

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom

February 8, 2021

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings,

Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Parks & Recreation Director Jon Dobosz, Fire Chief John Zellman, Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, and FRTA Liaison Jeff Singleton.

Link to VIMEO Recording: <https://vimeo.com/510440854>

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

Board of Health Chair opens the meeting, roll call taken.

Approve Minutes:

Joint Selectboard and Board of Health: February 1, 2021

- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the Minutes for the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: February 1, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the Minutes for the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: February 1, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - 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

Nelson announces that the date for the Great Falls Festival is tentatively set for October 23, 2021.

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director

• Winter Programs

- Dobosz states he would like to salvage the youth basketball and Bluefish Swim Team programs. He has discussed this with the EMT and the Gill-Montague School District.
- Wasiuk states that he has reviewed the plan and gives his approval.
- In response to a question by Dobosz, Wasiuk states he has no problem with allowing non-residents to join the program. Ellis adds the caveat that participants should reside in the State.
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the Winter Program plan for Parks and Recreation. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the Winter Program plan for Parks and Recreation. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Use of Public Property: "Drive-thru" Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza, April 3, 2021, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: "Drive-thru" Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza, April 3, 2021, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM, rain date: April 10. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Pole Location Hearing

Eversource is requesting 1 new pole and anchor along Park St. to support the line angle for line upgrade and voltage conversion. Pole will be located across the street from existing pole 9

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Eversource to install a 1 new pole and anchor along Park St. to support the line angle for line upgrade and voltage conversion. Pole will be located across the street from existing pole 9. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Pole Location Hearing

Eversource is requesting 1 new pole and anchor near the Intersection of Park St. and L St. to support the line angle for line upgrade and voltage conversion. Pole will be located across the street from existing pole 15

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Eversource to install a 1 new pole and anchor near the Intersection of Park St. and L St. to support the line angle for line upgrade and voltage conversion. Pole will be

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located across the street from existing pole 15. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Pole Location Hearing

Eversource is requesting 2 new poles along Unity St. and Broadview Height to reduce excessive span distances for line upgrade and voltage conversation. Poles will be located along existing 3-phase line underneath the existing wire

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Eversource to install 2 new poles along Unity St. and Broadview Height to reduce excessive span distances for line upgrade and voltage conversation. Poles will be located along existing 3-phase line underneath the existing wire. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discussion:

- Kuklewicz expresses concern regarding the now-redundant poles.
- Mike Kane, municipal liaison for Eversource, states that work is being done to remove the double poles.
- Jamie Beauchesne, overhead supervisor in Montague, states 34 double poles have been pulled and more will continue to be.
- In response to a question by Ellis, Beauchesne states that temporary transformers would be removed as part of closing the project out this year.

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

- **Update on Montague COVID case counts and other summary data**
Active cases from January 24 through February 6 equals 21; cumulative cases from October 1, 2020 through February 6, 2021 equals 184; and positive cases from March 1, 2020 through February 6 equals 213.
- **Review Reopening Plan Relative to any changes in trends**
 - The Town Hall will be open to manage public entry beginning tomorrow morning from 10:30-12:30 and 3:30-5:30. All previous requirements are in place.
 - Ellis stresses that opening of the Town Hall is due to the fact that there is some business that is important to be conducted in person. He hopes that people will still make use of email, phone, and other means of communication and transaction. There continues to be a drop box at the front of the building, as well as a collection box.
 - Boutwell mentions that due to an outbreak in Amherst, another slow-down will be happening in that area as well as neighboring communities.
 - All three Montague Public Libraries will be open for half-hour appointments beginning Tuesday, February 9.
- **Update on Vaccine Distribution**
 - Zellman states that most of our 75+-year-old residents have scheduled their first vaccinations through their primary care physicians. Those that haven't are being funneled to Greenfield by Council of Aging and the Board of Health.
 - We have partnered with Greenfield and the FRCOG, and we will be hosting a clinic sometime the week of March 8. We will be rotating as clinic hosts with Deerfield, Buckland, Bernardston, etc., as we go through the phases.
 - Potter clarifies that 80-85% of our 75+-year-old residents have been contacted.
 - Ellis suggests that the Board of Health pursue the arrangement regarding providing manpower for the Greenfield clinics.
 - In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Zellman states he will contact Greenfield Chief of Staff Danielle Letourneau to find out whom health care professionals can contact to offer Greenfield support.
 - Ellis states that Greenfield is working on defining the nature of the roles and skill sets of the individuals that are most in need. He suggests that people who want to volunteer should contact our Board of Health.
- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**
 - The Baker-Polito Administration is trying to make the public more aware of their campaign, which includes a new call center for residents 75 and older to provide information on the vaccine.
 - There is a vaccine scheduling resource line on the mass.gov website, which will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30-5:00.

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Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

Sewer Abatement Request, First Half FY21 Billing

- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate \$1,955.89 for 55 Main St., Montague Center. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate the bill for 62 High St., Turners Falls. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously unapproved. Boutwell - Nay, Nelson - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate \$223.20 for 139 Turners Falls Rd., Montague. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate \$402.90 for 16 Hatchery Rd., Montague Center. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate \$1,887.95 for 5 Adams St., Lake Pleasant. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to set the amount of abatement to \$572.69 for 15 Dunton St., Turners Falls. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate the bill for 73 Fifth St., Turners Falls. Seconded by Nelson, unapproved. Boutwell - Nay, Nelson - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate the bill for 440 Old Greenfield Rd. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously unapproved. Boutwell - Nay, Nelson - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate \$315.54 for 21 Bernardo Drive, Montague. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously unapproved. Boutwell - Nay, Nelson - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to table the motion to abate the bill for 12 G St. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate \$2,683.89 for 171 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to abate the bill of 61 Randall Wood Dr., Montague. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously unapproved. Boutwell - Nay, Nelson - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*

Josh Goldman, Flower Power

180 Industrial Blvd. Option Extension

Boutwell makes the motion to Extend the Option by six months for 180 Industrial Boulevard as described. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

February 25, 2021 Special Town Meeting

- **STM Planning updates**
 - Ellis and Bogusz are preparing all meeting materials and intend to have everything out by Wednesday morning. Some of the material is in the process of being revised.
 - The Selectboard Office and Clerk's Office will be engaging Town Meeting members and making sure they understand how to log in.
 - There will be an attempt to partner people who need help with "tech buddies."
 - The Town Hall team had a meeting last week with OTI and run-throughs have taken place.
 - Training sessions for Town Meeting Members are planned for 6:30 PM on February 18 and 10 AM on February 20.
- **Special Town Meeting Warrant - To approve and execute draft warrant, attached hereto**
 - Nelson reads aloud the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on February 25, 2021 at 6:30 PM as read. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz*

Town Administrator's Report

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting/FRTA pilot project

- FRTA is going to begin a pilot of a new weekend service project beginning Sunday, February 14. Ellis reads aloud the announcement.

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- Singleton will propose to the FRTA Board during their March meeting that they send a letter to the Department of Transportation asking them to explain why we are the only transit authority in the State that does not have a fixed-route system on weekends.

Other:

- **Airplane Acquisition Request Meeting**
There will be a meeting around the airplane acquisition request on Saturday, February 13 at 11 AM. More information regarding the meeting will be put on the website.
- **Forest Management at Lake Pleasant**
Singleton reports that the Lake Pleasant Village Association met yesterday as the water district wants to do some forest management in and around the bridge that they are going to try and fix.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Selectboard Meeting, **MONDAY, February 22, 2021, 6:30 PM** via Zoom
- French King Bridge Public Hearing Webinar: February 25, 2021, 8:00 AM
<https://www.mass.gov/event/ervinggill-design-public-hearing-webinar-and-comment-period-2021-02-25t000100-0500-2021-02>

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye