractor.

Interviews for a new Veterans Service Officer were held this morning, July 12, 2022. The Board of Directors will make a selection soon.

Negotiations have stalled regarding acquisition of 70 Maple Street. However, the conversation about creation of a Multi-Use Overlay District in the center of Town, including this property, continues. Further discussion on that topic will be an item on future Planning Board meeting agendas. The Planning and Community Development Department has posted a survey on the Town website to solicit input from the

community on themes identified in the 2021 Resilient Master Plan. The survey has only 12 questions and is intended to assist the Department in establishing short term goals as outlined in the Master Plan. The survey also provides an opportunity for open-ended comment relating to Planning and Community Development Department initiatives. Please take the time to submit your responses in this important first step for the Town's future development.

In other Planning and Community Development news, as you know, the Town has received a grant from the Western Mass Economic Development Council to implement a Technical Business Assistance Program for small businesses along North Main Street. The chosen vendor, Revby, LLC will provide tailored one to one services for 5 to 10 businesses within the project area. When completed, they will submit a report to us outlining the benefits of the program.

The Recreation Department continues its whirlwind series of summer events and activities, some of which are: the Pine Knoll Adventure Camp and Theater Camp; there are 195 family pool memberships this season which is a record number and the care and cultivation of the Brown Farm Gardens which was accomplished with the help of several community volunteers, including Councilor Ralph Page. Director Donna Prather has graciously offered to set up times for anyone interested in taking a tour of the camps or pool. Registrations for fall season programs have begun as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. McNally
Town Manager

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and Brian M. Ashe

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act removing certain positions from Massachusetts civil service law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>7/1/2022</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act removing certain positions from Massachusetts civil service law.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1. Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of East
2 Longmeadow and the East Longmeadow Police Officers Union, the positions of police officer,
3 sergeant and lieutenant in the East Longmeadow Police Department shall be exempt from the
4 provisions of Chapter 31 of the Massachusetts General Laws and related regulations applicable
5 thereto. However, the foregoing exemption shall not impair the civil service status of the present
6 employees of the East Longmeadow Police Department except for the purpose of promotion.

7 Section 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, each incumbent
8 employee who has the present status of permanent civil service employee in their present
9 position shall retain their civil service status, except for purposes of promotion, until such time as
10 they no longer serve in that position.

Items that DPW is currently working on:

- **Maple Street Paving Project**- will begin in the next couple weeks and end in early September. The work includes the full reclaiming of all asphalt (down to the dirt), structure adjustments, new curbing, and new water and sewer gate boxes. The project will run from the Longmeadow line to the Center at a cost of \$1.24 million dollars.
- **ADA Sidewalk Project**- This project is to expend the remaining funds of the 2018 Community Development Block Grant. Bids will be received on July 14th at 3pm at the PVPC 60 Congress Street in Springfield. The work consists of the installation of Portland cement concrete sidewalk, including necessary ADA-compliant handicap ramps at specific locations and necessary grading, and right-of-way restoration.
- **Parker Street Sidewalk Project**- The work consists of the installation of roughly 4400 linear feet of Portland cement concrete sidewalk, including necessary ADA-compliant handicap ramps at specific locations and necessary grading and right-of-way restoration. The work shall be substantially complete by December 1, 2022. Bids will be received on July 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The preliminary estimate for the project is roughly \$450,000.00.
- **Mountainview Modular Replacement Project**- RFP was issued on July 6, 2022 and submission deadline is August 3, 2022 through the "Designer Selection Committee". Once the committee has chosen a designer we then start the design process and prepare bid documents for the construction portion of the project slated for late this year. The biggest challenge of the project will be the construction estimates for the project. The pricing of the project was obtained in 2020. Project preliminary completion date is in 2024.
- **Permanent Wastewater Flow Monitoring Project** - The project was awarded to Ricciardi Brothers Inc. in the amount of \$860,100. The project will be underway in the next few weeks depending on the availability of the vault which was ordered in late winter of 2022. The project will take place on North Main Street near the City line and should take roughly two to three months to complete.
- **North Main TIP** - Working with VHB to complete all surveying in the project corridor and will be working on the 25% design this summer/fall.
- **Heritage Park Redevelopment Project** - Berkshire Design Group at \$494,100 for the design and bid docs. We will be working on the wetland delineations in the next few weeks as the first step of the project.
- **Allen Street Landfill** - Working with Tighe & Bond to develop the CAD over the summer and still need to work to acquire the Yablum property to continue the work.
- **Electrical Switchgear Replacement High School**- Switchgear has been ordered through Hampden Zimmerman. Supply chain issues for this equipment are ongoing and will not be able to complete this summer. Lead time is 52 weeks.
- **Meadowbrook Parking Lot Lighting** - Two 20 amp circuits have been run by the Town's electrician. Waiting for contract signatures and work will be completed by the end of the summer or early fall.
- **Track Resurfacing Project High School** - Will be completed July 15th weather depending.
- **Pump Station Communication & PLC Upgrades** - expected to start this summer. Currently working with Tighe & Bonds engineers to purchase equipment and then program.
- **Inflow & Infiltration Project** - Working with Tighe & Bond to develop a plan for the Orchard Road and Lynwood Pump Station for ground water issues.
- **Vineland Pump Service** - Parts have been ordered and waiting for their arrival.
- **Truck #3** has been ordered through the Colonial Municipal Group
- **BobCat #109** - has been ordered through Greater Springfield BobCat