

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, September 28, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; and Police Chief Jason Haskins.

Approve Minutes: September 21, 2026, if available

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes for September 21, 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

Personnel Board

• Police Business

- **Promote Joshua Hoffman to full-time Deputy Chief of Police effective October 11, 2026, Grade C, Step 8 at \$49.52/hour for 40 hours per week, contingent on contract negotiations**

Goldman makes the motion to promote Joshua Hoffman to full-time Deputy Chief of Police effective October 11, 2026, Grade C, Step 8 at \$49.52/hour for 40 hours per week, contingent on contract negotiations. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Promote Peter Lapachinski to full-time Police Lieutenant effective October 11, 2026, Grade Lt., Step 6 at \$45.40/hour**

Goldman makes the motion to promote Peter Lapachinski to full-time Police Lieutenant effective October 11, 2026, Grade Lt., Step 6 at \$45.40/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint James Deery to full-time Police Sergeant effective October 11, 2026, Grade S, Step 7 at \$44.12/hour**

Goldman makes the motion to appoint James Deery to full-time Police Sergeant effective October 11, 2026, Grade S, Step 7 at \$44.12/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Promote Jacob Lapean to full-time Police Sergeant effective October 11, 2026, Grade S, Step 4 at \$39.23/hour**

Goldman makes the motion to promote Jacob Lapean to full-time Police Sergeant effective October 11, 2026, Grade S, Step 4 at \$39.23/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Promote Cody Wells to full-time Police Sergeant effective October 11, 2026, Grade S, Step 4 at \$39.23/hour**

Goldman makes the motion to promote Cody Wells to full-time Police Sergeant effective October 11, 2026, Grade S, Step 4 at \$39.23/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

• Union Business

Execute Memorandum of Understanding with NAGE regarding interpretation of Article 18 "Paid Leave and Overtime Calculation" pertaining to certain positions

Goldman makes the motion to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with NAGE regarding interpretation of Article 18 "Paid Leave and Overtime Calculation" pertaining to certain positions. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Elections Business

Execute November 3rd, 2026 State Election Warrant, attached hereto

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the November 3rd, 2026 State Election Warrant.
- *Goldman makes the motion to amend the November 3rd, 2026 State Election Warrant with the change that the date be read as "on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November in the Year of our Lord 2026 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM for the following purpose." Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the November 3rd, 2026 State Election Warrant. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Contract with Sunshine Construction, LLC for Carnegie Library Roof Repairs. Contract value is \$15,900.00 to be funded with Town Meeting appropriation**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Sunshine Construction, LLC for Carnegie Library Roof Repairs; Contract value is \$15,900.00 to be funded with Town Meeting appropriation.

- **Other Project updates**

- The Millers Falls Road Industrial Boulevard intersection improvements is complete.
- Regarding Montague Center Complete Streets, the contractor is going to be prepping sidewalks and doing additional drainage this week. They are ahead of schedule and expect to be done in a couple of weeks.

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- Regarding the North Leverett Road bridge replacement, we are expecting to send letters of intent out to the seven affected property owners soon.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Discuss local financing strategy for proposed Franklin Tech School Building project assessment (approximately \$16 million)**
 - Montague's share of the assessment for the FCTS building project is about 12.8%. A 30-year borrowing would be an overall cost of about \$29 to the Town.
 - A successful vote on October 6 would authorize the Tech school to begin the construction project.
 - Ramsey strongly recommends that the Town pays for its share through a Debt Exclusion vote, which would need to be authorized by Town Meeting and a ballot election by local voters.
 - Ramsey reminds the Board of the debt capacity memo that he had issued back in February; he is willing to send the memo out again.
 - In response to a question by Ariel, Ramsey states that we have not looked into a 20-year option at this point, but it is something to keep in mind.
- **Maple Leaf Foods announcement to close Turners Falls Facility in 2027**
 - Ramsey announces that Maple Leaf is scheduled to close their Turners Falls facility by the end of 2027.
 - We are making sure that Maple Leaf is in contact with Mass Hire to help the people getting laid off.
 - Senator Comerford's office is also willing to help facilitate the Town having connections with State offices, and the FRCOG to help facilitate conversations about reuse of the property.
 - The property will remain privately owned and a taxable entity for the foreseeable future.
- **Soap Box Derby was postponed until November 1st, 2026, same time and event schedule**

The Soap Box Derby's rain date is November 1st, 2026, same time and event schedule.

Other/Vandalism

- Kuklewicz reports on some vandalism that occurred recently. He thanks everyone who participated in the clean-up.
- Card feels that the vandalism is an expression of emotional distress and wonders if CSO or emotional health practitioners have been included in the investigation.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, October 5th, 2026 at 6:30 PM via Hybrid

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