

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Matt Lord, and Marina Goldman (*joined at 6:41*); Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; and Airport Director Bryan Camden.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings: June 2, 2025

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meetings of June 2, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - 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

A resident, Kiara, shares her feeling that she thinks the Police Department and the Town need to do better for victims of sexual assault.

Chelsey Little, Sewer Commission

- **Other (*not on agenda*)**

Little shares that there is an ongoing electrical fire in the Montague Center pump station.

- **Execute Contract with Agresource, Inc. for Sludge Hauling and Disposal for a 3-year term effective July 1, 2025**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the Contract with Agresource, Inc. for Sludge Hauling and Disposal for a 3-year term effective July 1, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Trucked in solids revenue update, North Attleboro projected revenue of \$200,000 annually**

Agresource has been bringing small towns to us with their sludge on an emergency basis. It has worked smoothly. North Attleboro would like to use us for five sludge loads per week, which will generate a little over \$200,000 annually in revenue.

- **Public Presentation: MA DEP Gap II and Gap III Grant Projects: Aeration Blowers and Fine Bubble Diffusers**

Little reports that we have finished both our Aeration Blower Project and Fine Bubble Diffuser Project; and reviews project costs, annual cost savings, annual electricity savings, and payback times.

- **Approve MA DEP Gap II Grant Project reimbursement request in the amount of \$150,000 for Aeration Blowers.**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the MA DEP Gap II Grant Project reimbursement request in the amount of \$150,000 for the Aeration Blowers; and authorize the Vice-Chair Kuklewicz to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.

Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Approve MA DEP Gap III Grant Project reimbursement request in the amount of \$73,375 for the Fine Bubble Diffusers (*not on agenda*)**

Lord makes the motion to approve the MA DEP Gap III Grant Project reimbursement request in the amount of \$73,375 for the Fine Bubble Diffusers; and authorize the Vice-Chair Kuklewicz to sign it. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved.

Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Update: Lake Pleasant Grinder Pump Alarm Systems installed June 4, 2025**

Little states that the new Lake Pleasant Pump Alarm Systems have been installed. The alarm is much quieter than the previous alarm system.

- **Sewer Rate Hearing scheduled for next Sewer Commission meeting on July 14th, 2025**

The new Sewer Rate Hearing will be scheduled for July 14, 2025.

- **Permit Summary for May 2025**

- Little displays the Permit Summary for May 2025.
- We had an *E. coli* violation at the beginning of May, which is due to the aeration.
- There have been no other issues.

Petition from Leh Family Realty Trust to Accept Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive

Lord makes the motion to vote its intention to lay out the Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive as shown on a plan entitled Revised Street Acceptance Plan of Land in Montague, Massachusetts dated November 22, 2024, prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc.; and to forward this vote and the plan to the Planning Board for its comments and recommendations pursuant to G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 81G and 81I. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development

Alyssa Larose, Director of Housing Development from RDI

Discuss forgiveness of an outstanding 1992 CDBG Housing Rehab Loan

Kuklewicz makes the motion to forgive the loan in the amount of \$13,290 for property at 17 Hillside Avenue in Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye

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Bryan Camden, Airport Manager

- **Approve Grant Assurances from Mass DOT Aeronautics Division in the amount of \$27,500.00 to Install Backup Generator in Administration Building at Turners Falls Airport**
- **Approve Grant Assurances from Mass DOT Aeronautics Division in the amount of \$129,411.50 for Pioneer Aviation Parking Lot Improvements**
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Grant Assurances from Mass DOT Aeronautics Division in the amount of \$27,500.00 to Install Backup Generator in Administration Building at Turners Falls Airport; and in the amount of \$129,411.50 for Pioneer Aviation Parking Lot Improvements; and to authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

Personnel Board

- **Announce Retirement of Christopher Williams, Chief of Police**
 - Williams announces his upcoming retirement in December and states he would like to be involved in the process of finding a new Chief.
 - Lord states that anyone who is willing to be part of the search committee can contact the Town Administrator.
- **Request for Conditional Offer of Employment to Brian Pfister, Patrol Officer pending completion of physical, psychological test and offer \$10,000.00 Sign-On Bonus.**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to give a Conditional Offer of Employment to Brian Pfister, Patrol Officer pending completion of physical, psychological test and offer \$10,000.00 Sign-On Bonus. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye
- **Report of the Assessor Hiring Committee and recommendation of Board of Assessors to Appoint Adam Tocci as Director of Assessing, NAGE Union, Grade C Step1 (\$71,510), effective July 7, 2025 - June 30, 2028**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Adam Tocci as Director of Assessing, NAGE Union, Grade C Step1 (\$71,510), effective July 7, 2025 - June 30, 2028. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Appoint Annabel Levine to Assistant Manager of Great Falls Farmers Market, \$750 Stipend, effective July 1, 2025, for a 1-year term ending 6/30/2026**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Annabel Levine to Assistant Manager of Great Falls Farmers Market, \$750 Stipend, effective July 1, 2025, for a 1-year term ending 6/30/2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Appoint Ethan Thrower to DPW Summer Help effective 6/17/2025 until 8/28/2025, 36 hours per week at \$16.00/hour. Will work 9 hours per day, 4 days per week**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Ethan Thrower to DPW Summer Help effective 6/17/2025 until 8/28/2025, 36 hours per week at \$16.00/hour; will work 9 hours per day, 4 days per week. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Appoint Abigail Moore, Extra Clerical in Town Clerk's Office, 15-35 hours/week, \$17.75/hr. until 12/31/25**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Abigail Moore, Extra Clerical in Town Clerk's Office, 15-35 hours/week, \$17.75/hr. until 12/31/25. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Appoint Debra Bourbeau, Town Clerk's Consultant, 10 hrs/week, \$45.06/hr. until 12/31/25**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Debra Bourbeau as Town Clerk's Consultant, 10 hrs/week, \$45.06/hr. until 12/31/25. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **CWF Position Alterations:**
 - **Appoint Timothy Little to CWF Lead Operator, Grade E, Step 7. UE Union at \$33.76/hr. effective July 1, 2025. Formerly CWF Foreman**
 - **Appoint Samuel Stevens to CWF Foreman, Grade D, Step 1, NAGE Union at \$31.42/hr effective July 1, 2025.**
 - *Goldman makes the motion to appoint Timothy Little, formerly CWF Foreman, to CWF Lead Operator, Grade E, Step 7, UE Union at \$33.76/hr. effective July 1, 2025; and to appoint Samuel Stevens to CWF Foreman, Grade D, Step 1, NAGE Union at \$31.42/hr. effective July 1, 2025. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

Public Hearing to adopt new Wage and Classification Plan

- Ramsey displays and reviews the Fiscal Year 2026 Wage Scale (Police not included).
- *Goldman makes the motion to adopt the Wage and Classification Plan as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

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- **Amendment to Site Readiness Grant Agreement with MassDevelopment - Term extension through June 30, 2026**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to amend the Site Readiness Grant Agreement with MassDevelopment - Term extension through June 30, 2026; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Change Order #2 with National Water Main Cleaning Company. Change Order value is \$11,775.00 to be funded by contingency within Rural Development Fund Grant**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize Change Order #2 with National Water Main Cleaning Company and to authorize the Chair to sign it; Change Order value is \$11,775.00 to be funded by contingency within Rural Development Fund Grant. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Updates from Library Building Steering Committee (LBSC) - designer selection**
Four design firms were interviewed. Nolan-Zeller states that we are hoping to have a contract soon with the top finalist.
- **Other Updates**
None

Town Administrator's Business

- **Special Town Meeting dates**
 - The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 22.
 - The Fall Special Town Meeting will tentatively take place on Wednesday, October 22.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements**
None

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30a, §21(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation with Firstlight Power, Inc., if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares

- The Chair declares that holding this discussion in open meeting would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30a, §21(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation with Firstlight Power, Inc. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM