

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Marina Goldman, and Nate Card; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Town Planner Maureen Pollock; and FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh.

Approve Minutes: October 5, 2026, if available

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes for October 5, 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

Sewer Commission with Chelsey Little

- **Wastewater cyber-security update**

Cyber-security has been updated and Little does not anticipate any issues in the future.

- **Anticipated financial impact from planned Greenleaf/Lightlife plant closure**

- Little discusses the financial impact from the Greenleaf/Lightlife plant closure.
- We can potentially double the sludge loads, which would increase our revenue. This would require a capital investment.
- Ramsey states that we have a meeting later this week with some State officials and our legislators to talk about the plant closure.

- **Samuel Stevens, CWF Foreman, selected for MA Water Environment Association's Operator Exchange Program (Nov. 2-5, 2026)**

Little shares that CWF Foreman Samuel Stevens has been selected for the MA Water Environment Association's Operator Exchange Program.

- **CWF Mechanic position update**

- The Mechanic position has been filled.
- All of the eight pump stations and the grinder pumps have been inspected. Some of the maintenance requirements have been updated. A lot of work orders have been inputted to keep updated with all of the maintenance that needs to be done.

- **Septage receiving station update**

- We built a retaining wall last year, poured concrete, and put in a drain so that if anything gets spilled, it won't impact the environment.
- Electricians have been on-site to hook up all of the electrical.
- In-house staff rebuilt the pumps in the drive pit and realigned the wet well.
- We are waiting for the commissioning date from the vendor.

- **Permit summary for August and September 2026**

Permit summaries for August and September 2026 show that the plant has been doing a really good job for treatment.

Brian McHugh, Community Development Program Manager at Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA)

Review, approve, and authorize Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator, to sign Change Order #4 for the FY25 MONT Avenue A Streetscape 5.1 Project. Change order value is \$10,179.36, to be funded with project contingency from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Goldman makes the motion to approve Change Order #4 for the FY25 MONT Avenue A Streetscape 5.1 Project; Change order value is \$10,179.36, to be funded with project contingency from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Planning Department Business with Maureen Pollock

- **New consolidated local permitting process for small clean energy projects under 225 CMR 29.00**

- Pollock reviews the new consolidated local permitting process for small clean energy projects under 225 CMR 29.00.
- *Card makes the motion to designate Chris Nolan-Zeller as the Chief Administrator Officer and Maureen Pollock as the Alternate Delegate for the Small Clean Energy Projects. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Information about Eversource's Proposed WT-11 Transmission Right-of-Way Reliability Program (TRRP) Project**

- Eversource introduced to Pollock a Proposed WT-11 Transmission Right-of-Way Reliability Program (TRRP) Project.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

- They hope to submit a filing with the Conservation Commission sometime next year.
- They are proposing vegetation management activities along lines through various Towns.
- Within Montague, it will run approximately 3.7 miles (through the State forest, the water supply lands, the wildlife management area, and a number of wetlands, streams, and roads).
- According to Ramsey, Eversource has already done a preliminary filing for the State-level permitting.
- We are expecting a final Environmental Impact Report either in December or January.

Licenses

Approve Request from Kirsten Rocca and Daniel Levine at Mystic Cat Pinball, LLC for an Entertainment License, Common Victualler's License and Auto Amusement Device License

- *Goldman makes the motion to approve the application for an Entertainment License for Mystic Cat Pinball. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Goldman makes the motion to approve the application for a Common Victualler's License for Mystic Cat Pinball. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Goldman makes the motion to approve the application for an Auto Amusement Device License for Mystic Cat Pinball; the fee is not applicable. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Personnel Board

- **Airport**
Authorize Memorandum of Agreement with Turners Falls airport Commission concerning temporary administrative support to be provided to the Turners Falls Municipal Airport by the Town's Public Works Office Manager
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Memorandum of Agreement with Turners Falls airport Commission concerning temporary administrative support to be provided to the Turners Falls Municipal Airport by the Town's Public Works Office Manager. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Cultural Council**
Appoint Atticus Belmonte to Montague Cultural Council effective 10/19/2026 for a 3-year term. Term expires on 6/30/2029
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Atticus Belmonte to Montague Cultural Council effective 10/19/2026 for a 3-year term; Term expires on 6/30/2029. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Grant Agreement with Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F) for Municipal & Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) program. Grant value is \$110,000 to be used for engineering of Avenue A traffic signal replacements**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Grant Agreement with Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F) for Municipal & Tribal Technical Assistance (MTTA) program; grant value is \$110,000 to be used for engineering of Avenue A traffic signal replacements. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Contract with Berkshire Design Group for 102-112 Avenue A ramp design. Contract value is \$39,500.00, to be funded with remaining ARPA Streetscape contingency funds and MA Downtown Initiative Capital Grant.**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Berkshire Design Group for 102-112 Avenue A ramp design; contract value is \$39,500.00, to be funded with remaining ARPA Streetscape contingency funds and MA Downtown Initiative Capital Grant. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Assistant Town Administrator to coordinate working group for prequalifications of contractors on Strathmore Mille Project**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to coordinate working group for prequalifications of contractors on Strathmore Mille Project. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**
 - Regarding the Montague Center Complete Streets Project, the contractor is painting lines this week. There will be a site walk shortly to do an inspection. There is a chance that we might have to request an extension from Mass DOT.
 - Regarding the North Leverett Road Bridge Project, notices have been sent to the five impacted property owners. Nolan-Zeller is beginning the process of meeting with each of them to discuss the project.
 - Regarding the Library Project, the architect is expecting to achieve 100% design development documents this week. We have scheduled a meeting in early November with Town public safety departments to review the design and discuss any immediate concerns.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Town Administrator's Business

- **First Street Lot transfer timeline and notice to remove private property**
 - We are in the final stretch of getting towards the closing of the transfer of the property.
 - We are planning to bring the final version of the deed and the land development agreement to the Board at the November 2nd meeting.
 - Notices have been mailed out to abutting residents.
 - Notices have been placed on vehicles notifying them to remove all private property from the lot as of November 1st.
 - We have provided places for alternative public parking in the Housing Redevelopment Lot.
 - Discussion ensues regarding the removal of trees in the area.
- **10/28/26 Special Town Meeting preparations**
 - There will be a Pre-Town Meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 PM. Prior to that, there will be a Town Meeting orientation for new members. Board members are welcome to attend.
 - A link is available on the Town website.
- **Topics not anticipated within the 48-hour posting requirement**

None

Next Meetings:

Pre-Town Meeting Info Session: Wednesday, October 21st, 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Special Town Meeting: Wednesday, October 28th, 2026 at 6:30 PM to be held at Turners Falls High School Theater

Executive Sessions:

1. **Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1), 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, continued from 7/13/2026**
 - The Chair declares that going into this session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's position.
 - *Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Session No. 1. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
2. **Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the New England Police Benevolent Union Local 183 (Patrol and Detectives), as the Chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position, and not to reconvene in open session**
 - The Chair declares that going into this session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's position.
 - *Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Session No. 2. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*