

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Marina Goldman, and Nate Card; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Town Clerk Wendy Bogusz; and Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz.

Approve Minutes: July 27, 2026

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes for July 27, 2026. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - 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

Resident Scott Robert Hyman questions the winter parking ban.

Sewer Commission with Chelsey Little

• FY2027 Sewer Rate Hearing

- Little provides information about and summarizes the Enterprise Fund.
- Topics discussed include Operating Expenses, Debt Expenses, Capital Expenses, Projected Revenues - Status Quo, Cash Position, Current Sewer Rates, Status Quo - Long-Term Financial Model, Scenario A: 3% Increases Annually to Cover Inflationary Costs, Rate Structure with 3% Increase in FY 2027, Bill Comparison Analysis - One Billing Cycle, Sewer Fund Optimization.
- Little discusses reasons for biosolid re-use, as well as benefits to composting.
- In response to a question by Card regarding Rich Earth, Little confirms that reducing our operating costs would incentivize dropping our rates.
- Kuklewicz states that we need to think seriously about how to get the CWF facility up to standard.
- In response to comments made by resident Barbara Hoynoksi, Little explains why using Retained Earnings to lower rates is bad practice.
- *Goldman makes the motion to set the following rates for FY27 for sewer rates: Residential Commercial Customers \$19.06/1,000 gallons; Industrial Customers \$20.09/1,000 gallons; 12-Month Flat Rate \$840.00/year; Minimum Connection Charge \$326.00/year; Septage Receiving In-Town and Town of Gill \$105/1,000 gallons; Septage Receiving Out of Town \$125/1,000 gallons; Trucked-in Solids will be a price negotiated between the Town & FCSWMD; RV Waste \$20 per disposal; Interest Rate 14% per annum; and Demand Charge \$5.00. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

• Discussion of fuel surcharge adjustments from biosolids (cake) hauling contractors and associated budget implications

- Little discusses the fuel surcharge adjustments from biosolids (cake) hauling contractors and associated budget implications. She anticipates the sludge disposal expense going over budget by \$60,000. She states we do have Retained Earnings and Capital Stabilization funds to supplement the budget if necessary.
- Kuklewicz suggests discussing this issue with the Town Administrator and the Town Accountant.

• Future Sewer Commission schedule (bi-monthly)

Sewer Commission meetings will be switched to a bi-monthly schedule. Kuklewicz would like to see the permit summary on a monthly basis.

• Permit Summary for June 2026

Little states that there have been some issues with chlorine.

Licenses

Request for Tables and Chairs License from Cindy Ferrer of Ritual Bowl located at 109 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Drawing attached.

Goldman makes the motion the approve the request for a Tables and Chairs License for Ritual Bowl at 109 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Franklin County Technical School District Special Election - October 6, 2026

Discuss and vote whether to direct the Town Clerk to conduct the Franklin County Regional vocational Technical School District election on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM for voter consideration of the District's proposed authorization to borrow up to \$236,572,893 for the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of a new Franklin County Technical School and related facilities; and authorize execution of the election warrant and other necessary election documents.

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Town Clerk to conduct the Franklin County Regional vocational Technical School District election on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM for voter consideration of the District's proposed authorization to borrow up to \$236,572,893 for the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of a new Franklin County

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Technical School and related facilities; and authorize execution of the election warrant and other necessary election documents. Seconded by Card, approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Abstain

Town Clerk Business with Wendy Bogusz

- **Execute September 1, 2026 warrant for 2026 State Primary (attached)**
 - Card reads aloud the September 1, 2026 warrant.
 - Card makes the motion to execute the September 1, 2026 warrant for 2026 State Primary. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Debra Bourbeau as Town Clerk's Consultant, effective 08/10/2026, as needed (not to exceed 50 hours) until 12/31/2026 at \$45.06/hr.**

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Debra Bourbeau as Town Clerk's Consultant, effective 08/10/2026, as needed (not to exceed 50 hours) until 12/31/2026 at \$45.06/hr. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Notice of Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest as required by G.L. c.268A, §23(b)(3), Wendy Bogusz.**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Notice of Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest filed by Wendy Bogusz. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Notice of Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest as required by G.L. c.268A, §23(b)(3), Tina Sulda**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Notice of Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest filed by Tina Sulda. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Poll Workers/Early Voting Workers as per attached list; Appointment: August 10, 2026 to June 30, 2027**

Card makes the motion to approve the list of Poll Workers/Early Voting Workers to be appointed August 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Park and Rec Business with Jon Dobosz

- **Approve Skatepark Sealing Contract with Tailblock Concrete LLC in the amount of \$4,900.00**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Skatepark Sealing Contract with Tailblock Concrete LLC in the amount of \$4,900.00. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request placement of banner advertising Montague Soap Box Races event from August 14 - September 4, 2026 on Avenue A, off the Turners Falls/Gill Bridge and on September 5 - 26, 2026 at the top of Unity Hill. (Example attached form last year's banner)**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the placement of a banner advertising Montague Soap Box Races event from August 14 - September 4, 2026 on Avenue A, off the Turners Falls/Gill Bridge and on September 5 - 26, 2026 at the top of Unity Hill. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request Use of Peskeompskut Park for starting point for Annual Rag Shag Halloween Parade on October 31, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park for the starting point for the Annual Rag Shag Halloween Parade on October 31, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request for Entertainment Permit for the Turners Falls High School Band to start the Montague Rag Shag Halloween Parade on October 31, 2026 at Peskeompskut Park**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Entertainment Permit for the Turners Falls High School Band to start the Montague Rag Shag Halloween Parade on October 31, 2026 at Peskeompskut Park. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering to produce final easement plans for Industrial Blvd./Millers Falls Rd. intersection improvements - Request to authorize up to \$3,600.00 from unexpected engineering.**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the request for \$3,600.00 for Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering to produce final easement plans for the Industrial Blvd./Millers Falls Rd. intersection improvements. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Announce 30-Day Public Comment Period for review of Electricity Aggregation Plan (8/17/26 - 9/16/26), with Public Presentation to be held 8/31/26 at 6:30 PM**

Nolan-Zeller announces that there will be a 30-Day Public Comment Period for review of the Electricity Aggregation Plan (8/17/26 - 9/16/26). Documents for review will be available at masspowerchoice/montague.com as well as the home page of the Town website. A Public Presentation is tentatively set during the Selectboard's August 31 meeting.
- **Other Project Updates**

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- The Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard Project is wrapping up. There is going to be some paving going on in the next few weeks. There will be other roads paved this year which are mostly being done as part of the Town's Chapter 90 funding from the State.
- The Avenue A Streetscape Project is wrapping up.
- The Montague Center Complete Streets Project will be starting later this month.
- The Unity Park Playground Improvements Project will be starting before the Fall.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirement**
 - Nolan-Zeller announces that the Airport has received a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for \$1,075,846 for the purpose of requesting about 11,000 square yards of apron pavement. There is a 10% local match requirement.
 - *Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to apply for State funding through the MTTA Program. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Other

Goldman shares that we received an email from Chris Pinardi asking for more transparency with all of the votes and changes on all the projects coming up. She suggests unofficially having office hours at the Transfer Station. Card and Kuklewicz agree to a plan of doing this once a month (every second Saturday).

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, August 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Card makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye