

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

### VIA ZOOM

**Monday, August 18, 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; Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter; Planning Director Maureen Pollock; and Police Chief Chris Williams.

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

**Approve Minutes: Montague Meetings of July 21 and August 4, 2025 if available**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes of July 21 and August 4, 2024. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

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

None

**Pole Location Hearings - Petitioner: Eversource**

- Lord reads aloud the Pole Location Hearing Notices
- **Eversource installed pole needed to service a new building at 221 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA**  
*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the installation of the pole needed to service a new building at 221 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Eversource to install a new midspan pole to alleviate a large span length and resolve service issues at 94 Federal Street, Montague, MA**  
*Lord makes the motion to install a new midspan pole to alleviate a large span length and resolve service issues at 94 Federal Street, Montague, MA. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Eversource to install 35' fully owned pole and span guy to help support the pole lining going down Norman Circle. This request is due to a broken tree guy. Minor tree trimming may be required. Location is 202 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA**  
*Lord makes the motion to install a 35' fully owned pole and span guy to help support the pole lining going down Norman Circle. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Eversource and Verizon reconductor project is planned to improve reliability and protection in the area. The new conductor that will be installed is heavier and it requires shorter spans and relocation of poles from out of the ROW at Dry Hill Road in Montague, MA**  
*Lord makes the motion to approve the reconductor project as presented by Eversource. Seconded by Kuklewicz - Aye. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

**License Requests:**

- **Use of Peskeompskut Park: RiverCulture seeks permission for use of the bandshell for a music festival on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 1:00 AM to 7:00 PM**  
*Goldman makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park: RiverCulture seeks permission for use of the bandshell for a music festival on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 1:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Request for a One-Day License: Grace O'Connell-Bach/Montague Retreat Center for a rehearsal dinner at the Montague Retreat Center, 177 Ripley Road, Montague, MA on September 26, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM.**  
*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the One-Day License: Grace O'Connell-Bach/Montague Retreat Center for a rehearsal dinner at the Montague Retreat Center, 177 Ripley Road, Montague, MA on September 26, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM.; contingent that there is a TIPS-certified server and that the Board of Health signs off on this. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Roberta Potter, COA Director/Mass in Motion**

**MOU with Franklin Regional Council of Governments for Montague FY26 for age-friendly planning (Mass in Motion)**

*Goldman makes the motion to authorize the MOU with Franklin Regional Council of Governments for Montague FY26 for age-friendly planning (Mass in Motion). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Maureen Pollock, Planning Director**

- **Planning Board Recommendations and Updated Plan for Petition from Leh Family Realty Trust & Burek Family Trust to Discontinue and Abandon 1969 Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive; and Accept Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive**

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*Kuklewicz makes the motion to discontinue and abandon the 1969 Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive and accept the Public Roadway Layout of Burke Drive as approved unanimously by the Planning Board, as well as accept an easement in favor of 4 Burek Drive under the accepted Revised Public Roadway Layout. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Farren Rezoning Meeting Announcement:** At the Planning Board's August 26th meeting, residents will have the opportunity to review the full draft zoning language for the Farren sites and provide feedback to help shape the zoning.

Pollock makes the public announcement for the Planning Board's August 26th meeting.

- **Status update on Preliminary FEMA Floodplain Mapping - Presentation and Q/A led by Nadia Madden, DCR Floodplain Management Specialist**

DCR Floodplain Management Specialist Nadia Madden gives a status update on Preliminary FEMA Floodplain Mapping:

- DCR Flood Hazard Management Program
- Who uses FEMA mapping products?
- FEMA Mapping Process Overview
- FEMA Mapping Status: Montague
  - Discovery
  - Analysis & Mapping
  - Preliminary Flood Maps
  - Preliminary Flood Maps: Appeals
  - Preliminary Flood Maps: Comments
- Map Adoptions
- DCR Flood Hazard Management Program Office

#### **Personnel Board - with Police Chief Williams**

**Appoint Todd Michon to part-time Police Officer, effective August 18, 2025, at \$30.00 per hour; and appoint Zachary Caloon to part-time Police Officer, effective August 18, 2025, at \$30.00 per hour**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Todd Michon and Zachary Caloon as part-time Police Officers, effective August 18, 2025, at \$30.00 per hour. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

Lord leaves the Selectboard meeting and Vice-Chair Rich Kuklewicz takes over running it.

#### **Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

- **Announce Award of \$52,401.00 for Unity Park Fieldhouse weatherization improvements from MA Green Communities Program**

Nolan-Zeller announces receipt of an Award of \$52,401.00 for Unity Park Fieldhouse weatherization improvements from MA Green Communities Program.

- **Updates from Library Building Steering Committee**

- The Library Building Steering Committee and the Library Trustees have unanimously voted to move forward with designing a new main library at 38 Avenue A.
- The Design Team will develop three different concepts and will present them at a hybrid public meeting on September 11 at 6:00 PM at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

- **Strathmore Mill Footbridge abatement - timeline for asbestos removal, utility cutting & capping**

- All Star Abatement is going to be on-site starting next week and will complete the asbestos removal within a week.
- Montague DPW will be going there the week of Labor Day to do the cutting and capping of utility lines.
- Firstlight is targeting mid to late September for the demolition of the bridge, which is expected to partially coincide with the annual canal drawdown.
- There is a chance that both Canal Street and the rail trail are going to be closed for a period of time during the demolition.

- **Eversource Grid Upgrades - Notice of Filing, Public Hearing, and Request for Comments**

Nolan-Zeller shares that Eversource has filed a proposal with the Department of Public Utilities for system improvements that would increase the capacity of the local grid to accommodate distributed generation, specifically for the Towns of Montague, Gill, and Erving. The public hearing is going to be held on September 3rd at 3:00 PM at the Department of Public Utilities as well as via ZOOM.

- **Other Updates**

- **Parking Lots**

The parking lots at Town Hall and Third and Fourth Streets have been under construction. Third Street is complete and reopened. Fourth Street still needs to set a little bit before being reopened.

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- **Informal Parking Lot Access**

The access to the informal parking lot through Second Street Alley will be inaccessible to vehicles and pedestrians between August 25th and September 1st.

#### **Town Administrator's Business**

- **Execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) regarding third-party inspection of the Town's municipal transfer station; the MOU with FCSWMD regarding hauling of recyclables & hauling and disposal of solid waste, hauling and disposal of bulky wastes, and hauling and disposal of scrap metal and appliances; and the MOU with FCSWMD for regional household hazardous waste collection event**

*Goldman makes the motion to execute the three Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) as described regarding (1) third-party inspection of the Town's municipal transfer station; (2) hauling of recyclables & hauling and disposal of solid waste, hauling and disposal of bulky wastes, and hauling and disposal of scrap metal and appliances; and (3) regional household hazardous waste collection event. Seconded by Kuklewicz; unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Overview of potential lodging tax/FRCOG Short Term Rental Study**

Postponed for now

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

None

**Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §§21(a)(2) and 21(a)(3) conduct collective bargaining sessions and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining sessions (NEPBA Local 183 - Patrol); and Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §§21(a)(2) and 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NEPBA Local 183 - Sergeants)**

*Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Sessions 1 and 2. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Next Meeting:**

**Selectboard Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:30 PM at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA and via ZOOM**