

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; and Town Accountant Angelica Desroches.

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

Approve Minutes: Montague Meetings of November 3, 2025

Lord makes the motion to accept the minutes of November 3, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved.

Lord - Aye, Goldman - 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

Sewer Commission with Chelsey Little, CWF Superintendent

- **Sewer Abatement Request, FY2026 First Half of Billing Cycle**

- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 10 Randall Wood Drive, Montague. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 134 Montague City Road, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 93 Montague Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 3 H Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 60 G Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 440 Old Greenfield Road, Montague; 79 G Street, Turners Falls; and 9 Clarke Avenue, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 6 Roosevelt Road, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 10 Station Street, Montague; 31 Bukley Street, Turners Falls; and 73 5th Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 42 Central Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 77 Federal Street, Millers Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 177 Turnpike Road, Millers Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 30 School Street, Montague; and 415 Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the first half billing for sewer fees for 17 G street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Goldman - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to adopt the updated information for the first half FY2026 Sewer Fee Billing as presented for the Treasurer's use. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

- **Clean Water Facility Surplus Equipment Request**

Goldman makes a motion to designate the equipment presented by the Clean Water Facility as surplus equipment for auction. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Permit discharge summary for October 2025**

Little displays and reviews the October 2025 discharge summary

Licensing Requests: Daniel Levine, Mystic Cat Pinball, LLC

- **Liquor Mystic Cat Pinball LLC, Daniel Levine as manager, has applied for an Annual § 12 General On-Premises, All Alcohol Liquor License. The Premise is located at 113-115 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA consisting of two store fronts with two (2) entrance/exit doors with a tavern area which will include loveseats, chairs, tables and bar seating and a second area for pinball and amusement devices. Total area consists of approximately 2,036 square feet with a capacity of 66 people**

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Goldman makes the motion to approve the All-Alcohol Liquor License for Mystic Cat Pinball LLC at 113-115 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Automatic Amusement License Request for 25 Pinball Machines with request to reduce License Fee to \$600.00**
Postponed

Gill-Montague Regional School District

- **Request for Selectboard to reaffirm 12/28/23 vote to support the district's application to the Mass School Building Authority to consolidate Sheffield and Hillcrest Elementary Schools**
Lord makes the motion to support the Gill- Montague Regional School District's Massachusetts School Building Authority application as requested. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye
- **Discussion: Fiscal Year 2027 financial forecast**
Postponed

Personnel Board

- **Proposed health insurance opt-out incentive program**
 - Ramsey reviews a program that we can adopt whereby we incentivize employees to voluntarily not take the Town's health insurance.
 - In response to a question by Lord, Desroches states that the goal is to do a first-read of the spreadsheet right now and give the Board some time to look into what other Towns have for buy-out. She would like to get the input from the Finance Committee.
 - Discussion ensues about Ozempic and weight-loss drugs.
- **Appoint Fern Smith as Town IT Coordinator effective 11/11/25 (\$2,100/year)**
Lord makes the motion to appoint Fern Smith as Town IT Coordinator effective 11/11/25 for the annual stipend of \$2,100/year. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye

Special Town Meeting Follow-Up

Article 16: Consider Town Meeting recommendation to distribute Anti-Apartheid resolution

Goldman makes the motion to pass the Apartheid-Free Special Town Meeting recommendation to distribute the Anti-Apartheid Resolution and send the follow-up letters to Maura Healey, Natalie Blais, and Jo Comerford. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Contract Amendment with Tighe & Bond for engineering and environmental services - building demolition and site improvements at the Strathmore Mill Complex. Amendment value is \$1,088,550 to be funded by EPA Brownfields Clean-Up Grant and state earmark**
Postponed until next week
- **Authorize Contract with Larochelle Construction, Inc for Unity Park Fieldhouse Buildings Weatherization. Contract value is \$53,500 to be funded by Green Communities Grant and Mass Save Utility Incentive**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Larochelle Construction, Inc for Unity Park Fieldhouse Buildings Weatherization; contract value is \$53,500 to be funded by Green Communities Grant and Mass Save Utility Incentive. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements**
None

Other (not on agenda)

Ramsey shares that tomorrow, on Veteran's Day, there will be a ceremony at the War Memorial at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard: Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Lord makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye