MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz and Nate Card, Town Administrator Walter Ramsey, and Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller.

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting: November 2, 2026
Card makes the motion to approve the Minutes for November 2,, 2026. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. 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

Police Business with Chief Jason Haskins *(Postponed for now as Chief Haskins could not make the meeting)*
- **Hiring Plan for upcoming vacancy in Police Department**
- **Request to authorize a lateral transfer hiring bonus of $10,000 for this hire**

Curbside Trash Collection Discussion with Jan Ameen, Director of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Overview and recommendations including a discussion of possible changes to the pay-as-you-throw program policies for curbside trash collection
- Ameen discusses pay-as-you-throw programs.
- Ameen recommends focusing on the barrel stickers this month.
- Ramsey states we are going to refine a proposal and discuss it at the next meeting.
- Ramsey asks Ameen to talk with Casella about the feasibility of implementing the proposal from the driver's perspective.
- Ramsey suggests having a public information rule-out strategy.
- Ramsey will do a little bit of analysis with Town Accountant Angelica Desroches to see if we can get a good projection as to where we would be.
- We are still in ongoing discussions with Casella about their contract extension. They have submitted a revised proposal.
- Card suggests public engagement to educate residents on waste reduction.
- Kuklewicz feels it would be worth trying something with barrel sizes.
- The goal is to make a final decision no later than November 30.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business
- **Authorize Contract Amendment #2 with Bowman Consulting, Ltd. for Montague Center Complete Streets Project design and construction administration services. Amendment value is $11,000 to be funded with contingency from Town Meeting appropriation**
  Card makes the motion to authorize the Contract Amendment #2 with Bowman Consulting, Ltd. for Montague Center Complete Streets Project design and construction administration services in the amount of $11,000. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize and Execute Contract for Workplace Safety and Education Grant for the amount of $4,000 to pay for Aerial Lift Training**
  Card makes the motion to authorize and execute the Contract for Workplace Safety and Education Grant for the amount of $4,000 to pay for Aerial Lift Training. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Accept easement from Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority for intersection upgrades at Industrial Blvd. and Millers Falls Rd.**
  Card makes the motion to accept the easement from Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority for intersection upgrades at Industrial Blvd. and Millers Falls Rd. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Other project updates**
  None

Town Administrator's Business
- **Updates from the Village Services Sustainability Study Working Group Session #2, next steps**
  - Priorities were identified at the session. EMS Service was at the top.
  - The group agreed what scenarios they are going to investigate in the study: keeping our existing structure of having four different districts and working together collaboratively, looking at an option where we could consolidate into a single districts, and looking at putting them under Town governance.

- The next step is for Ramsey to do a little bit of analysis and look at the impacts of what the different options would be in terms of service delivery and cost effectiveness.
- The next meeting will be in January.

- **FY27 Tax Rate Setting Hearing anticipated to be 11/23/2026 at 6:30 PM**
  - Ramsey announces that the FY27 Tax Rate Setting Hearing anticipated to be 11/23/2026 at 6:30 PM.
  - We are still finalizing things with the State.
  - This is the meeting where the Board decides to have a single or a split Tax Rate.

Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting
None

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, November 16th at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

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