

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, December 5, 2024

3:30 p.m.

Montague Town Hall Annex

One Avenue A

Turners Falls, MA 01376

**Present:** Barbara Kuklewicz, Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Nice Chairperson, Jeff Singleton, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Meeting is being recorded**

**1. 3:30pm Meeting Called to Order**

**2. 3:31pm Approval of October 31, 2024, Minutes**

**Motion:** Jeff Singleton makes the motion to reject October 31, 2024, minutes until further clarification on the skatepark surveillance cameras discussion, seconded by Albert Cummings.

**Vote:** Approved 3-0

**3. 3:34pm Montague Center Park Project Update**

All the playground equipment has been installed; the contractor was waiting for additional surfacing material (pour in place) when the winter weather forced a delay until this spring. This past week the wood chips were delivered and spread by Mountain View, our head contractor for the project. Their plan was to put down the asphalt, but as of today, Jon was uncertain if they were able to do that due to the cold weather. Jon is happy with where the project is as we head into the winter and confident that they will finish the project by our timeline, mid-May.

**4. 3:40pm Co-sponsor & Partner with Soldiers Committee to organize Rag Shag Parade**

The Rag Shag Parade historically was run by the Soldiers Committee, and Albert Cummings is asking the Parks and Recreation department to co-sponsor the event. There was discussion regarding insurance coverage and liability, and Jon let the commission know that this event would fall under the Town's insurance coverage. The department has had similar events fall under such coverage and this is not an uncommon occurrence. Jon feels the department has the capacity to co-sponsor the parade. He will begin the process by getting on the Board of Selectmen's agenda.

**Motion:** Jeff Singleton makes the motion for Jon to move forward on partnering with the Soldier's Committee on the Rag Shag Parade.

**Vote:** Approved 2-0

**Albert Cummings** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. 3:46pm FY26 Operating Budget Proposals**

Within the FY26 operating budget proposal, Jon discussed the changes in the budget:

- Part time wages temp increase of \$1,500 - annual adjustment for raises.
- Facilities/Grounds increase of \$1,500 - increase to cover cost of skateboard lighting and Montague Center Park playground surfacing.
- Copier Lease & Equipment increase of \$600 – increase as we upgraded our copier.
- Internet increase of \$900 as our IT consultant, Susor, recommended a boost to our public WIFI at Unity Park to better serve our community.

The total increase in FY26 budget is \$8,623, over FY25. When some of these expenses occurred during the FY25 budget, Jon went to the Finance Committee to request a reserve fund transfer to help cover the cost of the increases. There was further discussion as to accuracy of the percentages presented in the proposal when Jeff Singleton pointed out these errors. •Specia Article Request – Capital Expense with a project cost of \$100,000 for Unity Park’s Playground pour-in-place surfacing as the current surface is beyond its useful life and cracking and pulling up in numerous areas due to high traffic use. The state requires the surface to be ADA compliant and it becomes very difficult if it were another material such as wood chips; the pour-in-place material allows ADA compliance.

**At 30 minutes into recording minutes taping stopped**

- 6. 4:15pm FY25 Current Operating Budget & Revolving Fund Balances**
- 7. 4:15pm Whale Sprinkler Unity Park Water Usage**
- 8. 4:20pm Winter Programs 2025**
- 9. 4:30pm Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirement**
- 10. 4:32pm Adjournment**

Albert Cummings makes the motion to adjourn; seconded by Jeff Singleton.

**Approved: 3-0**