

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, January 5, 2026 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; DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel; and Board of Health Chair Melanie Zamojski.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting December 8, 15, and 22, 2025, if available

Goldman makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 15, and 22, 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

Personnel Board

Sam Urkiel, DPW Superintendent

Appoint Brandin Coates to DPW Groundskeeper effective 1/5/2026, Grade G, Step 1 at \$23.58/hr

Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Brandin Coates to DPW Groundskeeper effective 1/5/2026, Grade G, Step 1 at \$23.58/hr. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Licenses

Request from Joshua Breitner, Cocina Lupita, LLC for Entertainment License at 125 Avenue A for DJ/Dance Events twice monthly on Friday or Saturday night from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve request by Joshua Breitner, Cocina Lupita, LLC for Entertainment License at 125 Avenue A for DJ/Dance Events twice monthly on Friday or Saturday night from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Change Order #3 with Associated Construction Company for Clean Water Facility Screw Pump Project. Change Order value is \$3,685.34 to be funded with project contingency**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize Change Order #3 with Associated Construction Company for the Clean Water Facility Screw Pump Project; Change Order value is \$3,685.34 to be funded with project contingency. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Request authorization to apply for Municipal Small Bridge construction funding from Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) for Swamp Road Bridge over Goddard Brook**

Lord makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to apply for the Municipal Small Bridge construction funding from Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Swamp Road Bridge over Goddard Brook. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye

- **Update on Montague Center Complete Streets Project Design**

- Bowman is reworking the intersections where Main Street meets Center Street and where Main Street meets North Street to be more 90-degree-angle intersections.
- Changes have also been made to the stormwater management design.
- Nolan-Zeller and Ramsey would like to solicit community feedback between now and January 12.
- Representatives from Bowman will be attending the January 12 Selectboard meeting.
- Discussion:
 - In response to a question by a resident regarding safety, Nolan-Zeller states that the DPW is exploring some interim solutions (i.e., crosswalk signs).
 - In response to a question by a resident, Nolan-Zeller clarifies that Mass DOT has a separate program that allows municipalities to install a certain number of RRFBs (rectangular rapid flashing beacons).
 - In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Nolan-Zeller clarifies that there was one less RRFB than there was in the recent design.

- **Other Project Updates**

- The First Street site clean-up is moving forward.
- There will be some staking going on in the Hill Neighborhood of Turners Falls related to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Letter of Support for Special Legislation for Six Town Regionalization Special Election**

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Lord makes the motion to send a Letter of Support for Special Legislation for the Six Town Regionalization Special Election. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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

- The sink hole at 42 Canal has been filled in.
- There will be a pinning ceremony for Chief Jason Haskins this Thursday at 5:30 at the Turners Falls High School.
- Due to the Martin Luther King Holiday, there will be no meeting on January 19. We may have a meeting on Tuesday, the 20th.
- There is a joint meeting between the Financial Committee and the Selectboard this Wednesday to discuss the budgets for the DPW and the Treasurer/Collector's Office.
- Ramsey states that we are not seeing the need for a Winter Special Town Meeting right now. The Selectboard agrees to let Ramey update the budget calendar and remove the Winter Special Town Meeting.
- Ramsey put a page on the website on the FY27 budget planning guide.
- We are closely monitoring the snow and ice budget as the season started earlier than we thought it would.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

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