

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 22, 2018**

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

**Approve Selectboard Minutes of October 15, 2018**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes of October 15, 2018. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**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

**FY2019 Sewer Rate Hearing**

Kuklewicz announces hearing notice was posted in Greenfield Recorder.

Ellis reviewed the recommended FY19 sewer user rates, which reflect a 71% across the board increase applicable to all metered, unmetered, industrial, and minimum rate users. The increases reflect unavoidable financial requirements and the revised FY19 WPCF budget approved at Special Town Meeting on October 10, 2018.

Discussion:

Resident concerns:

- A woman in the audience asks what happened to the Turners process. Bob Macdonald explains that the State said that the test had to be run for a year to prove it would work, but the test was unsuccessful. Kuklewicz explains that other communities tried the process and were also unsuccessful.
- Kathleen Peura states that the Greenfield Recorder published that the DEP said to cease and desist because of unstableness and environmental risk with the Montague process, but the Montague Reporter had published that the DEP was interested in the Montague process. Macdonald explains that of the remaining staff, none were able to run the process for various reasons. Peura suggests lowering the grade level of the plant. Macdonald gives a detailed explanation and list of reasons of why this was not possible including the amount of flow coming into the plant, the number of pump stations involved, and the limits of the automatic remote process.
- Arlene Jigarjian states that the new rates will devastate senior citizens living solely on social security as well as other lower-income residents, and asks if the Town will provide any help to them. Ellis states that he is unaware of any program that would compensate them, and that the only other place to find monies would be from the General Town Budget.
- Ariel Elan and Macdonald share that the equipment at the plant was not designed to do what the Montague process requires it to do (i.e., taking in all the organics and inorganics from all the different communities).
- Mark Fiske expresses his concern for the elderly and asks if the Town can give the residents a heads-up regarding increasing prices, especially with all the other upcoming projects that the Town has. Ellis states that he agrees with him and that the Town tries to communicate as proactively as possible, but it has been difficult. He suggests forecasting in the bills may be an option.
- Michael Jackson, Montague Reporter, asks Kuklewicz to expand on the Retained Earnings and the amount of cash that would be put back. Kuklewicz and Boutwell explain the agreement, which was made during Frank Abbondanzio's time.

*Nelson makes the motion to reluctantly set the Metered Montague Customers (all villages). **FY19 Rate: \$14.15/1,000 gallons; Unmetered Montague Customers (12 month Flat Rate), FY19 Rate: \$782.00/FY; Industrial and Town of Gill Customers, FY19 Rate: \$13.09/1,000 gallons; Minimum Bill Amount FY19: \$62.00.** Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

*Nelson makes the motion to set the other rates for FY19 as **Septage for In Town and Town of Gill: \$80.00/1,000 gallons, Out of Town: \$110.00/1,000 gallons; Trucked-in Sludge - Flat Rate: \$700.00/9,000 gallons; Miscellaneous Other Items - No Change; the Interest Rate at this time will continue to be 14% per annum and a Demand Charge of \$5.00, but we will review said Interest Rate if we are allowed to in the future.** Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Steve Ellis, Tom Bergeron, Ken Morin, DPW Facilities Committee**

**Review and approve DPW Owners Project Manager finalist rankings and authorize Town Administrator to negotiate price**

- Proposals submitted by: Construction Monitoring Services , Colliers International and CBRE Heery

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*Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into negotiations for the Owners Project Manager with the #1 choice. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Execute contract and scope of services for the Town of Montague that Covers the transfer of FY2019 Local Cultural funds from the Mass Cultural Council to local cultural council account for the Montague Cultural Council**

*Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the contract and scope of services for the Town of Montague that Covers the transfer of FY2019 Local Cultural funds from the Mass Cultural Council to local cultural council account for the Montague Cultural Council. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Execute Agreement with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority for payment in lieu of taxes for property located at 241 Millers Falls Road**

*Nelson makes the motion to execute the Agreement with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the pilot payment in lieu of taxes for property located at 241 Millers Falls Road. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Execute Agreement with Kurtz, Inc. for Colle Building Weatherization, \$20,810**

*Nelson makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Kurtz, Inc. for Colle Building Weatherization, \$20,810. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Business**

**Execute Agreement with Collins Center for HR Policy Development**

*Nelson makes the motion to execute the Agreement and to authorize the Chair to sign said Agreement with Collins Center for HR Policy Development. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Update on MA DOT schedule for repair of Green Bridge**

Ellis states he has learned that the State is still reviewing the shop drawings to the new bridge deck as there were some changes to the fabrication specs that needed some additional review time. Because the work will rely on concrete, it is work that can be done into the winter. The bridge can remain opened for now. We hope to hear from them in a few weeks.

**Topics not anticipated in 48-hour posting**

None

**OTHER**

GMRSD Civic Engagement Group will be sharing concerns relative to the Chapter 70 formula and school financing on November 14 at 6:30 PM with sitting and prospective state legislators

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on October 29, 2018 at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

*Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*