

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, March 9, 2020**

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.

Call to Order: Chair announces that the meeting is being recorded by MCTV (if applicable) and asks if anyone else is recording the meeting

Approve Selectboard Minutes of March 2, 2020 if available

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

- John McNamara shares that residents are upset with the vandalism that occurred recently, which has resulted in thousands of dollars worth of damage. They hope that the individual responsible will be caught, and would like increased police presence downtown.
- Kuklewicz states that Detective Sergeant Hoffman is handling the lead on the investigation and is actively working it. There is currently video surveillance. Unfortunately, they have not identified the perpetrator.
- Kuklewicz: Anybody that knows anything, please reach out to Sergeant Hoffman at the Montague Police Department.
- Erin Maclain shares that the residents are hesitant to spend the money to fix the damage until the perpetrator is caught.
- Nelson shares that he has been checking in with Chief Williams every couple of days to ask for a follow-up. Unfortunately, the perpetrator's face is covered in all the footage.
- Ellis will follow-up on Nelson's suggestion to release a photo to the public.

**Slow Village Ahead, Inc. d/b/a Montague Village Store, Kathleen Lynch, Manager
Transfer of the \$15 Package Store, All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License from Ling Ling Corp. d/b/a Montague Village Store, 60 Main Street, Montague, MA**

- Boutwell recuses himself from this portion of the meeting.
- *Nelson makes the motion to authorize the request for a transfer of the \$15 Package Store, All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License from Ling Ling Corp. d/b/a Montague Village Store to Slow Village Ahead, Inc. d/b/a Montague Village Store, with Kathleen Lynch as the Manager. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

The Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Tamara & William McKerchie

- **Common Victualer's License**
Nelson makes the motion to approve the Common Victualer's License for the Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls in the amount of \$40. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request to place 3 tables, 6 chairs in front of business**
Nelson makes the motion to authorize the request to place 3 tables, one picnic table, and 6 chairs in front of the Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls, pending insurance; the fee is waived. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request to place warrant article on May 2, 2020 ATM to petition legislature for an All Alcohol Liquor License**
Nelson makes the motion to add an article to the May 2, 2020 Annual Town Meeting regarding The Upper Bend asking for an All Alcohol Liquor License. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

**Hear Search Committee Recommendation & Consider Candidate for WPCF Superintendent Position:
Chelsey Little**

- Ellis reports that the Search Committee strongly feels that Chelsey Little is the right candidate to present with their recommendation for hire to the Selectboard. Among the things that stand out in her résumé are her

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academic preparation (Bachelor's and Master's level), her professional preparation (licensure), and her administrative skills.

- Little shares that she has a Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, which incorporates microbiology and human biology. Her Master's degree is in public health. She is currently the superintendent in Northfield's wastewater treatment facility. As a Montague resident, she has a vested interest in the facility running efficiently.
- *Nelson makes the motion to allow Ellis and Kuklewicz to continue discussions with Chelsey Little regarding the particulars of the contract. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

- **Complete Streets Project Bidding Summary and issuance of notice award**
 - We received five bids and Ramsey recommends awarding to H. M. Nunes & Sons, whose bid along with the four add/alts was \$326,833.
 - Our grant budget is \$311,360, which leaves a funding gap of \$15,473 plus cost of construction. This will be covered by Chapter 90.
 - Ramsey gives a summary of the project:
 - 1) Sidewalk improvement in Montague Center around the curve of Main Street
 - 2) Crosswalk improvement with rapid flashing beacon by Scotty's across Unity Street
 - 3) Improvements in front of Town Hall from Shady Glen to Discovery Center involving bump-outs at the crosswalk, rapid flashing beacons, sidewalks going down First Street, and a connection to the bike path
 - 4) Line-striping and improved signage on Avenue A from the library to Cumberland Farms
 - *Nelson makes the motion to award the Complete Streets Improvements Project to H. M. Nunes and Sons Construction in the amount of \$326,833, which includes all four add/alts. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Award Spinner statue restoration to Carriage House Designs, up to \$9,235**
 - Ramsey states that a year ago the Board appropriated \$6,325 out of Community Development Discretionary to restore the statue. A local, well-qualified sculpture has submitted an updated proposal with a quote of \$7,785 for refurbishing the statue itself. Ramsey recommends we proceed with the proposal. We are actively looking for sponsors from the community to meet the gap fund. We hope to be able to raise funds for extra items: (1) restoration of Commemorative plaque, and (2) mounting of Frank Abbondanzio's plaque on the side of 118 Ave A. The total cost would be \$9,235.
 - *Nelson makes the motion to award the Spinner statue restoration to Carriage House Designs for up to \$9,235. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Economic Development Projects to be considered for regional plan**
 - Ramsey: Every five years, the FRCOG updates their comprehensive economic development strategy, which enables the towns in the region to obtain federal funding for economic development activities. Projects are on a five-year horizon. I am recommending three projects:
 - 1) Canal District Master Plan and Infrastructure Improvements - contemplate a second phase of infrastructure improvements which would benefit either Railroad Salvage to the south end of the district or Strathmore/Indeck to the north end
 - 2) Sandy Lane Industrial Area - infrastructure and site preparation to develop 24 back acres of industrial land off Sandy Lane, behind the landfill
 - 3) Farren Care Center - support a redevelopment plan for this facility
 - *Nelson makes the motion to support the plan as the Town Planner outlined. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Proposed Agriculture Preservation Restriction on Assessor's Map 39, Lot 37, 36 acres owned by Karl Garbiel off Old Greenfield Road/Ferry Road**

Nelson makes the motion to approve the request to put in a Proposed Agriculture Preservation Restriction on Assessor's Map 39, Lot 37 for 36 acres owned by Karl Garbiel off Old Greenfield Road/Ferry Road, and to reduce the waiting period from 120 days to 60 days. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant Report

Discussion regarding adding on article to the 5/2/20 ATM authorizing the Selectboard to file a Home Rule petition with the General Court for special legislation to expand the Town's quota for liquor licenses located in the Central Business District

- Bogusz: Three years ago we wanted to obtain some more liquor licenses. We are bringing this back before you to put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant since many people are inquiring about this. It has been done in other towns.
- Ellis: If someone wants to put in a restaurant, we would have to tell them that they have to wait one to two years to obtain a license, which could discourage a would-be entrepreneur. As our business economy is shifting from retail towards entertainment, in order to maintain a strategic position in an entertainment marketplace, we would reasonably want to serve some degree of alcohol. I believe we should have one liquor license in hand to allow an exciting development to happen. The Board may need to think through not only whether to allow more licenses, but what policies might we create to guide their use.
- Kuklewicz would like to see a more cohesive plan. He would like to ask the staff what they think, then bring back the article before putting it onto the warrant.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Award contract for the Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$32,900 to Larochelle Construction of South Hadley**

Nelson makes the motion to award the contract for the Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$32,900 to Larochelle Construction of South Hadley. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Authorize Town Administrator to issue Notice to Proceed with Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof Replacement Project to Larochelle Construction at his discretion following project pre-construction conference**

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to issue Notice to Proceed with Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof Replacement Project to Larochelle Construction at his discretion following project pre-construction conference. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Special Town Meeting Recap**

The Special Town Meeting went smoothly; there were no concerns or problems.

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

- **Additions to the Town Hall building.** New LED strip lighting has been installed in the front awning. The installation of the lower skirt should occur in the near future. Floor lights have also been added to the side of the building to improve visibility for parking spaces.
- **I & I Event.** Regarding the ongoing I & I issues, there will be an educational outreach and awareness event on Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Covenant Church in Millers Falls.

Other/COVID-19 Virus

- Singleton expresses concern that there is nothing on the website regarding guidance around the corona virus.
- Nelson responds that Ellis is working with Daniel Wasiuk to get updated information on the website.
- Nelson suggests that people continue their normal routines if they are feeling healthy. Folks who are not feeling healthy should stay home and socially distance themselves. Healthy people should continue following the basic steps of proper hygiene, cleaning, etc. People exhibiting symptoms who have not definitively been at a high-risk location (China, Japan, Italy, or Iran) or near somebody that is known to have the virus have an extremely low chance of having the virus. People exhibiting symptoms who have been at a high-risk location or near somebody who has the virus, should contact their local doctor via telephone, who would then determine the best route to take.
- Information can be obtained from the State Department of Public Health website. There is also a 24/7 epidemiological phone number available to the public (617-983-6800).
- Ellis shares that there is conversation about a coordinated response to make sure differing messages are not being given out, which would confuse the public's understanding about what the appropriate practice should be. The group, Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition, is made up for public health emergency planning. The members are all from Boards of Health and the steering committee is made up of elected officials.

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Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved.

Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Slow Village Ahead, Inc. d/b/a Montague Village Store, Kathleen Lynch, Manager, Transfer of the §15 Package Store, All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License from Ling Ling Corp. d/b/a/ Montague Village Store, 60 Main Street, Montague, MA
- The Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Tamara & William McKerchie, Common Victualers License, Request to place 3 tables, 6 chairs in front of business, Request to place warrant article on May 2, 2020 ATM to petition legislature for an all alcohol liquor license
- Complete Streets Project Bidding Summary and issuance of notice of award
- Award Spinner statue restoration to Carriage House Designs, up to \$9,235
- Economic Development Projects to be considered for regional plan
- Proposed Agriculture Preservation Restriction on Assessors Map 39, Lot 37, 36 acres owned by Karl Garbiel off Old Greenfield Road/Ferry Road
- Info regarding adding an article to the 5/2/20 ATM authorizing the Selectboard to file a Home Rule petition with the General Court for special legislation to expand the Town's quota for liquor licenses located in the Central Business District.
- Contract for the Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$32,900 to Larochelle Construction of South Hadley
- Notice to Proceed with Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof Replacement Project to Larochelle construction at his discretion following project pre-construction conference