

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

### VIA ZOOM

**Monday, August 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

**Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Marina Goldman, and Nate Card; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; Animal Control Officer Kyle Dragon; Town Counsel Gregg Corbo; and Tax Collector/Treasurer Eileen Seymour.**

#### **Approve Minutes: August 10, 2026**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes for August 10, 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 Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**

None

#### **Public Hearing, Matthew Baumes and Corey Laitman**

**In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157, to determine whether the dog known as "Scoot," owned and/or kept by Matthew Baumes and Corey Laitman, is a Nuisance or Dangerous Dog as defined in said statute**

- Goldman recuses herself from the hearing.
- Ramsey swears in the complainant and dog owners.
- Resident Laurie Callahan summarizes the incident in which she and her dog, Joey, were attacked by Scoot. She emphasizes that Matthew and Corey were very helpful and responsible.
- Dragon clarifies that Scoot's license and vaccinations are up to date.
- Smith states that Scoot was not registered with the Town prior to this incident.
- Laitman explains that the harness had broken; they have bought a new, military-grade harness.
- Baumes shares that he and Laitman actively try to avoid these types of incidences, and they have always put a lot of stock into keeping Scoot under control.
- Baum states that they are going to take a reactive dog class with a trainer.
- In response to a question by Corbo, Baumes states they are willing to use a muzzle if necessary.
- In response to a question by Corbo, Baumes states that they have a fenced-in yard that Scoot cannot get out of. They are willing to put an automatic closing mechanism on the gate.
- Nate suggests considering a chain collar that cinches when the dog pulls.
- Kuklewicz reads aloud the definitions of "Nuisance Dog" and "Dangerous Dog."
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion, based on following facts adjudicated at the public hearing, including but not limited to the reports received and the testimony from both the owner and the complainant, Laurie Callahan, that this authority, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Montague, finds that Scoot, the dog complained of, is a Dangerous Dog by reason of its attack on another animal and, although inadvertent, its also injury to a person. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Aye*
- Kuklewicz suggests the following conditions:
  - 1) Training
  - 2) Using a harness or two points of attachment when the dog is walked
  - 3) Having a fenced-in yard with auto closing gates
  - 4) Using a muzzle when Scoot is being walked. After a 12-month period, the owner may petition the Board for reconsideration.
- Ramsey adds the following conditions:
  - 1) Scoot should be humanely restrained and under the control of a competent adult whenever she is outside a secure enclosure.
  - 2) The owner should provide Animal Control with current photographs and identifying information, and shall maintain current licensing and rabies vaccination.
  - 3) The owner shall provide proof of any additional identification required by the Board, including microchip information if applicable.
  - 4) The owner shall notify Animal Control promptly of any change in the location of where Scoot is kept.
  - 5) Any violation of the Board's order may result in the seizure and impoundment and additional consequences provided by State law.
- Kuklewicz suggests that the owners talk to their insurer about the possibility of getting a special insurance policy on Scoot.
- *Card makes the motion to vote on the conditions as read by Chair Kuklewicz, subject to being written by the Town Administrator and Town Counsel, and to include other items such as proof of ownership and photos and other conditions. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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- *Card makes the motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Eileen Seymour, Tax Collector/Treasurer**

- **Request for Selectboard to sign for the USDA loan in the amount of \$1,616,000 for the screw pump project**
- *Card makes the motion to accept and sign the USDA loan document in the amount of \$1,616,000 for the screw pump project at the Clean Water Facility as presented. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz*
- **Execution of United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) forms for Screw Pump Station Upgrade Loan Closing (Right-of-Way Certificate, Loan Resolution)**  
*Goldman makes the motion to execute the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) forms for the Screw Pump Station Upgrade Loan Closing (Right-of-Way Certificate, Loan Resolution). Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Cultural Council Business**

- **Appoint Klon Koehler to Cultural Council for one-year term. Expires on 6/30/2027**  
*Goldman makes the motion to appoint Klon Koehler to Cultural Council for a one-year term until 6/30/27. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Request for \$9,000 from Community Development Discretionary Fund to provide a match to the Mass Cultural Council Grant to fund cultural programming in Montague for FY27**  
*Goldman makes the motion to make an allocation from the Community Development Discretionary Unallocated (Account #223-184-5200) to the Community Discretionary Cultural Programming (Account #223-184-5296) in the amount of \$9,000. to fund cultural programming in Montague for FY27. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Personnel Department**

##### **Appoint Amy Love to Library Assistant, effective 8/29/2026, Grade I, Step 1 at \$18.52/hour**

*Goldman makes the motion to appoint Amy Love to Library Assistant, effective 8/29/2026, Grade I, Step 1 at \$18.52/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Licenses**

##### **Allison Cooke of Montague Elks Lodge requests Use of Public Property for 2nd Annual Charity 5K Run/Walk to benefit Montague Elks #2521 on September 5, 2026 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the request by Allison Cooke of Montague Elks Lodge for the Use of Public Property for the 2nd Annual Charity 5K Run/Walk to benefit Montague Elks #2521 on September 5, 2026 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM, pending approval of Police Chief Haskins. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

- **General Project Updates: Avenue A Streetscape Phase V, Montague Center Complete Streets, Millers Falls Rd./Industrial Blvd. intersection improvements, North Leverett Rd. bridge replacement**
  - The work on the Avenue A Streetscape Phase V is nearly complete.
  - Re: Montague Center Complete Streets, the project take-off meeting went very well. The contractor has begun sending submittals for the engineer's approval, and is expecting mid-September mobilization to the site.
  - The Millers Falls Rd./Industrial Blvd. intersection improvements is in its final stage. Nolan-Zeller thanks 253 Pharmacy for their willingness to accommodate two temporary detours of traffic between their store and two of their outbuildings.
  - Re: North Leverett Rd. bridge replacement, Mass DOT is expecting to have right-of-way plans ready sometime this Fall.
- **Selectboard adoption of the 2026-2031 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**
  - May 2026 Montague Hazard Mitigation Plan Approved
  - Montague HMP Adoption Resolution
  - *Goldman makes the motion to approve the 2026-2031 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Card-Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Town Administrator's Business**

**Disclosure of appearance of conflict of interest for participation in Elementary School Building Committee pursuant to M.G.L. 268A §19**

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*Goldman makes the motion to accept the Town Administrator's disclosure of appearance of conflict of interest for participation in the Elementary School Building Committee pursuant to M.G.L. 268A §19; and to approve the Town Administrator's continued participation in the committee. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card-Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Executive Sessions:**

- **Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss the physical condition and/or mental health of a police officer as it relates to a request for injury leave under M.G.L. c. 41 §11F, and not to reconvene in open session.**  
**Continued from 7/13/2026**
- **Executive Session in accordance, with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining relating to National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) locals**
- The Chair determines that having these discussions in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.
- *Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card-Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Next Meeting:**

**Selectboard Meeting: Monday, August 31, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**