

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, February 17, 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; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; and Police Chief Jason Haskins.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings February 9, 2026, if available

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Minutes of February 9, 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

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

RiverCulture seeks provisional approval for the fourth annual Northeast Unity Car Show, Sunday, September 20, 2026, for the purpose of the timely advertising of this event. Permits to close First Street and use the Town Hall parking lots will be submitted in the Spring

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the provisional approval for the fourth annual Northeast Unity Car Show, Sunday, September 20, 2026, for the purpose of the timely advertising of this event; permits to close First Street and use the Town Hall parking lots will be submitted in the Spring. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

FY27 Preliminary Budget Hearing

• Updates to Police Operating Budget and Special Article requests

Ramsey and Haskins review updates to the Police Operating Budget and Special Article requests:

- Cruisers, tasers, and IT services (total increase of \$44,000).
- Special Article requests include a second police patrol cruiser, HVAC rehabilitation, and new equipment (i.e., radio battery systems).
- The Franklin County Technical School is looking to reduce their reimbursement to the Town for the cost of the school resource officer. They're proposing to reduce their reimbursement by \$12,000.

• Consider adopting Selectboard FY27 Preliminary Budget; transmit to Finance Committee for their review and recommendations

- Ramsey gives a PowerPoint presentation on the Selectboard FY27 Preliminary Budget (Purpose of Tonight's Vote, Notable Updates since 2/9, Big Picture Summary, How the Budget Balances, School Assessments, Free Cash and Capital, Enterprise Funds, Excess Capacity and Tax Impact, Stabilization Funds, and Next Steps).
- *Lord makes the motion to forward the proposed FY27 Preliminary Budget to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation excepting the cruiser in the Police Operating Budget, which the Board recommends being paid for out of Free Cash. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

• Authorize Contract Amendment with Bowman Consulting Group Ltd for additional design work for Montague Center Complete Streets Project. Contract value is \$12,250 to be funded by Town Meeting appropriation

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Contract Amendment with Bowman Consulting Group Ltd for additional design work for Montague Center Complete Streets Project; contract value is \$12,250 to be funded by Town Meeting appropriation. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

• Other Project Updates

- Mass DOT will be hosting a hearing on the North Leverett Road bridge replacement on Tuesday at 7:00 PM on ZOOM.
- The Mass Municipal Association will be hosting a legislative breakfast at the Shea Theater on March 20 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Registration is required.

Town Administrator's Business

• Discussion: School Advocacy Funding and invitation to participate in "Rural and Declining Enrollment Schools Week of Action" March 9 to 13

- Ramsey states that the "Rural and Declining Enrollment Schools Week of Action" is in support of a bill that was filed by Senator Comerford, which helps funding for rural schools.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM

- There is a provision in the bill for support for regionalization.
- The schools have been asked to participate as well.
- Ways to participate include a press release, a social media post, a public demonstration, or a statement of support.
- Lord states that his goal is to try and talk to Senator Comerford's staff and get a sense of how they feel about their bills and what the differences are.
- Lord would like the Board on March 2 to come up with what they would want to endorse, what they would like to advocate for, and what they would like to do for that Week of Action.
- Goldman states she can talk to somebody from the school committee and some of the parents to see if they want our help doing anything.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting**
None

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, February 23 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

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