



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

January 8, 2019

Good evening –

The Mobile Food Pantry that was approved for \$70,150 funding through the Community Development Grant Program is moving forward. The major expense will be the purchase of a van & equipment that will be used to create the “mobile” program. Although the Council approved the plan originally, I am sure Carolyn can provide an update as the program gets closer to implementation.

Recreation Director Donna Prather was approached about starting a horseback riding program at Brown’s Farm. We have checked with MIA about liability concerns and the impact on our insurance. Our member services representative stated “horse riding isn’t more dangerous than other sports & a swimming pool” so with approval by the Recreation Commission, we will be proceeding with starting a horseback riding program at the Brown’s Farm property.

As part of the effort to help offset impacts that may result from the development and operation of gaming facilities in the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Legislature created the Community Mitigation Fund (“CMF”) as part of the Expanded Gaming Act. Pursuant to the Act, applications for funding projects that would mitigate issues a community has experienced from the casino’s opening, I have asked Department Heads to let me know of any impacts they have seen. No one has observed any, however, if any Councilmen have heard of any impact, please let me know so that we can discuss remedies and apply for funding.

Also related to the casino, the Town has received the first payment of \$100,000 from MGM. This annual payment was agreed to with the Board of Selectmen in 2014 as we are a designated “Surrounding Community” to the casino. That money has no parameters attached to it. Please let me know if you would like to have discussion of use of that money at a future Council meeting.

Due to extremely wet weather we experienced this fall, organics increased at the reservoir that is the source of our drinking which in turn called for Springfield Water and Sewer to increase the chlorination of the water. This has resulted in our water testing high in Haloacetic Acid 5’s (HAA5). I have attached a press release that is going out Monday along with a letter that is being sent to all residents that receive their water from East Longmeadow. Our Water and Sewer Administrator Felix Vachon Jr. has been working closely with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission and the DEP to take the necessary actions to remedy the issue. Mr. Vachon is available to answer any questions you may have. His contact information is on the attached letter and press release.

For your information, I have attached a copy of the 2019 Town Hall holiday schedule so you are aware of when Town Hall will be closed throughout the year.

Reminders:

Veterans Memorial Committee fundraiser at Mario’s Café Ambiance
January 16, 2019 from 5-8 p.m.

I will be at the MMA conference Friday, January 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Menard