

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord, Rich Kuklewicz, and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; Tax Collector/Treasurer Eileen Seymour; and Planning Director Maureen Pollock.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Minutes: Montague Meetings of August 18, 2025 if available

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2025. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved.

Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Licensing and requests for Use of Public Property

- **Request Contract to be signed between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Power; Use of the Unity Park Riverfront for Northeast Unity Car Event parking on Sunday, September 21, 2025, co-sponsored by RiverCulture**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Contract to be signed between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Power; Use of the Unity Park Riverfront for Northeast Unity Car Event Parking on Sunday, September 21, 2025, co-sponsored by RiverCulture. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Request for Use of Public Property, Public Demonstration for Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil beginning at the Peskeompskut Park, down avenue A and over Gill-Montague Bridge on October 23, 2025 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Requested by Brick House Community Resource Center**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property, Public Demonstration for Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil beginning at the Peskeompskut Park, down avenue A and over Gill-Montague Bridge on October 23, 2025 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM; requested by Brick House Community Resource Center. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved.

Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Eileen Seymour, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Approve bond anticipation note (BAN) financing schedule and associated documents for previously authorized capital projects

Goldman makes the motion to approve the bond anticipation note (BAN) financing schedule and associated documents for previously authorized capital projects as requested. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Planning Director

- **Planning Board's Petition for Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Changes to the Official Zoning Map (Rezoning Amendments relative to Farren Sites)**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to refer the Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Changes to the Official Zoning Map (Rezoning Amendments relative to Farren Sites) back to the Planning Board for a public hearing. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Authorize Contract of Services with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for preparing Town's ten-year Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Contract value is \$34,000.00 to be funded from Planning Assistance Grant from the MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affair**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Contract of Services with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for preparing the Town's ten-year Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP); contract value is \$34,000.00 to be funded from Planning Assistance Grant from the MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affair. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Announcement: Town is selected by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to receive support in developing an updated hazard mitigation plan**

Pollock announces that the Town has been selected by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to receive support in developing an updated hazard mitigation plan.

Personnel Board

- **Request for Town credit cards for Adam Tocci, Town Assessor and Fern Smith, Selectboard Executive Assistant, each for \$2,500.00**

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Goldman makes the motion to authorize Town credit cards for Adam Tocci, Town Assessor and Fern Smith, Selectboard Executive Assistant, each for \$2,500.00. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Accept Letter of Resignation from Ariel Elan from the Montague Energy Committee effective September 8, 2025; and appoint Ariel Elan as a Member of Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Committee, effective September 9, 2025 for a 3-year term, ending June 30, 2028**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the Letter of Resignation from Ariel Elan from the Montague Energy Committee effective September 8, 2025; and to appoint Ariel Elan as a Member of Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Committee, effective September 9, 2025 for a 3-year term, ending June 30, 2028. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Special Town Meeting

- **Set Date and Warrant Schedule for Fall Special Town Meeting: Meeting Date October 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Close Warrant 10/6. Article Requests due 9/23**

Goldman makes the motion to set the date and time of the Fall Special Town Meeting for October 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM; and to close the Warrant on 10/6/25. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Pre-Town Meeting Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 PM**

There will be a Pre-Town Meeting on Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM. Ramsey will offer training for new members at 5:30 to get them oriented to how Town Meeting works.

- **Discuss Schedule for Six-Town Regionalization Vote**

Discussion ensues regarding having a second Special Town Meeting in order to discuss the Six-Town Regionalization Vote. Ramsey will work on determining an appropriate date.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Presentation of Draft FY26-31 Capital Improvement Plan**

Nolan-Zeller presents the Draft of the FY26-31 Capital Improvement Plan.

- **Authorize Contract of Services with Weston & Sampson for limited subsurface investigation at 38 Avenue A. Contract value is \$49,995.00 to be funded by MA Public Library Construction Grant from MA Board of Library Commissioners, and Town Meeting appropriations**

Goldman make the motion to authorize the Contract of Services with Weston & Sampson for limited subsurface investigation at 38 Avenue A; contract value is \$49,995.00 to be funded by MA Public Library Construction Grant from MA Board of Library Commissioners, and Town Meeting appropriations. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Authorize Change Order with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. for Avenue A Streetscape Improvements Project. Change Order value is \$600.00 to be funded with project contingency**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Change Order with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. for Avenue A Streetscape Improvements Project; Change Order value is \$600.00 to be funded with project contingency. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Authorize Change Order with All Star Abatement for Strathmore Mill Footbridge Asbestos Remediation. Change Order value is \$7,358.86 to be funded with project contingency**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Change Order with All Star Abatement for Strathmore Mill Footbridge Asbestos Remediation; Change Order value is \$7,358.86 to be funded with project contingency. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Authorize Contract of Services with Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd for Montague Center Complete Streets engineering services. Contract value is \$61,000 to be funded by Town Meeting appropriation**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Contract of Services with Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd for Montague Center Complete Streets engineering services; Contract value is \$61,000 to be funded by Town Meeting appropriation. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **First Street Water Main/Closure status and repair strategy**

The Town is continuing to collaborate actively with the TF Water Department on repairing the damage to First Street that was caused by the water main break. We assisted the TF Water Department with getting an emergency waiver from the State Department Division of Capital Asset Management Maintenance. The Water Department is currently working on getting three quotes.

- **Planned Closure of Fifth Street Bridge 9/21 to 9/27**

Mass DOT District 2 has been notified by FirstLight that the annual canal drawdown is going to be happening from Sunday, September 21 through Saturday, September 27.

- **Other project status/Library Project**

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This Thursday there is going to be a Concept Reveal for the Library Project at the Great Falls Discovery Center and via ZOOM from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Overview of potential Lodging Tax/FRCOG Short-Term Rental Study**
Ramsey gives an overview of a potential Lodging Tax/FRCOG Short-Term Rental Study. Sixteen out of twenty-six municipalities in Franklin County have opted to have this tax. The Selectboard agrees to have Ramsey prepare a Warrant Article.
- **Opportunity for Town to allow for conversion of On-Premises Wine and Malt Only Licenses to All-Alcoholic Beverages License**
Ramsey discusses a potential conversion of On-Premises Wine and Malt Only Licenses to All-Alcoholic Beverages License. The Selectboard agrees to have Ramsey prepare a Warrant Article.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements**
None

Next Meeting:

Selectboard: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Goldman makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye