

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, September 14, 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; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; and Police Chief Jason Haskins.

Approve Minutes: August 31, 2026

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes for August 31, 2026. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Ratify Decision to hold emergency Executive Session September 4, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Goldman makes the motion to ratify the decision to hold an emergency Executive Session September 4, 2026 at 1:30 PM. 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

Liquor License Hearing whereas Secondhand Smoke, Inc., d/b/a North Village Smoke House, Sean Keller as manager has applied for Change of Officers/Directors and Transfer of Stock for Annual, All-Alcoholic Beverages On-Premises Liquor License located at 32 Federal St., Millers Falls, MA 01349

Goldman makes the motion to approve the request for the Transfer for the All-Alcoholic Beverages license as described. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Licenses

- **Request Use of Peskeompskut Park on October 4, 2026 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM (includes set-up and clean-up) for small, independent festival sponsored by Brian Dickens and RiverCulture**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park as discussed. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request Use of Public Property and Entertainment License on October 2, 2026 from 3:00 PM to 9:30 PM for entertainment and First Friday Night Market sponsored by RiverCulture**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Public Property and Entertainment License on Second Street as described. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Council on Aging**
Amend employment description of COA Administrative Assistant and increase hours for 15 to 17 per week
Goldman makes the motion to amend the employment description of COA Administrative Assistant and increase hours for 15 to 17 per week. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Police Department**
 - **Appoint Jacob Dlugosz to Reserve Patrolman, effective 9/26/2026 at \$30.00/hour**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Jacob Dlugosz to Reserve Patrolman, effective 9/26/2026 at \$30.00/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Appoint Ludmila Sherstyukova to Per Diem Dispatcher effective 9/14/2026 at \$27.00/hour**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Ludmila Sherstyukova to Per Diem Dispatcher effective 9/14/2026 at \$27.00/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Library**
Appoint Kathleen Lacey to Substitute Library Assistant, effective 9/17/2026 at \$15.00/hour
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Kathleen Lacey to Substitute Library Assistant, effective 9/17/2026 at \$15.00/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Planning Board**
 - **Appoint Sage Winter from associate member to permanent member for the remainder of the vacant term, to end 6/30/2027**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Sage Winter from associate member to permanent member for the remainder of the vacant term, to end 6/30/2027. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Appoint Kristi Bodin to associate member effective 09/15/2026. Term ends 06/30/2027**

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Goldman makes the motion to appoint Kristi Bodin to associate member effective 09/15/2026; term ends 06/30/2027.

Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Selectboard Executive Assistant**

- **Second Reading of Town of Montague Family Medical Leave Act (FML) policy, vote to adopt**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the FMLA policy as presented. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Police Department Business

Request \$5,000 from Community Development Discretionary Fund to establish a Community Policing Pilot Program for the Montague Police Department

- Card shares concerns and asks for more clarity.
- *Goldman makes the motion to authorize the transfer of \$5,000 from Community Development Discretionary Fund (Acct. No. 223-184-5200) to Community Policing Pilot Program (Acct. No. 223-184-5236-223006). Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Nay*

Town Administrator's Business

- **Receipt of Burn Dump Final Closure Certification**

- Ramsey states that we are finally at the point where we're getting Final Closure Certification from the State Department of Environmental Protection.
- There are a lot of conditions attached to that permit:
 - Maintenance obligations
 - A new groundwater well near the southernmost outlet, which needs to be installed by December 31st
 - PFAS monitoring
 - A long-term management plan of the underdrain
- Ramsey is working on finding out what the costs will be to meet these requirements.

- **Proposal to designate Town-owned Parcels 12-0-051 at 0 Montague City Road and Parcel 04-0-0031 at 0 First Street as property not open for general public parking or vehicle storage; to prohibit overnight parking and the storage or long-term parking of vehicles, campers, trailers or similar equipment, and dumpsters thereon without authorization of the Town; and to authorize the Police Department and Department of Public Works to post, secure and otherwise manage the property consistent with this designation, including removal of unauthorized vehicles in accordance with applicable law**

- *Goldman makes the motion to designate Town-owned Parcel 12-0-051 which is listed as 0 Montague City Road as property not open for general public parking or vehicle storage, and thus prohibit overnight parking and the storage or long-term parking of vehicles, campers, trailers or similar equipment, and dumpsters thereon without authorization of the Town; and to authorize the Police Department and Department of Public Works to post, secure and otherwise manage the property consistent with this designation, including removal of unauthorized vehicles in accordance with applicable law. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Nay*
- *Goldman makes the motion to designate Town-owned Parcel 04-0-0031 at 0 First Street as property not open for general public parking or vehicle storage, and thus prohibit overnight parking and the storage or long-term parking of vehicles, campers, trailers or similar equipment, and dumpsters thereon without authorization of the Town; and to authorize the Police Department and Department of Public Works to post, secure and otherwise manage the property consistent with this designation, including removal of unauthorized vehicles in accordance with applicable law. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Proposal for Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to allow temporary public use of their parking lot on Parcel 04-0-0036 during construction of the Habitat for Humanity Project**

Goldman makes the motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to allow temporary public use of their parking lot on Parcel 04-0-0036 during construction of the Habitat for Humanity Project. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Execute Agreement with State for Sealer of Weights and Measures Services for term commencing January 1, 2027 for an amount not to exceed \$7,835.00**

Goldman makes the motion to execute the Agreement with the State for Sealer of Weights and Measures Services for term commencing January 1, 2027 for an amount not to exceed \$7,835.00. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Next Meetings

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

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Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Proposed FCTS Building Project info session: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Franklin County Technical School

Open House at Franklin County Technical School on Saturday, September 19 starting at 10:00 AM

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Proposed Great River Regional School District Info Session: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2), to conduct collective bargaining sessions (NEPBA Local 183) and G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and collective bargaining (NEPBA Local 183; S Williams v. Town of Montague, MCAD Docket No. 25SEM00137)

Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2), to conduct collective bargaining sessions (NEPBA Local 183) and G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and collective bargaining (NEPBA Local 183; S Williams v. Town of Montague, MCAD Docket No. 25SEM00137). Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye