

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, July 9, 2018**

Meeting was opened at 7:40 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, and Rich Kuklewicz, and Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant, Kuklewicz makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

Judith Lorei, Cemetery Commission

Review potential site options for future town cemetery

Lorei: Here to talk to you about a potential opportunity in Town for a new green cemetery which would be a valuable asset to the town and generate some revenue. Town owns 7 cemeteries in town and there are also 7 private cemetery's owned by non-profit associations. Town cemeteries are in active and we aren't burying people in them any longer.

- Cemetery commission has been working with the Board of Health to start to look at potential parcels for a cemetery. We are looking at a this site for a green cemetery which is becoming more popular.
- Been looking at town owned parcels, looked at a site in the plains with Dept. of Fish and Game but would not be ideal for green burials. Fish & Game came back with the possibility of a 16 acre land swap for property located off of lower meadow road with land in the plains that we will most likely never use.
- This would be a no cost/low cost option to the town and would be self-sustaining project and bring revenue in.
- This is keeping with Montague being a green community.
- 16 acres – a mix of forest and meadow; road access to both the forest and the meadow, dry, flat, existing tobacco barn, providing a simple shelter for gatherings, exquisite view scape.
- Red Fire Farm leases a portion of the land for farming, Their lease is up 12/31/18 but the idea would be to renew the lease since the side of the parcel could easily accommodate a cemetery and a farm.
- DFG in interested in swapping this 16 acre site for the town's in holdings on Montague Plains, to include the 9 acre parcel and two other land locked tax taking parcels, totaling about 25 acres. These back land parcels have no road frontage or deeded access.
- This land swap would be a huge benefit for DFG's barrens restoration and conservation at Montague Plains, and would also help the town with their cemetery needs.
- Next step would be to work with the Legislature to remove the 16 acre parcel from Article 97. This is not unusual and should not be an obstacle. An independent appraisal would need to be conducted to assess tha the swap would be for land that is of equal value re: size, economic value and resource value.
- Kuklewicz would like to see a business plan; such as cost to fix road, cost to "accept tenants", # of plots, how road will be maintained in the winter, could it be self-sustaining or could money be recouped?
- Nelson asks about potential for flooding and Ramsey states it is well above the flood plain.
- Typically 150 – 200 people could be buried in an acre

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Establish and appoint members to the RiverCulture Steering Committee

The RiverCulture Steering Committee is appointed by the Montague Selectboard and is to be comprised of between seven and nine people from te arts and business communities for terms not to exceed two years. The Steering Committee is charged with providing direction to RiverCulture a creative place making program with a focus on developing the creative economy throughout Montague. At minimum, the Committee will review and approve the following items as prepared by the Cultural Coordinate: a three year strategy for the RiverCulure Project, an annual programming budget for non-town raised funds, and quarterly reports. The committee reports to the Selectboard annually, at the end of each fiscal year.

Nelson makes the motion to appoint Eileen Dowd, Hillary Emerson Lay, Rachel Teumim, Richard Widmer to a two year term ending June 30, 2020; Suzanne Rubinstein, Oliver Miller, Erin MacLean, Pam Allen and an open seat until June 30, 2019. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Nelson makes the motion to establish a RiveCulture Steering Committee. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Avenue A Overhead Streetlights update

Back in April the Water Department turned off all overhead lights downtown from Town Hall down to Bob's Auto, an ad was put in the paper notifying people of this and there have been no issues. We met again last week and no issues have been raised about the lights being turned off. They want to make this permanent as of September so if there are any issues please notify the Water Department or the Planning Department. Some lights are still on at the street corners.

David Detmold

Citizen concerns and ideas relative to reducing opioid related emergencies

Jean Hebden: Downtown Turners is becoming a sad place. We have been asking for years for a Community Policing Officer downtown. Have seen two officers walking around downtown together but 2 are unapproachable; feels like you would be bothering them to approach them. Starting to feel uncomfortable being out downtown with all the panholders. Going to be in the process of hiring a new Chief and hopes can bring up the issue and talk about it at lengths, people have worked hard to turn downtown around.

Kuklewicz feels it's the police presence piece as well as the community policing piece and have concerns that we have worked hard to develop the downtown and it is an issue that should be addressed, but with that comes the cost associated with it.

Detmold feels things have slipped recently with coverage downtown and if there is a way to reallocate resources to get someone to walk the beat that would be good.

Personnel Board

Appoint Chris Williams, Acting Chief of Police, Non-Unit, Grade I, Step 4. Effective July 9, 2018

Nelson makes the motion to appoint Chris Williams as Acting Chief of Police, Non-Unit, Grade I, Step 4, effective July 10, 2018. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Rescind appointment of Christopher Bonnett, Acting Chief, returning to appointment as Lieutenant at Grade G+8.5%, step 8; 37.69 hours/week. Effective July 1, 2018

Nelson makes the motion to Rescind appointment of Christopher Bonnett as Acting Chief, returning to appointment as Lieutenant at Grade G+8.5%, step 8; 37.69 hours/week. Effective July 1, 2018. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discussion of operational plan for Montague Police Department, led by Chris Williams

Williams: Would like John Dempsey to replace me as Sergeant; we will still be short staffed for a few weeks and then Dan Miner will be going to the school as the resource officer. Dan will start training 3rd week of August and go to the school effective the last week of August. I would like to appoint a new officer to replace Dan and he will be extra for approximately 1 month and during that time we can have someone spend more time downtown. With staffing right now, we aren't equipped; most shifts we only have 2 guys on, a Sergeant and an patrolman. The good news is Justin Moody will be graduating from the academy on August 3rd so he is the extra body. We lost the extra body on the street when we gained a lieutenant that body was removed from the street and we have been trying to build that back up. I know with what has been going on, our department has been image has been tarnished and perhaps with some supervisory training that will help. We have a great group of people and they are pretty young, in their 20's. Don't be afraid to approach the officers. I will look into panhandling as I did not know that was an issue. Brief discussion about drugs.

Moving forward, we will be out there, if there are any concerns, please let us know. I don't know if people are aware, but Dan Miner installs car seats and we have some on hand as the Town received a grant.

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Edite Cunha asks if Montague has representation on the Opioid Task Force? Williams responds that sometime in July the DA's office is meeting with the Chiefs of Police that are part of it and they will be voting to see if we will be welcome back into it. Brief discussion about different tasks forces

Singleton asks about appointment of Acting Chief Williams. Chris Williams was asked to be officer in charge until the Board could meet and appoint him as Acting Chief. Up until this time, he was officer in charge in his senior role of Staff Sergeant. This is why we asked him to talk about his plans. The Town Administrator placed Lieutenant Bonnett on administrative leave.

Detmold asked if Williams would be willing to meet with a group of downtown residents who are familiar with the problems and he responded that he would be. David will be calling to set something up.

Appoint John Dempsey, Acting Sergeant, NEPBA, Grade Sergeant, Step 4; 37.69 hours/week. Effective July 15, 2018

Appoint John Dempsey, Acting Sergeant, NEPBA, Grade Sergeant, Step 4; \$33.07/hour, 37.69 hours/week. Effective July 15, 2018. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Board discussion of next steps in Chief of Police hiring process

Kuklewicz just wanted to make sure the Board was still in favor of staying within civil service for our next chief.

Nelson feels he is still in favor of moving forward with the process as well as Boutwell. Nelson feels confident we have a qualified candidate in house to be the next Chief.

Ellis states the candidates will come in a ranked order and the Board will be able to choose from that.

Kuklewicz feels whoever is the new chief should look at the process whether it should remain in civil service and look at the whole position and the candidates that they would attract and feels the process will take a year or longer. Agrees with Michael they have good candidates to look at.

M. Latanzzi: Asks what the advantages and disadvantages are to being in civil service and how do you protect the towns interests.

Kuklewicz feels we would have to have a strong contract in place and we may have ended up where we are even if we weren't in civil service. We needed to do what was best for the Town, what was best for the department moving forward. Nelson agrees with this statement too.

Further discussion about a Police Chief contract; hiring a permanent Chief vs. acting.

Kuklewicz feels his previous comments were reactionary as he sat back and pondered saying lets go to a different process. It was really reactionary than measured and thoughtful Getting stability to the Department, the Board and the Community is important; then having the discussion why we are doing hanging over our head but what's best for the Town.

Town Administrators Business

Award contract for a Civil Service Police Chief Assessment Center to Integrity Testing of Tewksbury, MA

Town received 2 bids; Badgequest was responsive to the request but over \$1000 more than Integrity Testing, LLC. Integrity Testing, LLC will be run by Chief Rick Stanley as Al Donovan is a co-owner and conducted the investigation on Chief Dodge and will not be a part of the assessment center in any way as he has met many of the officers previously.

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Nelson makes the motion to hire Integrity Testing, LLC to conduct the Assessment Center Total cost for 3 to 5 Candidates will be \$5,800 and the Total cost for 6 – 10 Candidates will be \$7,600. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Ellis goes over process for Assessment Center and more information will be coming in the next few weeks. He will be reaching out to seniors, someone who works with youth, and other community members for their comments. Nelson will be the Boards representative if one is needed.

Executive Assistant Business

Approve Employee Credit Card for Suzanne LoManto, \$5,000

Nelson makes the motion to approve the request from Eileen Seymor to grant Suzanne LoManto a town credit card in the amount of \$5,000. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Use of Public Property: Gregory Garrison, Northampton Cycling Club, Turners Falls Industrial Park, July 18, 25; August 1 and 8, 2018, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Nelson makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property to Gregory Garrison, Northampton Cycling Club, Turners Falls Industrial Park, July 18, 25; August 1 and 8, 2018, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, insurance has been received. Seconded by Boutwell, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrators Business

Completion of Draft ADA Transition Plan

This updates a document last developed in 2001, and is posted on the towns website. WE had a community forum and input. I would like the Board to pick a date for Meghan Rhodes who is the primary author from the FRCOG to meet with us to receive specific feedback from the community. Tentatively scheduled for August 20th agenda

Update on Mass Historic Grant Application

Sadly we received news we were not chosen to receive funding for the Mass Historic Preservation Projects Grant for the Colle Opera House. To date we have not received any specifics as to why. In the coming weeks we will see where they have spent their money. It's possible that the fact that we saved money for that building has worked against us. Kuklewicz suggests we use the funds that have been saved to fix the problem. Trying to get window work done on the north side of the building so we can get onto the roofing project at the Shea.

Update on MIIA Rewards Credit

We have emphasized participating in more MIIA trainings and this year we are receiving \$6,871 in reward credits as compared to \$1,700 last year

Nelson makes the motion to roll the credit into our payment. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting requirements

- Boutwell gives update on white bridge: They found more substantial repairs that were needed than originally planned. No work has been done to the bridge over the canal. They will be paving the week of 7/23 and hope to open by the end of July.
- WPCF Update: There was a dry weather event subsequent to a lighting strike that fried a piece of equipment sending an erroneous signal in the plant that caused the plant to function like it was in the midst of a wet weather event pattern. The thing I was most pleased to hear in a negative situation was that the tank where the heavy septage was held (solids) was not affected by this. The parts to repair that unit was ordered the next day. Bob McDonald will be at our meeting on Wednesday with a further update.

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Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye.

Documents and Exhibits:

- Potential Green Cemetery site Map
- Appointment form: Chris Williams, Acting Chief of Police, Non-Unit, Grade I, Step 4. Effective July 9, 2018
- Appointment form rescinding: appointment of Christopher Bonnett, Acting Chief, returning to appointment as Lieutenant at Grade G+8.5%, step 8; 37.69 hours/week. Effective July 1, 2018
- Appointment form: John Dempsey, Acting Sergeant, NEPBA, Grade Sergeant, Step 4; 37.69 hours/week. Effective July 9, 2018
- Employee Credit Card form for Suzanne LoManto, \$5,000
- Use of Public Property: Gregory Garrison, Northampton Cycling Club, Turners Falls Industrial Park, July 18, 25; August 1 and 8, 2018, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Proposal for Civil Service Police Chief Assessment Center from Integrity Testing of Tewksbury, MA
- Draft ADA Transition Plan