

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:00 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; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Police Chief Jason Haskins; and Planning Director Maureen Pollock.

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting of June 1, 2026

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes of June 1, 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

Chelsey Little, Sewer Commission

- **Samuel Stevens, CWF Foreman and Operations Manager, named the 2026 Operator of the Year by the Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA)**
Little announces that Samuel Stevens, CWF Foreman and Operations Manager, was named the 2026 Operator of the Year by the Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA).
- **Authorization to apply for the MassDEP Long Island Sound Partnership Nitrogen Reduction Infrastructure Grant for Secondary Clarifier Mechanism Replacement**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the application for the MassDEP Long Island Sound Partnership Nitrogen Reduction Infrastructure Grant for Secondary Clarifier Mechanism Replacement. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Discuss total suspended solids (TSS) discharge incident that occurred on May 21, 2026**
 - Little discusses the total suspended solids (TSS) discharge incident that occurred on May 21, 2026.
 - Ramsey commends Chelsey and her crew for their response, and suggests prioritizing the need for sludge disposal sites for legislative action.
 - Kuklewicz suggests getting a second press as a back-up.
- **Permit Summary for April and May 2026**
 - Little discusses the Permit Summary for April and May 2026. Everything is good except the TSS.
 - We are struggling with the solids that build up in the chlorination contact tanks.

Personnel Board

- **Clean Water Facility**
Review and approve the CWF Mechanic job description
Goldman makes the motion to approve the CWF Mechanic job description. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Police Department**
 - **Request Change of Status for Patrolman, Cody Wells to 111F effective June 3, 2026, due to injury while on duty. Estimating rate change until June 18, 2026**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the Change of Status for Patrolman, Cody Wells to 111F effective June 3, 2026, due to injury while on duty.
 - **Request to appoint Benjamin Duga to Reserve Officer effective June 8, 2026 for 8-16 hours per week at \$30.00 per hour.**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Benjamin Duga to Reserve Officer effective June 8, 2026 for 8-16 hours per week at \$30.00 per hour; estimating rate change until July 17, 2026. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Department of Public Works**
Request to appoint Madison Liimatainen, Jack Laurie, Adam Dennis to DPW Summer Help-Grounds Maintenance Worker effective June 22, 2026, 40 hours per week at \$16.00/hour, from approximately June 22 to September 4, 2026
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Madison Liimatainen, Jack Laurie, Adam Dennis to DPW Summer Help-Grounds Maintenance Worker effective June 22, 2026, 40 hours per week at \$16.00/hour, from approximately June 22 to September 4, 2026. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Elementary School Building Committee**
Appoint the following individuals: Marina Goldman, Tari Thomas, Walter Ramsey, Cindy Sheehy, Joanne Blier, Kerry Heathwaite, Clifford Spatcher, Greg Garrison, Pamela Reynolds, Steve Ellis, Allison Page

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Card makes the motion to appoint the following individuals to the Elementary School Building Committee: Marina Goldman, Tari Thomas, Walter Ramsey, Cindy Sheehy, Joanne Blier, Kerry Heathwaite, Clifford Spatcher, Greg Garrison, Pamela Reynolds, Steve Ellis, Allison Page. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Abstain

License

- **Request from Cindy Ferrer, for a Common Victualler's License for Ritual Bowl, located at 109 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**
Goldman makes the motion to approve a Common Victualler's License for Ritual Bowl, located at 109 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Discussion of Local License Authority to "Opt-In to a Temporary Pilot to Extend the Hours of Liquor Licenses and to Allow for Public Consumption in Designated Districts in Summer 2026," by creating designated consumption districts to remain open until 3:00 AM through July 31, 2026**
Goldman makes the motion to accept the provision for a Temporary On-Premise Liquor License until 3:00 AM. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jason Haskins, Police Chief

- **Initial Proposal for Restructuring Personnel in the Police Department**
Haskins reviews Proposal for Restructuring Personnel in the Police Department:
 - Why review the organization structure?
 - What has changed since the structure was created?
 - Operations
 - Investigations and Evidence
 - Training and Personnel Development
 - Compliance and Risk Management
 - Administrative Services
 - Current Organizational Challenge
 - Cost Considerations (Top Step -> Bottom Step)
 - Cost Considerations (Promotion Analysis)
 - Cost Considerations (Best Guess for Next Contract)
 - Organizational Structure
 - Modern Police leadership requires three distinct functions
 - Chief Of Police (Executive Leadership)
 - Deputy Chief (Administrative Services and Risk Management)
 - Lieutenant (Operations and Community Services)
 - Risk Management Benefits
 - Succession Planning and Continuity of Operations
 - Recommendations
- **Approval as to form: Intermunicipal agreement between the Montague Police Department and the City of Greenfield Fire Department/Emergency Management Department regarding the use of City-owned unmanned aircraft system (UAS or drone)**
Goldman makes the motion to adopt the Intermunicipal agreement between the Montague Police Department and the City of Greenfield Fire Department/Emergency Management Department regarding the use of City-owned unmanned aircraft system (UAS or drone). Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Planning Director

- **Authorize Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for assisting with the preparation of the Montague Housing Production Plan Update. Contract value is \$45,200 to be funded by the Executive Office of Economic Development FY2026 Rural Development Fund**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for assisting with the preparation of the Montague Housing Production Plan Update; Contract value is \$45,200 to be funded by the Executive Office of Economic Development FY2026 Rural Development Fund. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. to assist with the Montague Shared Use Path Network - Feasibility & Concept Design Project. Contract value is \$35,700 to be funded by the Department of Conservation & Recreation 2025 Mass Trails Grant Program**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. to assist with the Montague Shared Use Path Network - Feasibility & Concept Design Project; Contract value is \$35,700

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to be funded by the Department of Conservation & Recreation 2025 Mass Trails Grant Program. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistantant Town Administrator's Business

- **Discuss procurement strategy for avenue A Streetscape Planter Maintenance Services; release Request for Quotes (RFQ)**
 - Nolan-Zeller summarizes the procurement strategy for avenue A Streetscape Planter Maintenance Services.
 - In response to a question by Card, Nolan-Zeller states that the RFP does not have any specifications for what products the landscapers are allowed to use, but it does establish some safeguards. The DPW Superintendent is responsible for signing off on the maintenance plan with the contractor, which creates a safeguard for concerns.
 - In response to concerns expressed by Card, Ramsey suggests trying this strategy out this year; see how it works with the DPW and the vendor interacting, and bring the Tree Warden in; and maybe look at expanding the scope for next year.
 - *Goldman makes the motion to approve the Streetscape RFQ as presented. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Nolan-Zeller states that currently the businesses are not singlehandedly responsible for maintaining the planters, although some do maintain them. This strategy will fill in the gaps.
- **Review and authorize updated Surplus Disposal Policy**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the updated Surplus Disposal Policy. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**
 - Regarding the Avenue A Streetscape improvements, work is currently happening on the block in front of Powertown Apartments as well as _____ (1:48:30) and the Dolan and Dolan Law Offices. We are still on schedule.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Community Electricity Aggregation Broker Services Contract with MassPowerChoice, LLC (a subsidiary of Peregrine Energy Group) effective 06/16/2026 - 06/15/2029**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Community Electricity Aggregation Broker Services Contract with MassPowerChoice, LLC (a subsidiary of Peregrine Energy Group) effective 06/16/2026 - 06/15/2029. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Fiscal Year 2026 closeout updates**

The Finance Committee met last Wednesday to do some end-of-the-year Reserve Fund transfers. Overall we are in good budget shape.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirement**
 - **Letter to Legislators**
 - Senator Comerford is urging municipalities to urge legislators to retain the sustainability of the funding formulas that the State uses for education. We also would want to urge some short-term measures that need help for education in the immediate term. Ramsey asks the Board to approve a letter that he drafted.
 - *Goldman makes the motion to approve the letter as presented and authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - **Letter from the Turners Falls Prudential Committee**

Ramsey reads aloud a letter from the Turners Falls Prudential Committee regarding a formal discussion about the potential consolidation of the TF Fire District, Montague Fire District, and related municipal services under the Town of Montague.

Other

Kuklewicz states that there is a debt exclusion vote next week on Wednesday, June 24. Polling hours are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, June 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Goldman makes the motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye