

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, July 31, 2017**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Kuklewicz makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

Approve Selectmen minutes of July 10, 2017

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of July 10, 2017 as updated. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Approve Selectmen minutes of July 17, 2017

Not available at this time

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

None

FY2015 Final Quarterly Report

Nelson makes a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of acceptance of Montague's FY2015 Community Development Block Grant's Final Quarterly Report to be sent out to the Department of Housing and Community Development. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Chief of Police, Chip Dodge

Letter of Commendation to Dispatcher Katherine Chapdelaine relate to her handling of a matter on April 28, 2017

- Dodge reads the letter into the record.
- *Nelson makes the motion to add said letter to Dispatcher Chapdelaine's personnel file, with the Board's gratitude for a job well done. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Request authorization to apply for a Massachusetts State Dispatch grant request totaling over \$21,000 and serve as signatory for the purpose of submitting the application

- Nelson abstains from discussion and vote as it is close to his daytime job.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Chief Dodge to sign the FY2018 Support and Incentive Grant. Kuklewicz seconded, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - Abstain*

Community Development Planner, Walter Ramsey

Public Presentation: Proposed Spinner Park Rehabilitation Design. Guest presenter, Carlos Nieto-Mattei from Berkshire Design

Nieto-Mattie, landscape architect from Berkshire Gas, made a presentation of the proposed rehabilitation for Spinner Park, noting that input had been received from RiverCulture, the Tree Committee, and other citizens:

- The majority of the work will happen in the park itself.
- For the walls, granite would last longer than concrete.
- The fencing, with its sharp posts, needs to be made safer and less hazardous. Proposed fencing is flat on top.
- Lighting will be installed.
- Two planters will be removed and bricks will be installed in the open area.

Throughout the presentation, members of the audience expressed their opinions regarding publicly available water, a built-in sitting area, and lighting at more even intervals (less in the parking area and more in the darker areas)

Nelson: I think if we're going to put all this work into that project, it's going to look very incomplete, having posts that only have half their lights working.

Ellis: I think the goal is to try to make the most of the resources that we have available that have to be used for very specific purposes and not to have to do a special appropriation as part of the design. In initial conversations, our goal was to create a tangible improvement to the downtown in an area that was showing substantial deterioration,

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and understanding that there are many projects that might be in line for redevelopment funds that we have moving forward in a grant program that we feel may be contracting potentially. It is a very important strategic conversation, but going to timeline and what may or may not be feasible is something that maybe Walter or Bruce can comment on.

Hunter: I would strongly suggest if you don't feel that at this point the design is something that you can fund, then you want to improve the design and look at another alternate, do an RFP process using this as a schematic drawing and also include lighting parts of Avenue A.

Kuklewicz: Even just doing the rehabilitation, we don't really have the funds to do it currently. Then if we want to look at a redesign, we certainly can assume we don't have the full funding.

Hunter stated that there is a public hearing next Monday for the re-use of leftover funds. Social Services and Housing Rehab have been invited to describe what their needs are.

Ramsey stated that he would explore the design option next week.

Hunter: For parks, you need to have bid-ready plans and specifications, and if you're going to do that, you might as well have the lighting also. That way you have a fee to manage the project and you'll be able to have a bid document ready to go.

Execute Land Development Agreement and Closing Documents for 15 Power Street to Power Street LLC under Commercial Homesteading Program.

- Ramsey presented two closing documents, the Deed and the Land Development Agreement.
- Ellis: Mrs. Golrick had questions regarding who owned the lot. We consulted with Counsel and reviewed documents ourselves, and we left very comfortable that this is in fact our lot to be conveyed.
- *Nelson makes a motion to execute the Land Development Agreement and Closing Documents for 15 Power Street to Power Street LLC under the Commercial Homesteading Program. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator's Report

Move to adopt and engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under M.G.L. c. 32b s. 21-23 in response to planned changes in defined benefits in FY19 approved by the Hampshire Insurance Group

- Seymour: Last week the group insurance trust voted, even though the Town of Montague did not vote in favor of this change, to move forward in increasing the co-pays on the benefit plans. We didn't feel at that point that we had enough information to move forward, but at this point Legal Counsel has advised us that we need to adopt these statutes in order to move forward. We are going to revitalize the Insurance Advisory Committee, and we have to have these in place before we can do that, and we have to move forward because there are unions involved. We're definitely looking at all aspects, but the trust seems to be the place to be.
- *Nelson makes a motion to move to adopt and engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under M.G.L. c. 32b s. 21-23 as defined and planned by the Hampshire Regional Council of Governments Group Insurance Trust. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Strathmore debris removal and boarding update

- Larger trucks for hauling paper to a recycling facility arrived today.
- Additional trucks and personnel will be on-site.
- ABC Moving and Storage is fully mobilized and the debris removal process will start tomorrow. We're expecting an approximately two-week time frame based on their work schedule. They have a full 60 days under the contract.
- Ellis: I would like to commend Jim Whiteman, Mark Nelson, and Dave Jensen, who last week cleared areas and have done a lot of work to make sure that this all goes well.
- The Building Inspector needs to finalize the list before a bid for the boarding can be put together because he wants to balance the remaining cost associated with boarding with the need for some roofing work.

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Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour period posting requirements

None

OTHER

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department will be sponsoring a meeting regarding Montague Center Park on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Montague Common Hall, located at 34 Main St., Montague Center, MA 01351. Public participation is welcomed.

Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Minutes of July 10, 2017
- Letter of acceptance of Montague's FY2015 Community Development Block Grant's final quarterly report.
- Letter of Commendation to Dispatcher Katherine Chapdelaine relate to her handling of a matter on April 28, 2017.
- Massachusetts State Dispatch grant request totaling over \$21,000 and serve as signatory for the purpose of submitting the application.
- Proposed Spinner Park Rehabilitation Design, by Berkshire Design.
- Land Development Agreement and Closing Documents for 15 Power Street to Power Street LLC under Commercial Homesteading Program.
- Information to adopt and engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under M.G.L. c. 32B s. 21-23 in response to planned changes in defined benefits in FY19 approved by the Hampshire Insurance Group.