

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Matt Lord, and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; and Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Board of Health Director Ryan Paxton; and Board of Health Chair Melanie Zamojski.

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

Approve Minutes: Montague Meeting June 30, 2025, if available

Minutes not yet available

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

None

Ryan Paxton, Health Director and Board of Health

Recommendation to petition for Town Montague to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District

Kuklewicz makes the motion to petition the Town of Montague to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Appoint 5 members to Police Chief Search Committee, terms ending June 30, 2026**
 - *Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Town Administrator Walter Ramsey and Sergeant Jacob Dlugosz to the Police Chief Search Committee, terms ending June 30, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
 - *Goldman makes the motion to appoint Rich Kuklewicz as the Selectboard member to the Police Chief Search Committee, term ending June 30, 2026. Seconded by Lord, approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Abstain*
 - *Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Douglas Brown of Turnpike Road and Leigh Rae of Center Street, Montague Center to the Police Chief Search Committee, terms ending June 30, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Cemetery Commission Appointments:**
 - **Appoint Judith Lorei to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for 1-year term ending 6/30/2026**
 - **Appoint Annabel Levine to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 2-year term ending 6/30/27**
 - **Appoint Mary Mattiace to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 2-year term ending 6/30/27**
 - **Appoint Jamie Fuller to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 3-year term ending 6/30/28**
 - **Appoint James Simpson to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 3-year term ending 6/30/28**
 - *Lord makes the motion to appoint Judith Lorei to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for 1-year term ending 6/30/2026; appoint Annabel Levine to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 2-year term ending 6/30/27; appoint Mary Mattiace to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 2-year term ending 6/30/27; appoint Jamie Fuller to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 3-year term ending 6/30/28; and appoint James Simpson to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025 for a 3-year term ending 6/30/28. Seconded by Goldman unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Rescind 6/30 appointments to Montague Economic Development & Industrial Corporation due to clerical error**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to rescind the 6/30 appointments of Richard Ruth and James Mussoni to the Montague Economic Development & Industrial Corporation due to clerical error. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Updates on Shea Theater lease renewal process**

The Selectboard approves beginning negotiations for a 10-year extension to the Shea Theater lease. Lord will work with Counsel regarding any changes to the lease.
- **Updates on First Street site clean-up, development**
 - Nolan-Zeller states that DEP has agreed to handle the First Street site clean-up and the associated costs with that.
 - The Town is responsible for hiring a licensed site professional to oversee the clean-up activities.
 - We have received a proposal from Weston and Sampson for just under \$50,000.
 - Nolan-Zeller intends to withdraw our application to the Community One-Stop Program due to timeline issues.
 - Ramsey states that EPA intends to do some additional testing and FRCOG has provided some technical assistance support.

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- **Other project updates**

- There will be some repaving happening on South Street next week.
- With regard to the Streetscape:
 - The section between the Creemee and the Heartwing Center will be wrapped up in the next two weeks.
 - Work on the lower half of the block between 2nd and 3rd Street is next.
 - The work on Town Hall is finished.
 - The fountain at Peskeompskut Park is back in operation.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements/Christmas in July**

Ramsey states that the Franklin County Boat Club is going to be having their Annual Christmas in July Celebration on Saturday, July 26.

Other (not on agenda)/TF Fire District Meeting

Kuklewicz states that tomorrow night at the Public Safety Complex Meeting Room, the Turners Falls Fire District is having a meeting to review and vote on the FirstLight PILOT.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard: July 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

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