

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord, Rich Kuklewicz, and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Police Chief Jason Haskins; and Library Director Caitlyn Kelley.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting, January 12, 2026, if available

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Minutes for the Selectboard Meeting of January 12, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - 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

Licenses

Request for approval of a Special and One Day License for Common Variety Café & Market, 485 Federal St., Montague, MA on February 14, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM for a Valentine's Day Dinner

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the application for a Special and One Day License for Common Variety Café & Market, 485 Federal St., Montague, MA on February 14, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM for a Valentine's Day Dinner. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Personnel Board

New Hires:

- **Appoint Seth Thompson to Library Community Relations Coordinator effective February 2, 2026 for 13.5 hours per week, Grade G, Step 5 at \$26.53/hour**

Goldman makes the motion to approve the appointment of Seth Thompson to Library Community Relations Coordinator effective February 2, 2026 for 13.5 hours per week, Grade G, Step 5 at \$26.53/hour. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Appoint Anthony Montivirdi to Clean Water Facility (CWF) Administrative Assistant effective 1/27/2026, NAGE Union, Grade H, Step 3, \$23.92/hr., 40 hours/week**

Lord makes the motion to appoint Anthony Montivirdi to Clean Water Facility (CWF) Administrative Assistant effective 1/27/2026, NAGE Union, Grade H, Step 3, \$23.92/hr., 40 hours/week. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Brandon Bryant as Full-Time Police Officer effective 2/1/2026, 37.69 hours per week, Grade P, Step 8 at \$33.35/hour**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Brandon Bryant as Full-Time Police Officer effective 2/1/2026, 37.69 hours per week, Grade P, Step 8 at \$33.35/hour. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Rate Changes:

- **William Ketchen, Building Inspector**

Request to authorize Rate Change to Grade C, Step 6, \$82,882.80/annually, effective July 1, 2025

- **Charlene Langenback, Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector**

Request to authorize Rate Change to Grade F, Step 5, \$29.18/hr., effective February 2, 2026

- **Anna Morin, Communications Officer**

Request to authorize Rate Change to Grade F, Step 2, \$26.70/hr., effective February 2, 2026

- **Marsha Beckwith, Dispatch Supervisor**

Request temporary out of grade pay in accordance with NAGE contract Article 17 for work during the period of 7/1/25 through 12/31/25 due to extended absence of Lieutenant and Police Chief transition for a one-time payment in the amount of \$1,995.96

- *Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Rate Changes for William Ketchen, Building Inspector to Grade C, Step 6, \$82,882.80/annually, effective July 1, 2025; Charlene Langenback, Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector to Grade F, Step 5, \$29.18/hr., effective February 2, 2026; Anna Morin, Communications Officer to Grade F, Step 2, \$26.70/hr., effective February 2, 2026; and to authorize the temporary out of grade pay for Marsha Beckwith in accordance with NAGE contract Article 17 for work during the period of 7/1/25 through 12/31/25 due to the extended absence of the Lieutenant and Police Chief transition for a one-time payment in the amount of \$1,995.96. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved.*

Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

Resignations:

David Dempsey and Tim Van Egmond from the Montague Energy Committee

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the resignations of David Dempsey and Tim Van Egmond from the Montague Energy Committee. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

Authorize Cultural District Investment Grant Agreement for \$15,000 with Mass Cultural Council

Lord makes the motion to authorize the Cultural District Investment Grant Agreement for \$15,000 with Mass Cultural Council. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye

Brian McHugh, Community Development Program Manager

- **Presentation of the FY25 Montague CDBG Response to Special Conditions**

- 1a - LifePath Elder Social Services Budget

- 1b - LifePath Home Delivered Meals Budget

- 1c - Brick House Budget

- 1d - Wildflower Alliance Budget

- 1e - Heartwing Budget

- 2 - Census Block Groups and LMI Statistics for Avenue A Streetscape Project

Kuklewicz makes a motion to approve the responses to the request on Special Conditions for the CDBG FY25 Programs (LifePath Elder Social Services, LifePath Home Delivered Meals, Brick House, Wildflower Alliance, Heartwing, and the Avenue A Avenue A Streetscape). Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **FY25 CDBG Professional Services Contracts for Signatures**

- 2a - Town of Montague and HRA

- 2b - Town of Montague and Social Services Agencies (2 for LifePath, 1 Brick House, 1 Wildflower Alliance, 1 Heartwing Center)

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the execution of the FY25 CDBG Professional Services Contracts between the Town of Montague and HRA as well as the Town of Montague and the Social Services Agencies. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **FY26 CDBG Informational Meeting**

- **HRA Agenda**

- McHugh gives information about FY26 CDBG and summarizes the Housing Redevelopment Authority's agenda.
 - He states that regarding the Housing Rehab Program, the Town is going to need to put in a waiver to allow us to put in an application this year because we have not spent the money in the '24 grant yet.
 - Discussion ensues regarding potential projects (i.e., improving accessibility to the Town Hall, having a feasibility study for the senior center, investing in a public facility to help fight hunger)
 - Ramsey states that he or Nolan-Zeller will be contacting Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter to brainstorm what possible projects for the senior center may qualify.
 - *Goldman makes a motion to authorize Brian McHugh to prepare a draft waiver to EOHLIC regarding the upcoming grant award signing. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator's Business

- **Article Submission deadline for May 2, 2026, Annual Town Meeting: Suggested date, Wednesday, March 11th at 4:00 PM**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to set the Annual Town Meeting as May 2nd and the Article Submission deadline as Wednesday, March 11th by 4:00 PM. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Six Town Regionalization Planning Board correspondence**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the Letter of Support of voting in all five or six Towns for regionalization in Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Rave Alerts Rollout. Sign-up: Text "Montague" to 77295**

Ramsey announces that we have the Rave Alert system up and running. Some alerts have been put out over the weekend regarding the winter emergency and trash collection. We will look into the system to see how many people have signed up and if they received the messages that went out this weekend.

- **Personnel Policy Manual and Committee Handbook development updates**

- Regarding the Personnel Policy Manual, Ramsey states that we have a new draft. We will be reviewing it with department heads and union representation. Once it's ready, Ramsey will bring it to the Board for review. Once they are ready for adoption, we will go to Town Meeting in May to update our personnel bylaws.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM

- Ramsey states that he is currently also working on a Committee Handbook. It orients committee and board members on what is expected of them, how meetings should be run, how to call a meeting, when and how to post agendas, etc.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements**

Next Meetings:

Finance Committee & Selectboard Meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 @ 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, February 2, 2026, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA and via ZOOM

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