

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Building Inspector Bill Ketchen; AND DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel.

Approve Minutes: June 29 and July 13, 2026

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes for June 29 and July 13, 2026. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the July will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Licensing

Montague Retreat Center, 34 Chestnut Hill Rd., Leverett, MA 01054, requesting One Day Liquor License. Malt Beverages and Wine Only, for July 31, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a private rehearsal dinner

Goldman makes the motion to approve the request for a One Day Liquor License for the Montague Retreat Center, 34 Chestnut Hill Rd., Leverett, MA 01054, requesting a One Day Liquor License. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Building Department Business with Bill Ketchen, Building Inspector

- **Recommendation to adopt new fee schedule for Building Inspections, Plumbing & Gas, and Electrical Permits, effective August 1, 2026**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the recommended new fee schedule for Building Inspections, Plumbing & Gas, and Electrical Permits, effective August 1, 2026. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Building Department Updates**

- Ketchen shares that we have issued 30 more permits this year than last year.
- Ketchen shares that he has issued the permits for the two new 4-unit apartment buildings to be built on the Patch on 10th Street.

Department of Public Works Business with Sam Urkiel, Director

- **Summer paving plan updates (Randall Wood Drive, Old Stage Rd., Kells Rd., Ripley Rd., 3rd St. Alley, portions of 2nd St. Alley, portions of Millers Falls Rd.)**

Urkiel reviews the DPW's summer paving plans.

- **Notice of Award for design for Avenue A Traffic Signals Engineering Project (\$110,000) from the MA Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office**

Urkiel announces that we were awarded \$110,000 from the MA Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office for a design for the Avenue A Traffic Signals Engineering Project.

- **Swamp Road Bridge Rehabilitation - notice of planned full bridge closure, summer 2027.**

Mass DOT will be closing Swamp Road for construction next summer.

- **Plan for expenditure of FY26 Winter Recovery Assistance Program funds**

Urkiel reviews the plan for expenditure of the FY26 Winter Recovery Assistance Program funds (salt, plow replacements, and work on Millers Falls Road, etc.).

- **Proposed purchase of infrastructure asset inventory software with Chapter 90 funds**

Urkiel reviews the need for the purchase of infrastructure asset inventory software. This topic will be discussed more in the future.

- **Proposed plan to update street name signs**

Urkiel reviews a plan to update street name signs. Urkiel, Goldman, and Kuklewicz all express preference for the blue sign.

- **Discussion: Increase in municipal trash tonnage affecting solid waste budget**

- Urkiel discusses an increase in municipal trash tonnage affecting the solid waste budget.
- Ramsey states this issue is something that we intend to fix for the FY28 budget.

- **Approve Annual Agreements with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District**

- **3rd party inspection of transfer station**
- **Hazardous Waste collection**
- **Bulky waste**

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- *Goldman makes the motion to approve the Annual Agreements with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for 3rd party inspection of the transfer station, hazardous waste collection, and bulky waste disposal. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Initial discussion of proposal to create a new Collections System Light Equipment Operator position (Grade G) and not fill Building Maintenance position (Grade G)**
 - *Urkiel discusses a proposal to create a new Collections System Light Equipment Operator position.*
 - *Goldman and Kuklewicz give their consensus to have the Town Administrator and the DPW Superintendent create a job description for the Collections System Light Equipment Operator position.*
 - *Ramsey states that an MOU will be required with the UE.*

Personnel Board

- **Approve status change for Joshua Lemay, Detective/Patrolman to Grade D, Step 9 at \$38.54/hour retroactive to July 12, 2026, for a period of up to sixty days**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the status change for Joshua Lemay, Detective/Patrolman to Grade D, Step 9 at \$38.54/hour retroactive to July 12, 2026, for a period of up to sixty days. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Approve Memorandum of Agreement with NEPBA local 184 (Police Sergeants Union) regarding Police Department command structure and Lieutenant position**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with NEPBA local 184 (Police Sergeants Union) regarding Police Department command structure and Lieutenant position. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Adam Kleeburg to Wastewater Mechanic effective 7/27/2026, Grade F4, at \$29.04/hour. Lateral move at same pay grade**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Adam Kleeburg to Wastewater Mechanic effective 7/27/2026, Grade F4, at \$29.04/hour. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Addendum #1 with Downes Construction for Main Library Construction Project construction phase Owner's Project Manager (OPM) services. Addendum value is \$570,000 to be funded with MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant and local appropriation**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize Addendum #1 with Downes Construction for Main Library Construction Project construction phase Owner's Project Manager (OPM) services; Addendum value is \$570,000 to be funded with MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant and local appropriation. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye.
- **Authorize Addendum #1 with Schwartz/Silver Architects, Inc. for Main Library Construction Project construction phase designer services. Addendum value is \$1,984,150 to be funded with MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant and local appropriation**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize Addendum #1 with Schwartz/Silver Architects, Inc. for Main Library Construction Project construction phase designer services; Addendum value is \$1,984,150 to be funded with MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant and local appropriation. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye.
- **Review, approve and sign Disbursement Authorization #1 in the amount of \$179,170, payable to Nunes & Sons for the FY25 MONT Avenue A Streetscape 5.2 Project.**
Goldman makes the motion to approve Disbursement Authorization #1 in the amount of \$179,170, payable to Nunes & Sons for the FY25 MONT Avenue A Streetscape 5.2 Project. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Review, approve, and authorize Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator, to sign Change Order #1, #2, and #3 for the FY25 MONT Avenue A Streetscape 5.2 Project. Total Change Order value is \$12,449.73, to be funded with project contingency from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator, to sign Change Order #1, #2, and #3 for the FY25 MONT Avenue A Streetscape 5.2 Project; total Change Order value is \$12,449.73, to be funded with project contingency from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Phase 2 Construction Funding Agreement with Mass DOT for proposed bridge repair - Swamp Road over Goddard Brook (No. M-28-036)**

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Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Phase 2 Construction Funding Agreement with Mass DOT for proposed bridge repair - Swamp Road over Goddard Brook (No. M-28-036). Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Other project updates**

- The majority of the work on the FRTA Bus Stop improvements and intersection safety between Millers Falls and Industrial Boulevard has been completed. Paving will happen in mid-August.
- We have a contractor on board for the Montague Center Complete Streets Improvements. The goal is to have construction completed this Fall.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Proposal to initiate Senior Tax Work-Off Program**

- Ramsey presents a proposal to initiate a Senior Tax Work-Off Program.
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to explore the establishment of a Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program and to prepare a Warrant Article accepting Mass General Law Chapter 59, Section 5K for potential consideration at the October 2026 Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

- **Overview of Village Services Sustainability Initiative to discuss governance matters across Montague's Special Districts**

- Ramsey would like to begin the discussion of the Village Services Sustainability Initiative by forming a collaborative working group made up of representatives from each of the president Prudential Committees that are involved (Turners Falls Fire District, Montague Center Fire District, Montague Center Water District, Montague Center Light District, and Town of Montague); as well as Selectboard member Marina Goldman, and a financial team.
- Ramsey is working on a white paper that summarizes the issues at hand.
- The Selectboard gives Ramsey their support to proceed.

- **Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Commission advocacy**

The Selectboard members agree to express support for the reform of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program for State-owned land.

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

- Ramsey reports that the Finance Committee is actively recruiting for a new member. Information is posted on the website. Anyone interested may reach out to Ramsey or Finance Committee Chair Dorinda Bell-Upp.
- The Elementary School Building Committee is having its kick-off meeting this Wednesday.
- The Police Department will be holding a Police Night Out as part of a nationwide event on Tuesday, August 4th between 4:00 to 7:00 PM at 38 Avenue A.

Other

Kuklewicz announces that there is an Employee Appreciation gathering next Thursday, April 6 at noon at the Airport.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM - HYBRID

Goldman makes the motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye