

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, December 3, 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 November 26, 2018

Nelson makes the motion to approve the approve Selectboard Minutes of November 26, 2018. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Approve Prudential Committee Minutes of November 19, 2018

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes between the Selectboard and the Prudential Committee of November 19, 2018. Kuklewicz seconded, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - 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

None

Personnel Board

• **Appoint Andy Vega, Montague Tree Advisory Committee, until June 30, 2019**

Nelson makes the motion to appoint Andy Vega to the Montague Tree Advisory Committee effective immediately until June 30, 2019. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

• **David Detmold/Update on Tree Advisory Committee**

- The wood bank project is up and running. The wood is now drying in bins and will be ready to provide to low-to-moderate-income people in about a year. The next work day is scheduled for December 8th at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in participating may contact Detmold at 863-9296.
- Regarding the Millers Falls Tree Grant, we have been working with the Franklin County Tech School nursery and have planted 22 trees in downtown Millers Falls.
- Regarding the larger grant involving the 800 trees that will be coming in three to five years, anyone who would like to have a tree for free planted in their tree belt, front yard, or side yard can contact Matt Cadran at the Highway Department or at hwycompliance@montague.ma.gov.

• **Priority Performance Objectives for Town Administrator**

- Kuklewicz did not submit one as he felt Nelson included everything on the list.
- The Selectmen and Town Administrator review and define the Priority Performance Objectives.
- Ellis would like to add supporting the Public Works Facility Building Committee in management and oversight of the design and construction of the DPW facility, as well as HR focus.
- The Board will review the list in six months and see where the projects are.

Curt Sherrer, Request Donation of the Historic Sixth Street Power Bridge

Sherrer shares his concept regarding transferring ownership of the Sixth Street Power Bridge. He feels it would be best to form a non-profit because in private hands, things can move more quickly. He states that the property could be used for all sorts of events (i.e., farmers markets, dinners, bands, etc.).

Discussion:

- The canal needs a better sewer infrastructure. At one point there had been a discussion about getting some funding to get sewage into the area.
- There are some town lines that run over the bridge currently.
- Investments from the State will not be forthcoming until we have a multimillion dollar project providing jobs.
- Redevelopment is going to be aided by improvements to the utilities.
- The Bailey Bridge is a viable path to bring utilities over.
- Kuklewicz feels that it is an intriguing concept, but he would like to have more development of what a committee (501C3) would look like, what the uses would be, and what is the infrastructure of the bridge now. More extensive research needs to be done before he would feel comfortable endorsing it.
- It would take about \$200,000 to take the bridge down.
- Nelson feels it is not a bad concept, it really can work, and it would be great to hear more, but it is still in the early stages.
- Kuklewicz is concerned about long-term sustainability of the bridge.

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- Ellis summarizes that it would be necessary to determine who might be the people that would be behind the 501C3, and what is their ability in real terms to raise the kind of revenue and support and generate the enthusiasm to make a project of this magnitude happen.

Execute FY19 Grant from the Cultural District Initiative of the Mass Cultural Council for the Turners Falls Cultural District, \$5,000

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the FY19 Grant from the Cultural District Initiative of the Mass Cultural Council in the amount of \$5,000. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

Discuss Proposed Expansion of Services on FRTA Route 23 (Sunderland/Greenfield)

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the documentation regarding the Expansion of Services on the FRTA Route 23, as amended. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Executive Assistant Business

- **Upcoming Finance Committee Meetings**

The Finance Committee has scheduled joint meetings on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 PM and Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00 PM. Kuklewicz is available to attend on the 5th, and Boutwell is available to attend on the 12th.

- **Discuss Meeting Schedule due to December Holidays**

Selectmen Meetings are scheduled for December 17 and January 7, with the meeting on the 17th starting earlier than normal. If important business comes up before the 17th, another meeting may have to be scheduled on Thursday, December 27.

Town Administrator Business

- **Execute Contract with FRCOG for technical assistance associated with updating Montague's Hazard Mitigation Plan, \$7,500**

Nelson makes the motion to execute the Contract with FRCOG for technical assistance associated with updating Montague's Hazard Mitigation Plan in the amount of \$7,500. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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

None

Anticipated Executive Session in accordance with F.L. c. 30A, § 21 (a)(2) to conduct negotiations with Acting Police Chief, Christopher Williams; votes may be taken

- The Chair deems that holding this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Nelson makes the motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with F.L. c. 30A, § 21 (a)(2) to conduct negotiations with Acting Police Chief, Christopher Williams; votes may be taken. The Board will return to open session following that session. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Personnel Board

Appoint Christopher Williams, Police Chief, effective December 8, 2018 pending outcome of contract negotiations

- *Nelson makes the motion to appoint Acting Police Chief Christopher Williams as the new Police Chief for the Town of Montague at Grade I, Step 4, effective December 3, 2018 through December 2, 2021; and ratify the contract that we approved in Executive Session. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- There will be a ceremony during next Monday's meeting in which Williams will have his new badge officially pinned.

Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a)(3) to discuss potential litigation concerning Southworth Company; votes may be taken

- The Chair deems that holding this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Nelson makes the motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with F.L. c. 30A, § 21 (a)(3) to discuss potential litigation concerning Southworth Company; votes may be taken. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on December 10, 2018 at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA