

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

### VIA ZOOM

**Monday, September 22, 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; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; and DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel.

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

**Approve Minutes: Montague Meetings of September 15, 2025 if available**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025. 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 Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**

None

#### **Public Use and Event Licensing**

- **RiverCulture: Request Use of Public Property (sidewalk only) for Pre-Halloween Festive Bug Parade on October 3, 2025 from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM; and request for an Entertainment License to play recorded music (DJ) from 5:00 to 9:00 PM for activities at 147 Second Street lot on Friday, October 3, a RiverCulture-sponsored First-Friday event**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the Registration for Assembly and the Entertainment License as presented by Suzanne LoManto. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Matt Wolaver and the Shea Theater Arts Center**

**Request for Use of Public Property to close Shea Parking Lot (alleyway) from Avenue A to the back of the Shea building from 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Thursday, October 2, 2025; and for an Entertainment License requested for the outdoor performance by the Giant Harp on Thursday, October 2, 2025**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Registration for Assembly and Use of Public Property at the Shea Theater Parking Lot from 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Thursday, October 2, 2025; and an associated Entertainment License for that date as well for dancing, music, and live vocalists of five rock band members. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved.*

*Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

#### **Flower Power Growers, Inc. with John Stobierski**

**Request to amend existing Host Community Agreement for cannabis manufacturing establishment at 180 Industrial Boulevard to comply with Cannabis Control Commission**

- Goldman recuses herself.
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to adopt the amended Host Community Agreement for cannabis manufacturing establishment at 180 Industrial Boulevard to comply with Cannabis Control Commission. Seconded by Lord, approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

#### **Parks and Recreation Department Business - Jon Dobosz, Director**

- **Approve Contract for Maintenance of Skate Park with Tailblock Concrete LLC for \$2,550.00**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the Contract for Maintenance of Skate Park with Tailblock Concrete LLC for \$2,550.00 and execute as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Request the Selectboard designates the Bluefish Swim Coach position as a special municipal employee position**

*Lord makes the motion to designate Fern Smith as a special municipal employee for her role as the Bluefish Swim Coach. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Department of Public Works Business - Sam Urkiel, Superintendent**

- **Recommendation to adopt new Transfer Station Fee Schedule**

*Goldman makes the motion to adopt the new Transfer Station Fee Schedule. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Execute Agreement between Town of Montague and Tighe & Bond for Engineering Services for Sanitary Landfill Environmental Monitoring, \$27,800.00**

*Goldman makes the motion to execute the Agreement between the Town of Montague and Tighe & Bond for Engineering Services for Sanitary Landfill Environmental Monitoring in the amount of \$27,800.00, and execute as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Review of DPW Summer Projects**

- Third and Fourth Street have been paved.

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- Town Hall has been based. That work should be finished up by the end of next week.
- At the end of this week, we should see some asphalt removed on First Street to patch the water break that occurred a few weeks ago.
- South Street has been paved.
- Taylor Hill Road has been reclaimed with a base coat starting at the end of this week.

#### **Personnel Board**

**Employment Contract with Director of Public Health Ryan Paxton. Hire at Grade C Step 6 (\$82,882.80), retroactive to July 1, 2025**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the status change in the Employment Contract with the Director of Public Health Ryan Paxton from Grade C Step 4 to Grade C Step 6, to be effective retroactively starting July 1, 2025. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

#### **FRTA, Jeff Singleton**

##### **FRTA Advisory Board**

Singleton gives an introduction to the FRTA, then summarizes their Agenda.

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

- **Request Authorization to apply for Mass DOT Local Early-Stage Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program for Industrial Blvd. Shared-Use Path Planning & Design**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the application for the Mass DOT Local Early-Stage Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program for Industrial Blvd. Shared-Use Path Planning & Design. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved.*

*Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Execute Grant Agreement with MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. Grant award is \$485,750 and will fund "The Hill Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Master Planning."**

*Lord makes the motion to execute the Grant Agreement with MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program; the grant award is \$485,750 and will fund "The Hill Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Master Planning." Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Update on Strathmore Footbridge Asbestos Abatement; anticipated Change Order #2 from All Star Abatement, Inc.**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve Change Order #2 from All Star Abatement, Inc. in the amount of \$10,747.50 for unforeseen additional vermiculite abatement. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Other Project Updates**

None

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

- **Airport Industrial Park Land Swap**

The Franklin County Technical School is looking to develop a new animal science program, which would require land to build a new school and some paddocks. Ramsey discusses the possibility of swapping Parcels 15A and 11, subject to the approval and authority of the Airport Commission. The FCTS will be looking for a Statement of Intent from the Selectboard.

- **Follow-up on natural gas contract**

Ramsey states that following our previous discussion at the last meeting regarding a natural gas contract, we are now locked into a contract at \$0.71/therm, which would be effective from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2029.

- **Follow-up on 9/15 Kearsarge PILOT presentation**

Ramsey shares a revised slide from Tocci's presentation last week. The proposed PILOT agreement is \$17.946 per MW.

- **Authorize to have the Town of Montague be a member of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Services District**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize ongoing membership of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Services District. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

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

None

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

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*Lord makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30a, §§21(a)(2) and 21(a)(3) to conduct collective bargaining sessions and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NEPBA Local 183 - Patrol). Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

**Next Meeting:**

Selectboard: Monday, September 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM