

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 13, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; FCHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; 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 of April 6, 2026, if available

Lord makes the motion to approve the Minutes of April 6, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Abstain

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

Sewer Commission with CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little

• Sewer Bill Abatement Requests for 2nd Half FY26 Billing Period

- Lord makes the motion to abate the second half billing period sewer fees for 34 Highland St., Millers Falls in the amount of \$158.00. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate the second half billing period sewer fees for 32 Highland St., Millers Falls in the amount of \$314.50. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay, Goldman - Nay
- Lord makes the motion to abate the second half billing period sewer fees for 29 Bulkley St., Turners Falls in the amount of \$396.00. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay, Goldman - Nay
- Lord makes the motion to abate the second half billing period sewer fees for 11 Morris Ave., Turners Falls in the amount of \$1,220.00. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate the second half billing period sewer fees for 65 Canal St., Turners Falls in the amount of \$1,332.00. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay, Goldman - Nay
- Lord makes the motion to abate the second half billing period sewer fees for 12 Central St., Turners Falls in the amount of \$370.00. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye

• DEP Compliance Enforcement Inspection (CEI) Report

Little reviews the DEP Compliance Enforcement Inspection (CEI) Report.

• DEP Notice of Noncompliance (NON) for 2025 Exceedances

Little reviews the DEP Notice of Noncompliance (NON) for 2025 Exceedances.

• Permit Summary for February and March 2026

Little reviews the Permit Summary for February and March 2026. There are no issues.

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development - FCHRA

Recommendation for Notice of Award for the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement 5.1 Construction Project contract to H.M. Nunes & Sons for \$399,000 to be funded by a FY25 CDBG Grant and request Selectboard authorize the related contract

Kuklewicz makes the motion to award the contract for the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement 5.1 Construction Project to H.M. Nunes & Sons in the amount of \$399,000. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Licensing

• License Agreement between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Power on Saturday, May 30, 2026 for use of FirstLight property near First Street and the intersection of L Street for an Indigenous dye and print workshop with Elizabeth James-Perry. A tent will be erected for this event sponsored by RiverCulture and the Montague Cultural Council

Goldman makes the motion to approve the License Agreement between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Power on Saturday, May 30, 2026 for use of FirstLight property near First Street and the intersection of L Street for an Indigenous dye and print workshop with Elizabeth James-Perry. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

• Approve request for Tables and Chairs License for Country Creemee at 52 Avenue A. Updated COI in progress

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Tables and Chairs License for Country Creemee at 52 Avenue A. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Police Commission with Police Chief Jason Haskins

- **Memorandum of Agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office for coordination of law enforcement activities**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for coordination of law enforcement activities. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Discuss possibility of accreditation with Mass Police Accreditation Commission**
 - Haskins introduces the possibility of accreditation with Mass Police Accreditation Commission.
 - Lord recommends that we do this incrementally to move towards the best standards that we can.
 - Haskins states that re-thinking organizational structure in the department would facilitate this.

Personnel Board

- **Request to appoint Joseph Niedbala as Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals member effective April 14, 2026 for a 1-year term**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Joseph Niedbala as an Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals member effective April 14, 2026 to June 30, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Town Administrator and Selectboard designee to negotiate renewal of Clean Water Facility Superintendent Chelsey Little's employment contract**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator and Marina Goldman to negotiate the renewal of the Clean Water Facility Superintendent Chelsey Little's employment contract. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorization to apply for Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) program from MA Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office (FFIO) for design and engineering assistance with Avenue A traffic signal improvements**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to apply for the Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) program from MA Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office (FFIO) for design and engineering assistance with Avenue A traffic signal improvements. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**
Larochelle Construction is on-site at the Unity Park Field House working on some building envelope improvements that are being funded by a Green Communities Grant.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Request to include "Financial Impacts of Planned Building Projects" document in Town Meeting Packet**
Lord makes the motion to approve inclusion of the proposed slides regarding Financial Impacts of Planned Building Projects for the May Annual Town Meeting contingent upon the Franklin County Technical School projected cost and addition of a brief paragraph describing the intention and why this information is being presented for these two different projects. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Abstain
- **Updates on the 10 Unity Street project and First Street Housing project**
Montague received two grants to fund the First Street Housing project (the six units that Habitat is proposing to do) and 10 Unity Street (the project being done by Rural Development, Inc.). Habitat got just over \$1 million, and RDI got \$250,000.
- **Announcement: Municipal Window Insert Program Accepting Applications from qualified households**
Ramsey announces that there is a Window Insert Program being run by the Town, funded through a Municipal Vulnerabilities Program grant. These inserts will help reduce energy efficiency. Eligible households are encouraged to apply.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirement/Common Victualler License for Two Ghosts Vinyl Café**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the Common Victualler License for Two Ghosts Vinyl Café. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Other

Goldman announces that during her next three office hours (tomorrow, April 21, and April 28), she will be meeting with members of the Library Trustees and the Building Committee. She is also having coffee with the Police Chief on April 17 from 9:00 to 10:00 at the Senior Center. Anyone who has questions for the topics being discussed may attend the meetings.

Next Meeting:

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

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