

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
October 19, 2020

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, Police Chief Chris Williams, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, and Montague Energy Committee members Chris Mason and Ariel Elan.

Link to Zoom Meeting: <https://vimeo.com/470342225>

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

Board of Health Chair opens the meeting, roll call taken.

Moments of Silence

- Kuklewicz asks us for a moment of silence to remember former Selectboard member Dr. Allen Ross.
- Kuklewicz asks us for a moment of silence to remember Allen Fiske, Montague's oldest resident.

Approve Minutes of Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of October 5, 2020

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of October 5, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of October 5, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Abstain, Cummings - 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

Personnel Board with Police Chief Williams

- **Appoint Shawna Williams, Patrol Officer, NEPBA, Patrol, Step 1, \$22.95/hr. Temporary, 1 Year, effective 11/1/2020**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Shawna Williams, Patrol Officer, NEPBA, Patrol, Step 1, \$22.95/hr. Temporary, 1 Year, effective 11/1/2020. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Justin Moody to Detective, NEPBA, Grade D, Step 5, \$27.25/hr. effective 11/1/2020**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Justin Moody to Detective, NEPBA, Grade D, Step 5, \$27.25/hr. effective 11/1/2020. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

- **Review BOH Halloween Guidance**
Cummings reads aloud the Montague Board of Health Statement regarding Halloween: maximum for indoor gathering remains at 25, maximum for private outdoor gatherings remains at 50, outdoor gatherings in public settings is limited to 100 people, and the annual Rag Shag parade has been cancelled.
- **Execute Agreement for Services with FRCOG for Montague Flu Clinics**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement for Services with FRCOG for Montague Flu Clinics. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**
None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Energy Committee Chair opens the meeting, roll call taken

The Energy Committee is divided on the vote, so the decision was made to have Chair Chris Mason represent 3 of the members while Ariel Elan represents the other three.

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
October 19, 2020

Consider Montague Participation in the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

- Julie Cowan from Mass Development explains and summarizes the PACE Program, and suggests that this is an important economic development tool for Montague to offer to property owners.
- Elan reads aloud her list of reasons why she is in full support of the PACE Program.
- Elan asks how and why did gas line extensions and conversions from other fossil fuels to methane get into Massachusetts C-PACE law in the first place? She has urged Montague to ask our legislators to open up an amendment process to either remove natural gas from our C-PACE program or at least amend to allow municipalities to opt out of natural gas provisions.
- Mason lists reasons why he does not mind the natural gas component in the PACE Program.
- Ellis shares that Counsel identified his strong opinion that the Town would not be required to repay any portion of a PACE loan even if the Town were to take the property for nonpayment of taxes.
- Cowan clarifies that (1) this is a betterment assessment, not a loan; and (2) this is third-party financing, this is not taxpayer funded.
- Peter Chilton shares that Nova Motorcycles would like to go as green as possible, and feels that they should not be installing new systems that are fossil-fuel-based. His research revealed that almost all solar programs are residential-based. PACE is the only program that can get them fully solar.
- Nelson is in favor of moving forward with the program, but would like to have conversations with our State Representative about reviewing the natural gas portion of it.
- Kuklewicz feels that the program is worth the Town participating in.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to participate in the Massachusetts Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, FCRHRA

- **Approve Change Order in the amount of \$3,000 to Berkshire Design Group for additional architectural and electrical design work and surveying for the Spinner Park Restoration Project**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Change Order in the amount of \$3,000 to Berkshire Design Group for additional architectural and electrical design work and surveying for the Spinner Park Restoration Project. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Approve payment of \$3,249.96 to Berkshire Design Group for architectural services rendered for the Spinner Park Restoration Project**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the payment of \$3,249.96 to Berkshire Design Group for architectural services rendered for the Spinner Park Restoration Project. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Initial Consideration of 2021 Liquor, Food, Entertainment and Auto Amusement License Fees

- Boutwell shares what Sunderland, Westfield, Easthampton, and other communities are doing regarding the licenses.
- The State decided that it is up to the individual communities to resolve this issue.
- Nelson feels that since fees cannot be refunded, it makes sense to look at some sort of scale (i.e., financial relief on a per diem basis).
- Kuklewicz is inclined to reduce the permit fees for the restaurant and bars by 50%.
- Nelson feels that it is important to factor in which businesses are allowed to be open versus which are not.
- Bogusz will give estimates of fee reductions by 50% and 75%.

Town Administrator's Report

- **FY21 State Budget Revenue Outlook**
Ellis reviews the FY21 Revenue Summary, which shows that our conservative revenue estimates have been surpassed by the Governor's budget by approximately \$52,000. We are not expecting to see a final budget until around Thanksgiving, but right now we can feel confident in our projections.
- **DPW Facility - Notice of Substantial Completion**
 - We have officially issued our Certificate of Substantial Completion of the DPW Facility to B W Construction and the Town has assumed ownership and control of the facility.
 - There will be an open house in the near future.

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom

October 19, 2020

- Kuklewicz expresses concern about how to prevent the personnel doors from being damaged in the future.
- **General Pierce Bridge Project Updates**
 - Northern Construction is still working through their submittals and their sub-procurement processes and schedule with Mass DOT.
 - They expect the work on the Route 2 intersection to begin in one to two months and to be complete by mid-winter.
 - The project will include some streetlight upgrades on Third and Seventh Street intersections with Avenue A.
 - They are also going to be providing as much signage as possible to avoid trucks driving into the bridge detour.
 - The bridge is likely to close in the mid-to-late winter as opposed to in early winter.
 - The expected date of substantial completion for the bridge is October 15, 2023.
 - Ellis expects the Selectboard and Greenfield City Council will receive a proposal to contemplate closing the bridge to pedestrian traffic.
 - Lighting is still being considered.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved.

Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye