



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

December 11, 2018

Good evening –

The new Chairman of the Community Preservation Commission has informed me that, with some new members on the Commission, the group is off to a strong start for current CPC requests and projects. Also, I have met with a number of members of the Town's Historical Commission that is also experiencing renewal. Welcome to new members to both committees and thank you to all serving on them.

As you all are aware, strict enforcement of the Town's trash contract requirements began in November. This has led to a challenging time, once again, for trash in East Longmeadow. Although the requirement of 35-gallon trashcans was instituted by the Board of Selectmen in 2008, the size limit has not been adhered to for quite a long time and even with the various notifications residents received, many residents were caught off guard by the size limitation. After explanation of the reasons for following this requirement, most residents understood the requirements and the need for the limitation. There have been fewer complaints as each week passes. Thank you to everyone for their understanding and cooperation. In the meantime, we have begun to research what the Town should consider when asking for proposals for the next trash collection contract. Once options are gathered, we will be coming to the Council so that we are all in sync on what the Town will be asking for in the next trash contract.

We have received notification that E911 calls began coming to our Public Safety Communication Center on Thursday December 6. Analysis has shown that taking 911 calls directly will not add a significant number of calls received in a day. It will however provide quicker connection to emergency services. Also, we will be receiving a \$12,500 grant related to the switch over. I was also informed today that Director Burns is working with another community to look for a number of additional grant opportunities that we have not utilized in the past.

With implementation of the new union contracts, most current and all new employees will be receiving bi-weekly paychecks rather than some weekly and some bi-weekly. Also, all new employees eligible for health insurance will be enrolled on the first day of the month after they start. Both of these changes will create efficiencies with payroll, benefit enrollment and payment of benefits. All four unions agreed to a 2% increase for FY 2018-2019.

We received a \$10,000 grant from our insurer, MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association), to assist with new OSHA requirements that affect the Public Works Department. The grant will assist with the purchase of trench box equipment.

The Veterans Memorial Committee has organized its next fundraiser. It is a Celebrity Bartenders at Mario's Café Ambiance on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 5-8 p.m. A flyer for the event is attached.

Finally, the last few Planning Board meetings have considered a number of matters that the Council has had interest in. I have attached copies of the marked agendas for the two most recent Planning Board meetings so that you are aware of decisions that were made by the Board. As always, videos of the meetings are on ELCAT and minutes are posted online.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Menard