

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord and Rich Kuklewicz; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; Police Sergeant John Deery; and Airport Director Bryan Camden.

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

Approve Minutes of April 13, 2026, if available

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Minutes of April 13, 2026. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. 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

Use of Public Property/Licenses

- **Liquor Licensing Hearing, El Nopalito Restaurant, 196 Turners Falls Rd., Montague. Alteration to the on-premise All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant). The proposed 281-square-foot patio area, which will be located on the south side of the building, enclosed on all sides by 3-ft. garden bends or a 6-ft.-high wood panel fence, with a seating capacity of up to 32 patrons**
 - Lord opens the public hearing.
 - *Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the alteration to the on-premise All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License to include the 281-square-foot patio area. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Request for Use of Public Property by Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, Gabrielle Donelan, on June 27th, 2026, from 8:00 AM to approximately 3:00 PM for a bike race to start at Unity Park; See attached routes. Park authorization reviewed.**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the event application for Assembly, Public Demonstration, Use of Public Property (Not for Peskeompskut Park or Montague Center of Common) for Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter - Marcia Miller on the date of June 27, 2026 from 8:00 AM to about 3:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Execute May 19, 2026 Town Election Warrant attached hereto

Lord makes the motion to execute and authorize the Town Election Warrant for the Town of Montague, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, May 19, 2026, as reads: (Lord reads Warrant aloud). Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Collector

Memorandum of Agreement between the Public Employee Committee (PEC) and the Town of Montague

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Public Employee Committee (PEC) and the Town of Montague as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Letter of Commendation for Chief Haskins for February 2, 2026 event**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the Letter of Commendation for Chief Jason Haskins for February 2, 2026 event; to send a note to Chief Haskins letting him know that we have received and accepted it; and to put the note in Chief Haskins' personal file. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Request phone stipend for Felix Morales, Police Department, at the current rate of \$5.77 a week**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the phone stipend for Felix Morales, Police Department, at the current rate of \$5.77 a week. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Execute Employment Contract Renewal (through 4/10/2029) with Clean Water Facility Superintendent Chelsey Little, beginning at Grade B Step 7 (\$107,307)**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept and execute the Contract Renewal (through 4/10/2029) with Clean Water Facility Superintendent Chelsey Little, beginning at Grade B Step 7 (\$107,307). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Appoint Alexander Duda, Franklin County Technical School student, to airport grounds employee, effective 4-28-2026 at \$15.50/hour, 40 hours/bi-weekly, for approximately 18 months**

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Lord makes the motion to appoint Alexander Duda, Franklin County Technical School student, to airport grounds employee, effective 4-28-2026 at \$15.50/hour, 40 hours/bi-weekly, for approximately 18 months. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Request signatures on a disbursement authorization for Berkshire Design in the amount of \$4,602.00 for Bidding and Construction Administration for the FY25 Montague Avenue A 5.1 Construction Project**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to disburse the amount of \$4,602.00 for Invoice No. 2026-023-2 for Project No. 2026-023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Contract with Saladino Property Maintenance, LLC for Cemetery Grounds Maintenance. Contract value is \$21,924.00 to be funded from FY27 operating budget**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Contract with Saladino Property Maintenance, LLC for Cemetery Grounds Maintenance; contract value is \$21,924.00 to be funded from FY27 operating budget. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Contract with Reliance IT, LLC for Police Department IT services. Contract value is in accordance with the payment schedule appearing as Attachment A to the contract documents, to be funded from FY27 operating budget**
Lord makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Reliance IT, LLC for Police Department IT services; contract value is in accordance with the payment schedule appearing as Attachment A to the contract documents, to be funded from the FY27 operating budget. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **First Read: Community Involvement Plan for Strathmore Mill Site Clean-Up Project, draft Analysis of Brownfields Clean-Up Alternatives. Announcement of 30-day Public Comment Period, with public meeting on 5/11/26 Selectboard agenda**
 - Nolan-Zeller discusses the Community Involvement Plan for the Strathmore Mill Site Clean-Up Project and the draft Analysis of Brownfields Clean-Up Alternatives; and announces the 30-day Public Comment Period, with a public meeting on 5/11/26 Selectboard agenda.
 - Lord and Kuklewicz give consensus to move forward.
- **Authorization to apply for Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program from United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) for engineering and construction of Collections System Rehabilitation Phase 2**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to apply for the Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program from United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) for engineering and construction of Collections System Rehabilitation Phase 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**
None

Town Administrator's Business

- **Municipal funding update from Senator Comerford - Authorize a letter to be sent to Senate President and Senate Ways and Means Committee requesting the supplemental budget retain several important funding items for the Town of Montague**
Lord makes the motion to authorize submission of the letter to Senate President and Senate Ways and Means Committee requesting the supplemental budget retain several important funding items for the Town of Montague. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Annual Town Meeting set for May 2nd, 2026 at 9:00 AM - packets have been mailed and information is on the Town's website. Pre-Town Meeting will be held via ZOOM on April 28th at 6:00 PM. Information can be found on the Town website calendar.**
 - Ramsey announces that the Annual Town Meeting is set for May 2nd, 2026 at 9:00 AM, the packets have been mailed, copies of the personal bylaw were sent out earlier today, and the Pre-Town Meeting will be held via ZOOM on April 28th at 6:00 PM. Information can be found on the Town website calendar.
 - Lord and Kuklewicz agree to defer to Ramsey and Nolan-Zeller to speak on behalf of the Selectboard for the Selectboard-sponsored articles.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirement**
None

Next Meetings:

Pre-Town Meeting: Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

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Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, May 2nd at 9:00 AM at Turners Falls High School

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, May 4th at 6:30 PM In-Person and via ZOOM

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