

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, March 9, 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; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; Police Chief Jason Haskins; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; and CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings, February 2, if available

Not available

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

Personnel Board

- **Health Insurance**

Discussion and anticipated vote regarding whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 21-23

Kuklewicz makes the motion to commence the health insurance change under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 21-23. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Police Department**

- **Appoint Felix Morales to full-time Patrol Officer effective March 15, 2026, Grade P, Step 6 at \$39.94/hour including a \$10,000 sign-on bonus to be dispersed per contract**

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Felix Morales to full-time Patrol Officer effective March 15, 2026, Grade P, Step 6 at \$39.94/hour including a \$10,000 sign-on bonus to be dispersed per contract. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Authorize phone stipend for Joshua Lemay, Patrol Officer, at the current rate of \$5.77/week**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize a phone stipend for Joshua Lemay, Patrol Officer, at the current rate of \$5.77/week. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Clean Water Facility**

Appoint Jacob Bliven to Laborer/Operator effective 3/23/2026, Grade H, Step 2 at \$22.66/hour

Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Jacob Bliven to Laborer/Operator effective 3/23/2026, Grade H, Step 2 at \$22.66/hour. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

- **Review slate of Selectboard sponsored Articles for Annual Town Meeting (non-financial)**

- **Repeat and replace Personnel By-Law**
- **Authorize Community Electricity Aggregation Program**
- **Accept local option G.O. c. 138, §12D to allow conversion to all-alcohol licenses**
- **Authorize Right-of-Way acquisitions for North Leverett Road Bridge Replacement**
- **Authorize Right-of-Way acquisitions for Industrial Boulevard/Millers Falls Road Intersection Improvements**
- **Bonding authority for proposed library**
- **Authorize acquisition of Lot F (Second Street Public Parking Lot) from Montague EDIC to support proposed Library**
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the slate of Selectboard sponsored Articles for consideration for the May Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting period**

Ramsey lists the following upcoming meetings:

- 1) A Presentation of the Technical Assistance Panel by the Urban Land Institute is scheduled for tomorrow night at 6:00 PM at the Shea Theatre.
- 2) On Thursday there will be a meeting with the Hill Neighborhood for the Stormwater Management Project at the Sheffield School.
- 3) On Saturday there will be a Window Insert Community Build meeting here at Town Hall.
- 4) On Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 PM at the Senior Center, there will be a Library meeting where the costs and funding mechanisms for the Library will be discussed.

Next Meetings:

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

- Capital Improvements and Finance Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM
- Selectboard Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM
- Selectboard and Finance Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Executive Session in accordance with M.G.L. c.30a §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation involving Laurel Realty Trust relating to Parcel ID 22-0-12, as discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town of Montague.

Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye