

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, January 26, 2015**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson; Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio (absent), Executive Assistant, Wendy Bogusz

Nelson makes announcement regarding shelters that will be available if needed.

Approve minutes of January 12, 2015

Nelson makes the motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell - Abstain

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment.

J. Golrick: Millers Falls Property: According to the Recorder article the closing is scheduled for January 30 yet documents were discussed last week and are being signed tonight before the closing, that is unusual. The Documents themselves are unusual, this whole business of a land development agreement then a deed if the land development agreement is completed as was stated last meeting is just way out of the norm. The documents have not been made public with the printed record and that is in violation with the public records law. Golrick makes comments about 2 articles that were recently in the Recorder regarding the Millers Falls Property. Ms. Golrick also states she feels STM that aren't an emergency are a waste of taxpayers money.

J. Reynolds: On warrant coming up, budget issue for legal fees, wants break out of the fees. (Bogusz informs him this will be included in handout for STM)

Joe Dobias, Training status update on Pit Bull/Lab mix dog named Bailey with Polite Leash Walking Class

This will be on next weeks agenda

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director

Sign Notice to Proceed – Unity Skate Park Construction Administration, Berkshire Design Group, \$24,650

Dobosz: this is basically just management and overseeing the construction process of the Skate Park which will be starting in the summer early fall, depending on who is awarded the construction bid. The money will not be available until July 1, 2015.

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the signing of the notice to proceed for the Unity Park Skate Park construction administration, to the Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$24,650. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner and Conservation Agent

Sign Montague DCR Recreational Trail Grant Application – Dry Hill Cemetery Access Trail

Ramsey: One of Towns goals is to improve public access to Dry hill Cemetery Access Trail. I am proposing multi use access path about 2 miles long that would benefit a wide variety of trail users. There is the opportunity to apply for the Conservation/Recreational Trail Grant Program. The grant would fund specifically way finding signs as well as Trail markings so the public can find the cemetery and know where it is. One of these signs would an interpretive sign at the cemetery itself. One of the problems if you know it exists, it is really hard to find and you could walk right past it and not even know it is there. There is a lot of good history to be told there, it is one of the oldest cemetery's in town, it hosts at least one Revolutionary War soldier. It does not look like it is a public resource. You could walk to it from Dry Hill Road but there are no trespassing signs closely marked on every tree along the corridor so it does not look like a public place; this would do a little bit to open this up to the public. The match from the Town would be doing some work to the access road dry hill cross road which is a way of getting to the trail via East Chestnut Hill Road. One of the work items is to repair a culvert that was washed out and has created a barrier to getting a maintenance vehicles over there. Elderly could get there under this proposal via a 4 wheel drive vehicle. One of the selling points for this grant is the site offers one of most beautiful vistas around, connects directly with the New England Scenic Trail, it is about ¼ mile from Wendell State Forest and abuts the Montague State Forest. The request under this grant would be for \$6,400 to produce these trail kiosks. This does not reclaim property next to Senn property. This would be a good step in the right direction.

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Fairbrother makes the motion to endorse and authorize the Chair to sign the application letter to the Department of Recreation commission for a recreational trail grant – Dry Hill Cemetery Access Trail in the amount of \$6,400. Seconded by Nelson approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Execute Closing documents and Land Development Agreement for 26 – 28, 30, 34 and 34R East Main Street, Millers Falls

Ramsey: Nothing has changed since the last meeting, closing is scheduled for January 30, 2015

Fairbrother makes the motion the Board sign the Land Develop Agreement between the Town of Montague and Power Block Properties, LLC, 47 West Chestnut Hill Rd, Montague Mass. for 6 parcels of land known as 26 – 28, 30, 34 and 34 R East Main Street, Bridge Street, no assigned number and East Main Street, no assigned number, Millers Falls. seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to execute the Quitclaim Deed between the Town of Montague and the Power Block Properties, LLC for consideration of \$1.00, six parcels of land known as 26 – 28, 30, 34 and 34R East Main Street, Bridge Street, no assigned number and East Main Street, no assigned number, Millers Falls and identified as Lots “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” “E” and “G” as shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land Prepared for the Town of Montague Located in Montague, Massachusetts,” dated November 23, 2012, prepared by Daniel L. Werner, P.L.S., recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 133, Page 99, known as the “property”. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye

Town Administrators Report

Request from FRCOG to join a Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee being formed to address issues related to the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline

Discussion about who should attend this meeting. Walter will attend the first meeting, and unofficially will attend. Names to be appointed to this committee will be forthcoming

Ms. Golrick wants letter posted to the website in the minutes.

Special Town Meeting Warrant, February 11, 2015 – To approve and execute draft warrant, Attached hereto; discussion and possible vote to hold meeting on February 18, 2015.

Fairbrother makes the motion to change the date of the STM to February 18, 2015 from February 11, 2015 to be held at the Turners Falls High School Theater at 6:30 PM based on the approaching storm and a concern that the libraries and post offices will not be open in time to meet the fourteen day posting requirement and that this concern could not have been anticipated at the time the agenda was posted. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Fairbrother reads articles into the record:

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 1 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 1.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,078, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing Article #9 of the September 12, 2013 Special Town Meeting, which funded costs associated with the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 for Fiscal Year 2014, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2013, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Board of Selectmen Request) Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 2 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 2.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$15,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the Fiscal Year*

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2015 Police Department Budget, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Police Department Request) *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 3 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 3.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$22,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the Fiscal Year 2015 Legal Budget, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Board of Selectmen Request) *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 4 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 4.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$40,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing a sander and plow and for other expenses for setting up and equipping a new 6 wheel dump truck being purchased with Chapter 90 funds or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (DPW Request) *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 5 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 5.** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, acting as Sewer Commissioners, to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, a permanent easement in the following described property and to accept a deed or deeds on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, in, along, upon and under a parcel of land containing 2,310 square feet, more or less, situated on First Street, and shown as parcel “E-2” on a plan entitled “Proposed Easement to be granted to the Town of Montague by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company First Street Montague, MA,” dated January 15, 2015, which plan is on file with the office of the Town Clerk, for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the new First Street Sanitary Sewage Pump Station, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (WPCF Request) *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 6 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 6.** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, acting as Sewer Commissioners, to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, a permanent easement in the following described property and to accept a deed or deeds on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, in, along, upon and under a parcel of land containing 332 square feet, more or less, situated on the southerly side of Poplar Street, and shown as parcel “E-1” on a plan entitled “Proposed Easement to be granted to the Town of Montague by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Poplar Street Montague, MA,” dated January 15, 2015, which plan is on file with the office of the Town Clerk, for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the new Poplar Street Sanitary Sewage Pump Station, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (WPCF Request) *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to place Article 7 on the February 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant as follows: **ARTICLE 7.** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, for general municipal purposes all or a portion of the following described property on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate and to accept the deed of a fee simple interest in the land containing .189 acres, more or less, and the building and parking thereon, located at 62 Fifth Street in the Town of Montague and shown on Assessors Map 4, Lot 266, and to enter into all agreements and execute all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effect said acquisition; and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$1.00 or any other amount to effect said acquisition, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Board of Selectmen Request) *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve all 7 articles to be placed on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for February 18, 2015. *Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye**

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Other

Governor declared state of emergency, no driving after midnight, look on the MEMA website to see exemptions.
Stay home if you can

*Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously.
Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

January 20, 2015

Dear Select Board:

The preferred route for the proposed gas pipeline has been issued by Kinder Morgan and the Open House for Franklin County has been scheduled for February 5, 2015 at GCC. We have received DLTA requests from several communities along the proposed pipeline route requesting technical assistance. We would like to form a Pipeline Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from each of the potentially impacted towns as well as members from the Franklin Regional Planning Board Executive Committee and the FRCOG Executive Committee.

We plan to hold the kick-off meeting on **February 2, 2015 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** at the J.W. Olver Transit Center and hope you can join us. At this meeting we will present information on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process as well as potential impacts during pipeline construction and operation that towns should be thinking about. We will also invite Scott Jackson from UMASS to present his GIS natural resource mapping and assessment of the pipeline route. We would like each community to appoint 1-2 representatives from among members of the Select Board, Planning Board or Conservation Commission and/or Town Administrators. We would greatly appreciate an RSVP to psloan@frcog.org if you plan to attend.

Finally, we will do our best to coordinate with the towns regarding the AECOM mapping request since there are different letters being submitted to Regional Planning Agencies, like the FRCOG, and town Boards of Health and Planning Boards. Please see attached the objection letter from Mass Audubon regarding this information request from AECOM. You may want to consult with Town Counsel before responding. We will discuss the AECOM request for information at our meeting on February 2, 2015. We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Dunlavy".

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peggy Sloan".

Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning & Development

Cc: FRCOG Executive Committee
FRPB Executive Committee