

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING & HEARING

Wednesday, December 11th, 2025 – 5:30 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Nelson, Rachel Stoler and Melanie Ames-Zamojski

Staff: Geneva Bickford, Board of Health Clerk, Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator

Other: Marianne Mulherin (via Zoom), Jeffrey Taylor (via Zoom), Marian Goldman (in person), Ashely Gough (in person) and Colton Garelli (in person)

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:30 PM

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the Hearing at 5:30 PM

Hearing: 34 Montague Ave – Votes may be taken.

- Board to follow up on 34 Montague Ave and to discuss further enforcement if necessary.
 - The Board and the property owner, Jeffrey Taylor (“Taylor”) discussed the lack of water service at 34 Montague Ave. Taylor expects he will be able to pay the balance owed and have water restored to the property by Friday, December 12, 2025. The board agreed to extend the deadline to pay and restore service to December 16, 2025 and the health clerk will follow up with Taylor to confirm service is restored.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to extend the deadline to restore water service to 34 Montague Avenue, Turners Falls, MA to December 16, 2025. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Melanie Ames-Zamojski closed the Hearing at 5:42 PM

Discussion: Marianne’s Bakery – Votes may be taken:

- Marianne Smith-Mulherin is requesting the Board waive the fee for her Residential Kitchen License.
 - Marianne Smith-Mulherin (“Mulherin”) was present via Zoom to discuss her request to waive the Residential Kitchen fee of \$180. Mulherin explained her residential kitchen is a hobby and she sells her products at the Farmer’s Market only. Mulherin discussed the various fees involved with running a residential kitchen in addition to the residential kitchen fee and feels the fee is too costly. The board decided to table this discussion and continue it at the Board of Health January 28, 2026 meeting. It was determined that there would be NO late fee assessed due to the request to waive and the decision to table for further discussion and they will also consider reducing the residential kitchen fee.

Interview: Board of Health to interview Colton Garelli for Director of Public Health – Votes may be taken:

- Board of Health to interview Colton Garelli
 - The board members along with Geneva Bickford, Health Clerk, Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator (“Ramsey”) and Marina Goldman interviewed Colton Garelli (“Garelli”) for the Director of Public Health position open with the Town of Montague. Garelli currently works for the Holyoke Board of Health as a Sanitarian II. He has experience with a vast majority of the job requirements for the Director of Health position. Garelli also holds several of the required certifications as well and would be able to obtain any other required certifications to perform the duties of the job.

Interview: Board of Health to interview Ashley Gough for Director of Public Health – Votes may be taken:

- Board of Health to interview Ashley Gough.
 - The board members along with Geneva Bickford, Health Clerk, Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator (“Ramsey”) and Marina Goldman interviewed Ashely Gough (“Gough”) for the Director of Public Health position open with the Town of Montague. Gough is currently employed as the Director of Public Health for the Town of Orange. Gough has also served as the Shared Servies Coordinator for the Town of Orange. Gough also brings with her grant administration experience. Gough has most of the required certifications and the certifications she does not have she is able to obtain and has scheduled testing/class dates for those that are missing.

Board Discussion of Candidates Colton Garelli and Ashley Gough – Votes may be taken:

- The board members, Ramsey, Goldman and Bickford discussed the candidates and ultimately decided to offer the position to Ashley Gough. They felt Gough’s familiarity with the Town of Montague along with her experience in the Town of Orange that she would be the best candidate for the job. The board authorized Ames-Zamojski to offer and discuss employment with the Town of Montague as the Director of Public Health to Ashley Gough.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to direct Melanie Ames-Zamojski to discuss employment with Ashely Gough. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the November 19, 2025 minutes.

*Micheal Nelson **Motioned** to accept the November 19, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the November 26, 2025 minutes.

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the November 26, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Director’s Report:

- Board to Review the Director’s November 2025 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the November 2025 Director’s Report as written.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Director’s Report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Nurse Report:

- Board to Review the Nurse’s November 2025 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the November 2025 Nurse’s Report as written.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Nurse’s Report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Board to Review the Animal/Barn Inspector’s November 2025 Report.

- The board unanimously voted to accept the November 2025 Animal/Barn Inspector's Report as written.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector's Report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler.
Motion passes.

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Discussion: Melanie January Vacation 1/15/26 to 1/25/26 – Votes may be taken:

- Board to discuss which member will be on call in an emergency or for urgent matters while Melanie is on vacation.
 - Melanie Ames-Zamojski, the Chair of the Board of Health will be on vacation from January 15, 2026 to January 25, 2026 and will be unreachable for the entire vacation. Michael Nelson will be the main point of contact in an emergency and for any matters while Ames-Zamojski is unavailable.

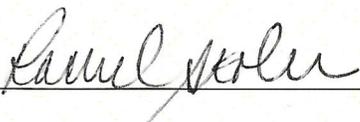
Unanticipated Discussion:

- 2 Kingsley Ave:
 - Bickford received a complaint regarding 2 Kingsley Ave on December 7, 2025. That complaint was regarding a possible issue with the heat being shut off and possible hoarding conditions inside the apartment.
- 453 Millers Falls Rd:
 - This is still an ongoing issue. The tenant called with another complaint of heat issues and the tenant appeared in Court. Bickford took a phone call from the Court regarding the tenants heating issued and Bickford had Ames-Zamojski call the Court. After conversation with the Court and with the tenant Ames-Zamojski has determined that the order is from the Court and the enforcement has to come from the Courts not the board of health.

Meeting adjourned: 7:51 PM

Melanie Ames-Zamojski **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Rachel Stoler.
Motion passes.

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye, and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Approved by: 

Date: 1/28/26

Documents:

34 Montague Ave Notice of Hearing;
34 Montague Ave October 21, 2025 Order to Correct;
Colton Garelli Resume;
Ashley Gough Resume;
November 19, 2025 Minutes;
November 26, 2025 Minutes;
November 2025 Director's Report;
November 2025 Nurse's Report;
November 2025 Animal Inspector/Barn Inspector's Report;