

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
November 2, 2020

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Michael Nelson (joined later), Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Library Director Linda Hickman, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, and Lake Pleasant Village Association member Matt Atwood.

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

Approve Minutes:

Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, October 19 and 26, 2020

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, October 19 and 26, 2020. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *(Later on in the meeting) Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Board of Health minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, October 19 and 26, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye.*

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Personnel Board

Request from Melinda Georgeson, Millers Falls branch library assistant for a 6 month personal leave of absence from November 2020 to May 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Melinda Georgeson, Millers Falls branch library assistant for a 6 month personal leave of absence from November 2020 to May 2021. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - Aye

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

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Authorize submittal of FY20 Green Communities Annual Report to Department of Energy Resources

Boutwell makes the motion to accept the FY20 Green Communities Annual Report to the Department of Energy Resources. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

- **Execute Coronavirus Relief Act - Municipal Program Sub-grantee Agreement**
 - **Gill-Montague Regional School District, up to \$175,000**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Coronavirus Relief Act - Municipal Program Sub-grantee Agreement between the Town of Montague and the Gill-Montague Regional School District, up to \$175,000; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Turners Falls Fire and Water District, \$7,268**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Coronavirus Relief Act - Municipal Program Sub-grantee Agreement between the Town of Montague and the Turners Falls Fire and Water District in the amount of \$7,268; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**
 - Wasiuk reports that he was just handed the new State Guidance and Orders from the Governor's Office today and is not prepared to go into detail for each item. The Board of Health will be

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meeting this week in order to provide the citizens more clarification. These updates will be implemented on November 6.

- Ellis notes the following items, which he felt were clear:
 - All people are advised to stay at home between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. unless they are doing something that is truly essential.
 - Early closure of certain businesses and activities between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
 - Gatherings order have reduced sizes for indoor (10) and outdoor (25) gatherings at private residences.

Update on status of Lake Pleasant Bridge of Names

Atwood states that during the last storm, the block house on the west side of the bridge was demolished and fallen trees destroyed three of the bays. The bridge is on land owned by the TF Water Department, with whom the Lake Pleasant Village Association has been clearing away debris and trees. The LPVA believe they are responsible for the bridge, but they believe they may be asking for assistance in the future. They have one estimate on repairs and are in the process of getting more estimates. Attempts are being made to raise funds on their own. Complications include determining both the ownership of the bridge and the legalities involved with the project and the Board feels it would be a good use of legal funds for the town to figure out ownership.

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

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

Nelson makes the motion to reduce the 2021 Alcohol License fees by 75% for Restaurant, All Alcohol; Restaurant, Beer & Wine; Club, All Alcohol; Brewery/Winery Pouring Permit, General On Premise; as well as the Food, Entertainment, & Auto Amuse Licenses for Common Victualler; Entertainment; and Automatic Amusement. This will only be for calendar year 2021. Kuklewicz seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye

Police Advisory Group Updates

- Kuklewicz reports that the Police Equity & Use of Force Advisory Group has had two very productive meetings as well as a training review session with Paula Green. The police department has provided the group with a lot of data.
- Nelson states the Police Community Engagement Advisory Groups also participated in the training session and have also had two meetings. The group is dedicated and passionate about making positive changes. They too have received data from the police, and are currently working on a community survey. This group is meeting every Wednesday night until Thanksgiving.
- Elan expresses her appreciation to the Montague Police for the abundance of information they provided.

Town Administrator's Report

Remote Participation for Town Meeting

- Ellis feels that the Town Meeting at the DPW facility was a challenging endeavor and believes that we should rethink things for the February meeting. He asks the Board to consider either a remote meeting or an indoor meeting in a gymnasium.
- Ellis has engaged moderators from other communities that made use of remote meetings. They shared with him that it was a multi-month planning effort that involved the purchase of additional tools, and they had mock meetings to get the technical requirements and logistics down.
- Nelson asks if we anticipate having another Special Town Meeting after the new year and Ellis responds in the affirmative.
- Nelson feels that the topics on the warrant would determine whether the meeting should be remote or indoors.
- Boutwell believes that there needs to be a way of determining that only Town Meeting members vote.
- Ellis responds that there is something called V Voter that can interface with Zoom; we would need to consider professional facilitation to implement this.

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- Ellis states that we may want to have a strategy to address those individuals who do not have access to a device that would allow them to participate.
- Nelson believes that due to weather, the reality of having an indoor Town Meeting at the DPW is not going to be well-taken by anybody. He believes we should look at a remote meeting.
- Kuklewicz does not believe that we will be ready for an indoor meeting, even in a large gymnasium.
- Ellis will get in touch with the moderator and begin a conversation with him about the possibility of a remote Town Meeting.
- Kuklewicz wonders if a questionnaire should be sent out.

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting/Farren Care Center

- Ellis shares that he received a notice from Trinity Health New England, which included a letter from the State approving the closing of the facility. Ellis states that our legislative delegation tried to get the attention of the Governor's Office, but no one has interceded on behalf of denying Trinity the opportunity to transfer this license and to relocate the operation from the Montague City Farren Care Center site to Mount St. Vincent's in Holyoke. We do not have any additional recourse at this point in time.
- Ellis feels that perhaps the Town should focus on making certain there is responsible stewardship and transition of the building to a new use.
- We did extract a commitment from Trinity that they would fund a redevelopment study.
- Kuklewicz states he and Boutwell attended a meeting that was sponsored by a group of concerned individuals. Many people want to see Mount St. Vincent stay the way it is.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Approve Minutes: Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, October 19 and 26, 2020
- Request from Melinda Georgeson, Millers Falls branch library assistant for a 6 month personal leave of absence from November 2020 to May 2021 at ther
- Authorize submittal of FY20 Green Communities Annual Report to Department of Energy Resources
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