

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, September 29, 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; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; 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 September 22, 2025 if available

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2025. Seconded by Goldman, approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Abstain

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

Cocina Lupita LLC, Joshua Breitner

Request approval for Liquor License for Cocina Lupita Restaurant at 125 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Liquor License for Cocina Lupita Restaurant at 125 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Fall Special Town Meeting

First Reading of October 22, 2025 Special Town Meeting Warrant, attached hereto; votes may be taken

Ramsey summarizes each Article on the October 22, 2025 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Personnel Board

Review and deliberate finalists for the Chief of Police position

- Each Selectboard member summarizes their thoughts after their individual interviews with each of the two finalists for the Chief of Police position.
- *Lord makes the motion to ask the Town Administrator to engage Jason Haskins in negotiation to work for the Town of Montague as the Chief of Police. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye*
- Goldman volunteers to sit in with Ramsey during the negotiating process.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Update on Strathmore Footbridge Removal; funding source for additional asbestos remediation**
FirstLight has agreed to provide the \$6,150 overrun that is needed to finish the asbestos abatement work on the bridge.
- **Announce creation of online repository with documents and updates on the Strathmore Mill Clean-up Project**
Nolan-Zeller announces the creation on the Town website of an online repository with documents and updates on the Strathmore Mill Clean-up Project. This will be updated on a monthly basis.
- **Authorize Contract with Fuss & O'Neill for Engineering Services for Hill Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Mater Plan. Contract value is \$446,500 to be funded by Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant**
Lord makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Fuss & O'Neill for Engineering Services for Hill Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Mater Plan; the contract value is \$446,500 to be funded by Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**
Nolan thanks everyone for their patience during the construction at Town Hall and in downtown Turners. Everything is moving along nicely.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Announce the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Montague and New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 183 (Patrol)**
Ramsey announces the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Montague and New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 183.
- **Memo from Treasurer regarding trash barrel sticker reimbursement to retail vendors**
 - Ramsey states that the Treasurer, Eileen Seymour would like to reimburse retailers \$3 for every annual trash barrel sticker that they sell.
 - Seymour also asks the Selectboard to do an analysis of the trash fees. Kuklewicz suggests looking into what other communities are charging. Lord would like the analysis to occur after the Special Town Meeting.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, September 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM

- **Planning for anticipated November 18 Special Election for Six-Town Regionalization Vote**

Ramsey states that we have not formally received the notice of the Regionalization Agreement from the Six-Town Regionalization Planning Board, but it is imminent. He asks the Selectboard to hold Tuesday, November 18 for the Special Election.

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

Ramsey states he met with the Inspector General on Friday and had discussions about how to help small towns with some of their challenges (i.e., procurement of vehicles, services, etc.). The Inspector General has instituted a program that would enable each municipality to send one person to be trained as a Certified Public Purchasing Official.

Next Meeting:

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

Goldman makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye