

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Department of Public Works Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter; Town Planner Maureen Pollock; and Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:30 PM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Selectboard Minutes from May 8, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from May 8, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - 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

- **Appoint Albert Millet to DPW Groundskeeper UE Grade C, Step 1, effective 05/22/2023**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Albert Millet to DPW Groundskeeper UE Grade C, Step 1, effective 05/22/2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Consider candidacy of Dorinda Bell-Upp to serve on the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board effective July 1, 2023 (vote to be taken at future meeting)**
 - Dorinda Bell-Upp expresses her interest in serving on the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board. She is a member of the Finance Committee, is a Hillcrest parent, and has been keeping up with the issue of regionalization.
 - Kuklewicz states this would be set up with the normal yearly updates.
 - Ellis mentions that the Town did post requests looking for interested parties.

Council on Aging, Roberta Potter

Vote to accept gifts for the purpose of direct aid to seniors through Council on Aging

Boutwell makes the motion to accept gifts for the purpose of direct aid to seniors through Council on Aging, and to establish an account for the purposes of accepting gifts as described. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Parks and Recreation Director, Jon Dobosz

Registration for Assembly, Use of Public Property - First Street, Montague Soap Box Races, Sunday, September 17, 2023, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Registration for Assembly, Use of Public Property - First Street, Montague Soap Box Races, Sunday, September 17, 2023, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Airport Manager, Bryan Camden

Reserve Fund Transfer Request: \$10,100 to be transferred from the Airport Health Insurance Account to the Equipment Repair and Maintenance Account for non-budgeted mid-year increases to electricity and wage line items

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer Request by the Airport Manager: \$10,100 to be transferred from the Airport Health Insurance Account to the Equipment Repair and Maintenance Account for non-budgeted mid-year increases to electricity and wage line items. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Proposed Recreation Settlement Agreement with FirstLight Power (FERC Relicensing Process)

- **Review Discussion from Previous Meeting**
 - Ellis reminds us that he outlined the basics of the Recreational Settlement Agreement with FirstLight last week.

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- He has spoken with the CRC. They do not intend to oppose the agreement, but they will not be signing it themselves.
- **Consider any additional comments received**
 - Ellis shares that a resident expressed her concern about forfeiting her right to protest. Ellis states that the Town is not in a position to restrain individuals from expressing their concerns.
 - Ellis shares that another resident expressed concern that the project does not become an attractive nuisance to the people in the neighborhood - that there is a plan for gating and securing it during the evenings.
 - Another suggestion was that the dock could be put further downstream. Safety engineers had determined that putting it in the vicinity of the bridge abutment could be an issue due to the currents when the gates are open.
- **Consider Execution of Recreational Settlement Agreement**

Boutwell makes the motion to Execute the Recreational Settlement Agreement with FirstLight as discussed, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Town Planner

- **Mass Housing Partnership - Housing Hero Announcement for Town of Assistant**

The Town of Montague has been awarded as a Housing Hero by the Mass Housing Partnership. This is a State-wide award. There will be an award ceremony on June 15, which Pollock and Ramsey will attend.
- **Funding request/authorize to proceed with grant applications**
 - **Authorize Commonwealth Places grant application for the Shea Theater Mural Project. Grant request \$22,450. (1:1 Match Required)**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Commonwealth Places grant application for the Shea Theater Mural Project; Grant request \$22,450 (1:1 Match Required). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Request to authorize \$22,450 in matching funds for the Shea Theater Mural Project from ARPA Community and Economic Recovery funds**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize \$22,450 in matching funds for the Shea Theater Mural Project from ARPA Community and Economic Recovery funds. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Request to submit a grant proposal to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Enhancing Digital Assistant for Older Adults Grant Program**

Boutwell makes the motion to submit a grant proposal to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Enhancing Digital Assistant for Older Adults Grant Program. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Authorize application to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning 2.0 Program - to update the Town's MVP plan and implement a seed project**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the application to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning 2.0 Program - to update the Town's MVP plan and implement a seed project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Walter Assistant, Assistant Town Planner

- **Presentation of Draft FY24-29 Capital Improvement Plan. Public comments accepted through May 31**
 - Ramsey gives a PowerPoint presentation of the Draft FY24-29 Capital Improvement Plan.
 - Public comments will be accepted until May 31st, after which Ramsey will bring the draft plan to the CIC.
 - With regard to the Tech School feasibility study, Kuklewicz feels that \$200,000 is low. He believes that it would be triple that. Ramsey states he will check back with Joanne Blier.
 - In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Lord clarifies that the Selectboard are the ones who will decide what to spend ARPA on.
- **Town Hall Improvements**
 - A Mass Office of Disabilities grant is funding ADA-related improvements at the new retirement office location.
 - The carpet in Town Hall will be replaced. Work will be planned as close to July 1st as possible.
 - The common areas in Town Hall are going to be repainted. This will begin in a couple of weeks.

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- The Town Clerk's Office is going to officially claim the former first-floor conference room.
- Ramsey would like to address some other small projects: (1) converting the loud bubbler in the conference room into a modern bottle-fill station and (2) adding signage at the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room.

Town Administrator Report

- **Economic Development Planning Council Meeting Invitation, May 19**

Anyone who would like to participate in the Pioneer Valley Regional Economic Development Planning session is invited to do so; that event is happening this Friday, May 19 at 2:00 PM at Springfield College.

- **State Budget Update**

- At this point, we now have the Governor's Budget, the House Budget, and the Senate Budget. The next step is for the Senate & House to work in conference committee to negotiate an agreement.
- From the standpoint of our unrestricted general government aid estimates, the best-case scenario that would be presented would be that in the Senate Budget which would add an additional \$63,000 of revenue that we would not have otherwise planned for.
- With regard to State-owned land, we are seeing some very healthy appropriations projected for Montague relative to our estimates.

- **CSO Notification Plan Update**

- Ellis states he needs to get the revised plan in to DEP by the end of next week.
- We will be posting two signs in the vicinity of the dam.
- We now have a real-time CSO event location map in the website.

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, May 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye