

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
1 AVENUE A and VIA ZOOM  
Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz (*arrived later*), Matt Lord, and Chris Boutwell; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Town Planner Maureen Pollock; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; and RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto.

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

**Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting 3/31/25 and 4/7/25 if available**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Selectboard Meetings of 3/31/25 and 4/7/25 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - 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

**Sewer Commissioners with Chelsey Little, CWF Superintendent**

**Review Sewer Use Regulation (SUR) updates (with Sam Urkiel and Chris Nolan-Zeller)**

- Nolan-Zeller reviews the SUR updates.
- In response to a question by Boutwell, Nolan-Zeller states that the updates can be made accessible for public review.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Nolan-Zeller agrees to provide a document with the changes highlighted.
- In response to a question by Lord, Little states that the original Sewer User Regulations are on-line.
- In response to a question by Lord regarding the changes in terms of permit appeals for someone who is seeking a wastewater discharge permit, Nolan-Zeller and Little state that this would only be for industrial users.
- In response to a comment by Jeff Singleton from the Montague Reporter, Lord clarifies that in Article 9, Section 1: Billing Periods, "all annual charges and surcharges are to be billed on a monthly basis."

**Invitation for Bids (IFB) results for "Sludge Cake Hauling and Disposal Services"**

Little Shares that we had four bids for the Sludge Cake Hauling and Disposal Services for a 3-year contract starting July 1, 2025. Agresource Inc. is the low bidder.

**Project updates: Aeration Blowers/Diffusers, Main Generator, Septage Receiving Station**

- DEP has an energy grant called Gap Grant Assistance which we were initially going to use for a solar project. Little switched it to upgrading our Aeration Blowers.
- With regard to the Main Generator, everything is hooked up. We are just waiting for one cabinet before officially transferring over to the new generator.
- The Septage Receiving Station was delivered last week. Little displays a picture and describes some of its features.

**Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Compliance Inspection May 22nd**

DEP is going to do a Compliance Inspection on May 22nd.

**Permit Summary for March 2025**

- Little displays the Permit Summary
- Total chorine was higher than usual. It was a one-time incident.

**Anticipated National Water Main Change Order**

- Nolan-Zeller explains that construction costs for the Manhole Rehabilitation Project in Turners Falls was significantly lower than expected. We were able to identify additional manholes that could be added to the scope and achieved prior to the June 30th spending deadline. The total contract price with National Water Main Cleaning is now \$282,500.
- There will be another Change Order from the engineer for the additional design services for about \$30,000.

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve Change Order No. 1 with Wright Pierce and National Water Main Cleaning for the additional manholes as discussed, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Jon Dobosz, Parks & Rec Director**

Request is withdrawn. The event is canceled.

**Authorize Contract with Scott Dixon of Tailblock Coping Company in the amount of \$2,750.00 for Unity Skate Park repairs**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Scott Dixon of Tailblock Coping Company in the amount of \$2,750.00 for Unity Skate Park repairs. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture Director**

**Execute Contracts with Wheat Paste Mural Projects Artists: Ponnapa Prakkamakul, Sophia Foulkes and Aaron Meshon**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contracts with the Wheat Paste Mural Projects Artists: Ponnapa Prakkamakul, Sophia Foulkes and Aaron Meshon. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**First Friday Street Closure on June 6, 2025**

- **Use of Public Property: Request Permission to close Third St. from Avenue A to the municipal parking lot on Canal Street from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to close Third St. from Avenue A to the municipal parking lot on Canal Street from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM on June 6, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Entertainment Application: Live music to be held in closed section of Third St. from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Entertainment License as discussed on June 6, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Personnel Board**

**Appoint Jon-Marc Seimon to Montague Cultural Council effective April 15, 2025 for a 3-year term. Term expires 6/30/28**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jon-Marc Seimon to the Montague Cultural Council effective April 15, 2025 for a 3-year term; term expires 6/30/28. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Request authorization for Employee Credit Card for Tina Sulda with requested limit of \$25,000.00**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Employee Credit Card for Tina Sulda with a limit of \$25,000.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Kathy Lynch, Cultural Council**

**Request for allocation of \$9,000.00 from Community Development Discretionary Fund to support FY26 Local Cultural Council Grant awards for cultural programs**

*Boutwell makes the motion to allocate \$9,000.00 from the Community Development Discretionary Fund to support FY26 Local Cultural Council Grant awards for cultural programs. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Maureen Pollock, Planning Director**

**Proposed "slow down, turtle crossing" signs along Montague City Road from early May to the end of June**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the turtle crossing signs as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Community Workshop (not on agenda)**

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There will be a Community Workshop for the Montague City Village Center Rezoning Project at the Discovery Center on Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

**Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

**Discussion on Avenue A street trees**

- Nolan-Zeller reads aloud the Memorandum he sent to the Selectboard re: the Avenue A street trees project and our engagement with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn Care, Inc.
- Nolan-Zeller displays photos of the trees we are concerned about.
- Tree Committee member David Detmold states that the committee voted unanimously to try to save as many of the 12 ash trees in question. The committee believes taking and replacing only two, three, or four as opposed to all of them would make a less radical change to the streetscape. The contractor, however, feels that this is an all-or-nothing deal.
- Detmold shares that local arborist, Andy Vega, provided photos confirming the progress and success of the treatment we have been using against the Ash Borer infestation. Vega is also offering to help provide an informational kiosk at the location describing the treatments, as well as a monitoring trap that would draw attention to the fact that Montague has invested successfully in eliminating the infestation for now.
- Issues discussed include undesirability of crabapple trees as street trees, a system used in Japan to protect trees during construction work, existence of contingency funds, and possible negotiations with the contractor regarding compromises.

**Other Project Updates**

- Avenue A construction in front of Town Hall started today. A notification was sent out asking everyone to use the rear entrance to the building.
- Solar paneling is currently being installed on the Town Hall building.
- The 11th Street Bridge construction started today and will continue for approximately a month.

**Town Administrator's Business**

**20 N. Street Nuisance Dog Order follow-up**

- The dog owner registered the dog last week, got it vaccinated, and obtained documentation verifying that the dog is an emotional support animal.
- Counsel advises the Board to allow the owner the ADA accommodation, up to and until there is a nuisance violation.
- Kuklewicz would like us to remind the owner that they need to have proper confinement and care. Tying the dog is not an acceptable procedure.

**Notice of resignation of Town Moderator John Dempsey**

Ramsey announces the resignation of Town Moderator John Dempsey. Ray Godin is willing to coach Elizabeth Irving, who was a riding candidate when John Dempsey was running and just lost by a couple of votes.

**Resident concerns regarding parking of tractor trailers on Town streets in residential neighborhoods**

- We received two complaints from residents regarding tractor trailers parked in the neighborhood at the corner of L Street and Prospect Street, and the corner of 7th and Park Street.
- We have received a lot of complaints about this issue over the course of many months.
- There is nothing we can do enforcement-wise as there are no regulations saying tractor trailers cannot park on these streets.
- Ramsey states that in the past, we have written to tractor trailer owners asking them to park elsewhere as they are creating public nuisance and public safety concerns. These letters have worked, but inevitably the trucks come back.
- Ramsey suggests developing and adopting a regulation that would address prohibiting large commercial vehicles parking, specifically overnight, on Town streets.
- The Board suggests having DPW put up no parking signs at those locations.
- Kuklewicz suggests looking at what other Towns are doing.
- In response to a question by Lord, Ramsey states that a traffic control regulation can be adopted by the Selectboard following a public meeting. It does not have to go to Town Meeting.

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- A resident brought up concerns about other areas in Town that may be dangerous. Lord suggests that she give her pre-made list to DPW.

**Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements**

None

**Next Meeting:**

- **Selectboard, Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*