

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, November 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord and Rich Kuklewicz; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Town Planner Maureen Pollock; and Board of Health Chair Melanie Ames Zamojski.

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

Approve Minutes: Montague Meetings of October 27, 2025

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2025. 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

Jeff Singleton shares that there is going to be an in-person public hearing regarding the local contribution to the Chapter 70 formula at Greenfield High School on Thursday, November 6 at 4:30 PM; and a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, November 18 at 4:00 PM.

Maureen Pollock, Director of Planning & Conservation

Authorize execution of \$35,700 grant award from MassDCR MassTrails Grant Program - Montague Shared Use Path Network - Feasibility & Concept Design

Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the \$35,700 grant from MassDCR MassTrails Grant Program and to authorize the signatures as appropriate. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Resignation of Health Director Ryan Paxton effective 11/27/2025**
 - Ramsey announces the resignation of Health Director Ryan Paxton effective 11/27/2025.
 - There is a good transition plan in place.
 - Zamojski and Ramsey will be working on getting an advertisement out.
 - Ramsey suggests that, in lieu of setting up a search committee, he and Zamojski do the initial search and review, then bring the finalists to the BOH. The BOH would vet their choice, then present them to the Selectboard.
- **Resignation of Wendy Bogusz from IT Coordinator role (stipend)**
 - Ramsey announces the resignation of Wendy Bogusz from the IT Coordinator role.
 - Ramsey has put out a call to Town Hall employees asking for interested folks to submit interest.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Change Order #2 for the DWF Screw Pump Improvement Project (\$7,794.00)**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize Change Order #2 for the DWF Screw Pump Improvement Project (\$7,794.00) as described. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Request from Montague Energy Committee to reduce number of seats from nine to seven**

Lord makes the motion to reduce the seats of the Montague Energy Committee to seven. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Green Communities Program (not on agenda)**

Lord make the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to admit the Annual Report to the Green Communities Program. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Bridge Maintenance (not on agenda)**

Nolan-Zeller announces that Mass DOT is going to be completing maintenance on the Gill-Montague Bridge from tomorrow morning through Thursday. The bridge will be reduced to one lane during that time. Thursday evening through Friday morning, re-paving will be happening on the Factory Hollow Bridge. The bridge will probably also be reduced to one lane during that time.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Letter of Support to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity grant application for Neighborhood Stabilization Program for the First Street Housing Project**

Lord makes the motion to authorize submission of Statements for Support for the First Street Housing Development by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, as well as the Unity Street Housing Development by the Rural Development Inc.; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Review of FY27 Budget Calendar**

Ramsey highlights items in the FY27 Budget Calendar:

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, November 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM

- Last week Ramsey issued departmental guidelines.
- The Tax Rate Classification Hearing will be held on December 1.
- Department budgets are due December 8. They will be compiled and presented to the Selectboard for review.
- Most of January will be spent reviewing the budget.
- Budget recommendations will be finalized by February 17.
- The Annual Town Meeting is going to be on May 2.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements/Dog Hearing**
A Dog Hearing is scheduled for November 24. The Selectboard agrees to have two in-person meetings in a row.

Other (not on agenda)

Jeff Singleton reports on the success of the Rag Tag Parade.

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30a, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining relating to National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) locals if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares

- The Chair deems that holding this discussion in open session 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(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining relating to National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) locals. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM via ZOOM