

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, March 23, 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; Police Chief Jason Haskins; Airport Director Bryan Camden; and Town Meeting Moderator Elizabeth Irving.

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

### Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings, March 2 and March 16, if available

Goldman makes the motion to approve the minutes of Selectboard Meetings March 2 and March 16, 2026. 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

None

### License/Use of Public Property Requests:

- **Cocina Lupita - Josh Breitner, Request to extend entertainment event hours to 7:00 PM to 12:30 AM on Friday and Saturday nights. Currently authorized from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM on Friday and Saturday nights. Also requesting to include Karaoke in the entertainment license request.**  
*Goldman makes the motion to extend the entertainment hours for Cocina Lupita to 7:00 PM to 12:30 AM on Friday and Saturday nights. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Request for Use of Public Property by John Morin on June 20, 2026 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM for Bikes Fight Cancer Charity Ride. Updated COI will be provided prior to event.**  
*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property by John Morin on June 20, 2026 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM for the Bikes Fight Cancer Charity Ride contingent upon receipt of coverage of insurance to be provided at a later date. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Request for Use of Public Property by Christina Williams for Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Parade April 26, 2026, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, beginning at TFHS down Turnpike Road right onto Montague St., right on Crocker Avenue**  
*Goldman makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property by Christina Williams for the Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Parade on April 26, 2026, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, beginning at TFHS down Turnpike Road, right onto Montague St., right on Crocker Avenue. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Maggie Martin of The Brick House Community Resource Center, LLOC, requests Use of Public Property for 5K Fun Run and Walk on May 16, 2026, from Bike Path through the Patch from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Also requesting to place signs in Peskeompskut Park, Unity Park, Montague Center Common and a few corners on Avenue A.**
  - *Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property for the 5K Fun Run and Walk on May 16, 2026 from the Bike Path through the Patch from 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM, for the use of the DCR Canal Side Rail Trail Terminus at Unity Park and the 5K route through the Patch. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - *Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve placement of the signs as indicated in the map in the materials beginning April 4th, 2026 for The Brick House 5K fundraising event. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Request from Fern Smith for First Reading of Town of Montague Outdoor Dining Policy as requested by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) prior to the Local Licensing Authority (LLA) authorizing expansion of liquor licenses to include "outdoor table service."**
  - Smith requests a First Reading of the Town of Montague Outdoor Dining Policy as requested by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) prior to the Local Licensing Authority (LLA) authorizing expansion of liquor licenses to include "outdoor table service."
  - Lord offers to work with Smith on figuring out how to make the sections with slashes less confusing.
  - In response to a question by Lord, Smith states that we can make the policy specific to just liquor.
  - Kuklewicz would like a phrase inserted indicating that the public way isn't impeded.
  - Kuklewicz would like to give a secondary look at the issue on public parking lots.

### Personnel Board

#### Police Department

Appoint Casey Hoffman, Jr. to Patrol Officer effective April 5, 2026, Grade P, Step 4 at \$28.51/hour

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*Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Casey Hoffman, Jr. to Patrol Officer effective April 5, 2026, Grade P, Step 4 at \$28.51/hour. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

• **Department of Public Works**

**Appoint Paul Platek to Building Maintenance Worker effective April 6, 2026, Grade G, Step 2 at \$24.28/hour**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Paul Platek to Building Maintenance Worker effective April 6, 2026, Grade G, Step 2 at \$24.28/hour. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Vote recommendations for FY27 Budget**

**A. Schedules for Elected and Appointed Officials**

- 1. Schedule I - Elected Officials**
- 2. Schedule II - Appointed Officials**

*Goldman makes the motion to recommend Schedule I and Schedule II for Elected and Appointed Officials for the FY27 Budget. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**B. FY27 Operating Budget**

**1. Town Operating Budget \$13,815,938**

*Goldman makes the motion to recommend that Town Meeting approve the Town Operating Budget of \$13,815,938. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**2. Clean Water Facility Operating Budget - \$3,306,973**

*Goldman makes the motion to recommend that Town Meeting pass the Clean Water Facility Operating Budget at \$3,306,973. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**3. Airport Operating Budget - \$452,272**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to recommend that Town Meeting pass the Airport Operating Budget at \$452,272. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**4. Colle Operating Budget - \$52,250**

*Goldman makes the motion to recommend that Town Meeting pass the Colle Operating Budget at \$52,250. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**5. Gill-Montague School District Assessment - \$13,120,375**

*Goldman makes the motion to recommend that Town Meeting pass the Gill-Montague School District Assessment at \$13,120,375 impeding that that number is the exact amount that the School Committee voted on for their approved budget. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**6. Franklin County Tech School Assessment - \$1,131,215**

*Goldman makes the motion that Town Meeting pass the Franklin County Tech School Assessment at \$1,131,215. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**C. Special Article Recommendations (Non-CIC)**

**1. GMRSD Afterschool and Instruction Materials - \$163,717.50**

*Goldman makes the motion to recommend Town Meeting pass the GMRSD Special Article for the Afterschool and Instruction Materials in the amount of \$163,717.50. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**2. Establish Arts and Culture Fund - \$7,500**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to recommend Town Meeting pass the Special Article for the Arts and Culture Fund in the amount of \$7,500. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously disapproved. Kuklewicz - Nay, Goldman - Nay, Lord - Nay*

**3. Reseal Unity Skate Park - \$5,500**

**4. Montague Center Park Improvements - \$7,326**

**5. Carnegie Library Repairs - \$16,500**

**6. Police Equipment - \$13,200**

**7. CWF Generator Redesign Funding - \$23,705.08**

**8. Airport FY26 Operating Budget - \$8,144**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to recommend Town Meeting pass the following Non-Capital Special Articles: \$5,500 to reseal Unity Skate Park; \$7,326 for Montague Center Park Improvements; \$16,500 for Carnegie Library Repairs; \$13,200 for Police Equipment; \$23,705.08 for CWF Generator Redesign Funding; and \$8,144 for the Airport FY26 Operating Budget. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**9. Transfers to Reserves - \$339,489**

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- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to recommend appropriating \$50,000 to the Franklin County Technical Stabilization Fund; \$100,000 to the Town Capital Stabilization Fund; \$89,489 to the GMRSD Stabilization Fund; and \$100,000 to the Other Public Employee Benefits Trust Fund. Seconded by Goldman.*
- Kuklewicz rescinds motion.
- This topic will be revisited after Fin Com's discussion.

**Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

- **Authorize Memorandum of Understanding with Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) for post-mounted speed feedback sign near 446 Millers Falls Road**

*Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Memorandum of Understanding with Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) for a post-mounted speed feedback sign near 446 Millers Falls Road. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Other Project Updates**

None

**Town Administrator's Business**

- **Pre-Town Meeting Session and new Town Meeting Member Orientation**

- Ramsey states we will have a draft of the First Reading for the Selectboard's review.
- Ramsey suggests offering a Pre-Town Meeting Session via ZOOM on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:00 PM.
- We have a handful of new Town Meeting Members. Ramsey suggests offering a new Town Meeting Member Orientation. Town Meeting Moderator Elizabeth Irving is willing to help facilitate this meeting.
- Kuklewicz suggests not going in order for the Pre-Town Meeting Forum and focusing first on topics that need more discussion.

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

None

**Next Meeting:**

**Selectboard: Monday, March 30, 2026, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

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