

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, February 29, 2016**

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

Kuklewicz opens meeting at 7:00 PM and is acting Chairperson

**Approve minutes of February 8 and 22, 2016, and Meeting with Broadband Advisory Committee**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2016. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

February 22, 2016 minutes will be approved next week

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2016, joint Broadband Advisory Committee. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - 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:**

Charles Kelley: This is in regards to the posting. If you look at the bottom of your agenda, it says the next regularly scheduled meeting is 2/29/16; no mention of the 2/23/16 meeting. Kuklewicz responds this was a separately posted meeting. The meeting Kelley is referring to was posted separately and correctly

**Jason Hunter, Berkshire Brewing Company**

**One Day Beer & Wine License at Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, March 4, 5 and 6, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM for music concert**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize a One Day Beer & Wine License at Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, to Jason Hunter, Berkshire Brewing Company on March 4, 5 and 6, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM for a music concert. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner and Conservation Agent**

**Comments on FERC on Draft License Application for the Turners Falls Hydro Project  
No. P-1889**

Ramsey: The Town is in the midst of a huge regulatory process for the relicensing of the Turner Falls Hydro project. Project last licensed about 40 years ago, so this is a once or twice in a lifetime opportunity to improve our communities relationship with the Connecticut River. The Hydro Project consists of 2.1 miles of the hydro electric canal, the Turners Falls dam as well as two hydro electric generation stations in Town. The project is the largest contributor to Montague's tax base, the Turners Falls aspect of the project is entirely renewable and the electricity is sold to the regional grid. FERC's responsibility is to ensure the private company's use of the river for power production is bound with public interest, such as biological, natural, recreational and historical resources. For example things that came up at the last relicensing project are Barton's Cove Camp Ground, Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, Cabot woods fishing access as well as the fish ladder and viewing facility. The idea is FERC can require the licensee to consider changes to its current mode of operation that will bounce power generation with other environmental and community benefits and to minimize project impacts. At this point the licensee submitted a draft license application and it does not propose any significant changes to the existing operations aside from increasing production at the Northfield Mountain Pump storage facility (which is not a renewable energy project as it uses more energy than it creates). Now is the time in the FERC process that the Town submit preliminary comments on the draft license application. I've been advised that it's the best time to make the Towns goals and plans known to the licensee. I've been working closely with other nongovernmental stake holders like Connecticut River Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, American Whitewater, Appalachian Mountain Club and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to monitor the process and leverage our efforts. In so many ways our interests are aligned, which is a very good thing going into negotiations with FERC and the licensee. I've identified four general areas of concern for the town drawing from existing community plans like our Open Space Plan and the Downtown Livability Plan, each of which involved considerable community outreach. Areas of concern: 1) The draft license application fails to provide adequate physical access to the Turners Falls historic-Industrial Canal District to allow for implementation of the Community's riverfront redevelopment vision; The town is asking that

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First Light identify a management plan for the Strathmore Bridge, IP Bridges and Canal Access Road with a commitment to repair and maintain and public access over the power canal to the Historic-Industrial Mill District. If First Light is not willing to improve access to the historic-canal district, the town suggests that the Power Company be required to acquire the vacant properties which have been rendered unusable and un-developable because of the hydro Project. 2) The draft license application fails to provide an acceptable minimum flow in the bypass reach for recreation and habitat. The Town supports completion of the remaining aquatic studies to further refine appropriate bypass flows. In order to restore the aquatic habitat in the natural river channel that has been so damaged by the Licensee's operation, it is our position that the "bypass" minimum flows should be released through the bascule gates at the dam rather than through Station 1 or Cabot Station as currently done. We suggest that the Licensee should consider installing a fish friendly, low-flow generator at the bascule gate to concurrently benefit hydropower generation 3) the draft license application fails to provide residents of Montague adequate access to the Connecticut River for recreation. The Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan and Montague Open Space and Recreation plan calls for improved and user friendly public access points to the river, especially at put-in below the Turners Falls Dam, cartop boat access at Unity Park, foot access to the Rock Dam, improvements to the Poplar Street access point, and cartop boat access at Cabot Camp; 4) The draft license application fails to meet the need for a historical and archeological interpretive framework for a 1676 King Phillips War Battle that occurred in the project area. The Town recommends that the Licensee work with the Town and area tribes to establish and provide funding for a Native American Cultural Interpretive Center in Turners Falls. I'm asking for endorsement of the letter.

*Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding comments on the draft license application for Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage project No. P-2485 and Turners Falls Project No. P-1889. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Bud Gnatek, Judd Wire, Inc.**

**Request for renewal of Lease of Real Property to Judd Wire, Inc., Sandy Lane Parking Lot, for 3 years, \$100 per year**

*Boutwell makes the motion to renew the lease of real property to Judd Wire, Inc., Sandy Lane Parking Lot, for 3 years at \$100 per year. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell –Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Mickey Longo, Turners Falls Municipal Airport**

**Sign Notice of Request for Cable Service to a Public Bldg.; Airport Administration Building/Terminal Building, 10 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376**

*Boutwell makes the motion to sign the Notice of Request for Cable Service to a Public Bldg.; Airport Administration Building/Terminal Building, 10 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Cable Advisory Committee**

**Review of MCCI Long Range Plan**

**Public Hearing: Review and Approval of MCCI Contract**

Cable Advisory Committee did not post their meeting with the Selectmen and do not have a quorum tonight. Kuklewicz would like to have someone from MCCI at the Selectmen's meeting to explain the long range plan. A CAC meeting will be scheduled in 2 weeks.

*Boutwell makes the motion to extend the contract with MCCI until April 4, 2016. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

**Town Administrators Report**

**Execute MOU for FY16 FCSWMD and Town of Montague regarding Wood Pellet Bag Recycling Sheds.**

Boutwell recuses himself from this portion of the meeting

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to Execute the MOU for FY16 FCSWMD and Town of Montague regarding Wood Pellet Bag Recycling Shed, with a \$350 fee. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Boutwell – Abstain*

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**Execute Agreement with Insituform, Inc for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation: Various Locations, \$171,516**

*Boutwell makes the motion to Execute Agreement with Insituform, Inc for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation: Various Locations, \$171,516, contingent upon the proper insurance. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Registration for use of Public Property: Eric Meals, Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Ceremony Parade, TFHS Parking lot, Turnpike Road, Montague Street ending at Campbell Field, April 24, 2016, 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Registration for use of Public Property: Eric Meals, Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Ceremony Parade, TFHS Parking lot, Turnpike Road, Montague Street ending at Campbell Field, April 24, 2016, 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting requirements**

None

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

**List of Documents and Exhibits:**

- Minutes of February 8, 2016
- Broadband Committee Minutes
- One Day Beer & Wine License, Berkshire Brewing
- Letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Lease of Sandy Lane Parking Lot with Judd Wire
- Letter to Comcast Cable Communications
- FCSWMD MOU for wood pellet bag recycling shed
- Contract with Insituform, Inc.
- Use of Public Property: Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Ceremony Parade