

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM**

Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord, Rich Kuklewicz, and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Town Clerk Wendy Bogusz; and Library Director Caitlyn Kelley.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings February 2, 2026, if available

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved.

Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - 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

Chelsey Littler, Sewer Commission

• **CWF FY27 Budget Summary, including Tax Share update**

- Little reviews the CWF FY27 budget summary.
- Lord shares his concerns regarding the proposed Mechanic job for the FY27 Budget.
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request to increase the staff at the Clean Water Facility to include one additional Mechanic, and to direct the Town Administrator to work with the CWF Superintendent on getting the right Wage and Classification rate for that position for the budget and its presentation. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

• **Local Limits Study update**

Little gives a quick update on the Local Limits Study.

(*Note: Permit Summary for January will be provided at the next meeting, data has not been verified yet)

Personnel Board

• **Clean Water Facility**

Appoint Andrew Skiff to Clean Water Facility Wastewater Technician effective February 10, 2026, Grade F, Step 1 at \$25.92/hour. Andrew is being promoted from Laborer/Operator to Wastewater Technician

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Andrew Skiff to Clean Water Facility Wastewater Technician effective February 10, 2026, Grade F, Step 1 at \$25.92/hour. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

• **Police Department**

Request for Cell Phone Stipend for Brandon Bryant, Montague Police Officer/Patrol at the current rate of \$5.77/week

Lord makes the motion to authorize a Cell Phone Stipend for Brandon Bryant, Montague Police Officer/Patrol at the current rate of \$5.77/week. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Will Quale - Library Trustees Chairperson

Request for a June 23, 2026 Special Election for upcoming Library Building Debt Exclusion Ballot question

Lord makes the motion to set the date for the Special Election for the upcoming Library Building Debt Exclusion Ballot question to Wednesday, June 24, 2026 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

FY27 Budget Workshop

• **Proposed preliminary budget overview with deliberation**

- Ramsey summarizes the Preliminary Budget. The Selectboard will vote on the budget at the next meeting, then it will be sent to the Finance Committee for their review and recommendations.
- The budget can be balanced without the need for an operational override because of the use of Excess Capacity and Free Cash, as well as recommendations to temporarily forego certain stabilization transfers.
- Ramsey reviews some highlights (Gill-Montague School District, General Fund Capital Expenditures, Capital Articles and other Special Articles, Enterprise Funds, Airport, Excess Levy Capacity and the tax impact, and health insurance rates).
- Ramsey and the Town Accountant recommend foregoing adding anything into the General Stabilization and Capital Stabilization Funds.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM

- Next week, hopefully the Board will be ready to take a vote on the preliminary budget. In February-March, we will be reviewing the budget with the Finance Committee. We have until late March to approve the budget for Town Meeting.
- **Debt Capacity and Capital Project Sequencing**
 - Ramsey reviews Debt Capacity and Capital Project Sequencing:
 - Montague Financial Policies: Debt Service
 - General Fund Debt Projection Annual Payments
 - Kuklewicz feels that the Town's share is a little high. Ramsey states that these are all rough numbers and subject to change.
 - Goldman questions how long Hillcrest can "hobble along" if we cannot do the big Sheffield project.
 - In response to a question by Lord regarding the Strathmore building, Ramsey states that we are just getting the worst of the building done now and are not thinking of it as a potential cost source for the Town.

Marina Goldman - Proposal for "Volunteer of the Month" acknowledgement program

- Goldman proposes having a "Volunteer of the Month" acknowledgement program:
 - Goldman has a list of 24 volunteers, and suggests giving the selected volunteer a letter from the Selectboard.
 - The Shea would be willing to host an end-of-the-year event where all of the volunteers were honored.
 - Mike Jackson says that the Montague Reporter would do a more extensive story on some of the individuals.
- Kuklewicz expresses his reservations, including his concern that this would become a popularity contest.
- Lord feels that celebrating civic engagement is an excellent thing to do. He asks Goldman to come back with a more clear, structured plan.
- Kuklewicz suggests doing this quarterly as opposed to monthly.
- Ramsey states that after looking at what other communities do, what seems to work best is when an outside entity is the sponsor of the program.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Chair to approve and release Executive Session minutes from 1/20/2026**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Chair to approve and release Executive Session minutes from 1/20/2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Chair to sign a support letter to develop a Five-Town School Regionalization Agreement**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign a support letter to develop a Five-Town School Regionalization Agreement. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Town Administrator to explore a Townwide Electricity Aggregation Program**
The Board members give their consensus to encourage the Town Administrator to explore a Townwide Electricity Aggregation Program.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements**

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 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