

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, January, 28, 2019**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, and Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Kuklewicz makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

**Approve Minutes of January 7 and 14, 2019**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the Minutes of January 7 and 14, 2019. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved.  
Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - 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**

David Detmold comments on the sidewalk on the bridge between Montague and Gill not being shoveled, how the ice freezes making the railings low and a danger to the public. This will be mentioned to Tom Bergeron to see what can be done.

**Chris Williams, Police Chief and John Zellman, TF Fire Chief  
Discuss and Execute AMR Dispatch Services Agreement**

- Discussion:
  - Chief Williams states that Montague will be charged the same amount that MedCare charged the Town.
  - Chief Zellman states that Turners Falls has had to transport more patients since AMR took over.
  - They are still working on the service part of the agreement.
- *Nelson makes the motion to approve the AMR Dispatch Services Agreement in the amount of \$3,000 as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Chris Williams, Police Chief and John Zellman, TF Fire Chief  
Discussion of DOT Restrictions on General Pierce Bridge**

According to Chief Zellman, last week the State denied access for all fire apparatus to go over the General Pierce Bridge. Zellman then had one of his fire engines weighed and sent a second request to DOT. As of last Friday he is able to cross with one fire engine (no ladder). Chief Strahan and South Deerfield are working on the same thing.

**Reopening of Greenfield Cross Road**

Kuklewicz: A few months ago Greenfield Cross Road was closed due to complaints. The barriers have since been removed and the road is reopened.

**FY2019 CDBG Grant Application Public Hearing, Community Development Block Grant Program**

- Kuklewicz calls the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and asks Michael Nelson to read the public hearing notice into the minutes.
- Nelson reads aloud the notice into the record: The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and solicit public response to Spinner Park Renovation Project and four Social Service activities for the FY 2019 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development and also provide an update of the current CDBG programs. Local citizens are requested to attend and discuss the activities which the Town is applying for in this application.

McHugh gives updates on the following:

FY 2017 CDBG Program Status (Housing Rehabilitation, four Social Service Programs, and Design Activity for the Strathmore Demolition and Abatement Plan and Rutter's Park):

**Housing Rehabilitation – Town Wide:**

- The goal for this grant activity is to rehab 3 housing unit. The program income added 1 unit for a total of 4. The program will complete at least 9 units.

**Social Services – All programs are complete:**

- **Montague Catholic Social Ministries** – Women Working Network (OWN) - Goal 40 Women. The activity is to provide a literacy program for 54 Women
- **Life Path Inc.** - Home Delivered Meals – Goal is to serve 160 unduplicated beneficiaries. Deliver a total of 12,706 meals/wellness checks to 103 beneficiaries
- **The Brick House** - Youth Opportunities for Leadership (YOLO) – Goal 20 youth. The program served 43 youth
- **Western Massachusetts Training Consortium** – Recovery Learning Community– Goal 75 persons. The program served 75 persons

**Design Activity**

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- **Strathmore Demolition and Abatement Plan** - Bid Ready Plans and Specifications: Contracted with Tighe & Bond Inc. Project Status: The project is about 60% complete, Site investigation is complete, The design plans and permitting will be initiated in February 2019, Project completion is scheduled for June 14, 2019
- **Lake Pleasant – Rutter’s Park** - Bid Ready Plans and Specifications: Contracted with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Landscape Architect, Project Status: Design is complete

**FY 2018 CDBG Program Status (Housing Rehabilitation, Rutter's Park, and four Social Service Programs), Completion Date December 31, 2019**

**Housing Rehabilitation – Town Wide:**

Housing Rehabilitation (3 units), All projects are in process of obtaining bids

**Public Facilities – Bidding and Construction**

**Rutter’s Park** - Bid Documents are complete. Contracted with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Landscape Architect. Project Status: Project will be advertised for construction in January 23, 2019; There will be a site briefing for General Contractors on February 6, 2019; The General Bids are due on February 20, 2019; The project will be Constructed in the spring/summer of 2019

**Social Service Programs** - All programs started on January 1, 2019 except MCSM, Program status will be available in the next quarterly report (April 10, 2019)

- **Life Path Inc. – Home Delivered Meals:** Contract signed with Town, Startup meeting held
- **Montague Catholic Social Ministries – Family Literacy Program:** Contract signed with Town, Startup meeting held
- **The Brick House – Youth Opportunity for Leadership:** Contract signed with Town, Startup meeting held
- **Western Massachusetts Training Consortium – Recovery Learning Community:** Contract signed with Town, Startup meeting held

**FY 2019 CDBG Application Process (Funding Source and Proposed Activities including Spinner Park Restoration and the four Service Programs)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

- Federal funds: HUD
- National Objectives: Benefit Low to Moderate Income residents and the Elimination of Slum and Blight
- CDBG program is administered by Department of Housing and Community Development

**Public Facilities Construction Activity (\$402,978)**

Ramsey gives update on Spinner Park Restoration Project: Avenue A and Fourth Street: Bidding and Construction Management: (\$11,000); Construction: (\$391,978). In the 2013 Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan citizens identified a framework for necessary streetscape improvements to Avenue A in Turners Falls. Roughly \$600,000 has been invested into the Avenue A streetscape since that time. Phase I (2015) included model block and pedestrian plaza with replaced streetscape lighting. Phase II (2017) extended lighting on Avenue A and refurbished ADA curb cuts in 2017. Planned future phases include upgraded sidewalks, planters and lighting. Some of this has already been designed with CDBG support. The Planning Department’s next recommended phase is rehabilitation of Spinner Park.

Spinner Park is a +/- 2,500 square foot pocket park built in the 1980’s on land owned by the Powertown affordable housing complex but is subject to permanent park easement benefitting the Town of Montague. The pocket park features a bronze statue of a female textile worker by French sculptor Leon Cugnot (Paris 1835–1894). Dedicated in 1985, this sculpture honors the contribution of women to the Town’s industrial past.

Spinner Park is feature of the streetscape that invites respite for relaxation, rest, and social interaction. It is adjacent to Turner’s Falls largest public housing complex. It is also prominently located between some of the most successful retail and dining anchors in downtown Turners Falls. It is enjoyed daily by residents and for seasonal events such as tiny concerts, fairy house making workshops, visits from Santa, and other impromptu gatherings.

Current site conditions are poor and in some cases unsafe.

- Lighting is failed or substandard,
- it is not ADA compliant
- concrete retaining walls have substantially deteriorated,
- planters have failed to support growth,
- electrical and water boxes are deficient, unsecured, and do not meet code

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- remaining iron fence is a safety hazard and liability

In 2017 the Town invested in bid-ready plans and specifications in anticipation of advancing this project through the CDBG program.

The plans were developed by Berkshire Design Group. Outreach consisted of Facebook outreach to residents- reaching over 6,000 people and engaging 1,700, a neighborhood stakeholder session held at the Senior Center, at least 3 presentations of the plan to SelectBoard, as well as engagement with Department of Public Works, RiverCulture, and the Montague Tree Committee. Plans have been on the town website since December 3, 2018.

At the outset the goal was to make as little changes to the park as possible- to keep this a neighborhood park and to enhance the existing design and layout- and primarily to keep the Spinner statue as the center point of the park.

Public feedback from the neighborhood really echoed the need to restore this into a green oasis that is used by the neighborhood residents- not just for special downtown events. Several preferences were expressed during the feedback process and accommodations made as follows:

- Residents really wanted the planters to be added back in. As a result two planters will be reconstructed and new street trees will be added those planters directly in front of the park.
- People strongly preferred having a seat wall height along the interior perimeter of the garden, as opposed to the current very low planter wall height to ensure plenty of seating opportunity- not just the formal benches that remain in the park design. This was added but it did increase costs to raise planter walls. The new park has more seating opportunities than the current park with numerous corners areas where people can sit either across from each other or kitty-corner. So the retaining walls will be high enough that you can sit on them (higher than the current walls). Benches needed to be added to make sure the seating is available for people of all abilities.
- People strongly preferred having granite planter walls over concrete because of longevity. This was added and also significantly increased cost in the short term, though the improved durability will provide better payback overtime.
- Everyone agreed that the Spinner Statue needs to remain the focal point of the park. In general People preferred to have the statue set back 10 feet further instead of its present location in the middle of the park (preferred 4 to 1 in an informal facebook poll). This is in part to make the park ADA accessible and more functional. The Spinner will still very much be the centerpiece. "She" will be appropriately lit, elevated, and restored to original glory. The statue will also be appropriately framed with a vegetative backdrop instead of a light post and parking lot as is presently the case.
- There was a request for a cut through path to the Powertown parking lot. Unfortunately it was infeasible to construct an ADA path because of cost and loss of vegetated space. Everything needs to be ADA- compliant unlike the current cut through is not and this could not be done within budget.
- Tree Committee weighed in on the landscaping and they will have another opportunity to do so before final plantings are ordered. Existing trees are to remain to extent possible.
- Lastly the Selectboard and DPW insisted that a proposed improvement to Spinner Park must include upgrade to the electrical and water box which is accounted for in the plan.

The end result is a plan for a refurbished Spinner Park that will be a major improvement over the existing park that has not seen a significant investment since 1985. It maintains many of the park's original features.

**Social Service Programs (\$80,000)**

**LifePath – Home Delivered Meals**, Jane Severance, Nutrition Program Director: \$20,000; Goal to serve 124 elders with home delivered meals. Home delivered meals are an on-going support for some seniors with chronic disabilities or may serve a short-term need for seniors convalescing from an illness or injury. Hospital or nursing facility discharges may happen sooner when home delivered meals are available as part of a discharge plan to support seniors with meals and a daily check in.

**MCSM – Family Literacy Program**, Heather Wood Treme, Executive Director: \$20,000; Goal to serve 100 beneficiaries, including 30 adults and 70 children. This program will provide early childhood literacy for children of Montague immigrant families. It also provides a family base learning environment.

**The Brick House**, Dana Lee Mengwasser, Executive Director – Youth Opportunity for Leadership: \$20,000, Goal is to benefit 30 young adults. Program will support the continuation of Youth Opportunities for Leadership & Organizing (YOLO), and expand programming for Momentum Arts. YOLO will be attended by at least 20 youth, and Momentum Arts will be attended by at least

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20 youth. YOLO's focus, since 2015, has been on the development of leadership skills and empowerment, antibullying training, and social justice education.

**Western Massachusetts Training Consortium**, Britton Calix, Community Coordinator – Recovery Learning Community: \$20,000, Goal is to benefit 50 adults. Supports offered will be the only supports of this nature in Montague focused on individuals struggling with psychiatric diagnosis, trauma, addiction, and other life challenges that is also accessible to adults of any gender. Program is offered at The Brick House

**TOTAL APPLICATION (\$612,050)**

- A Mr. Detmold expressed concern that the Spinner Park will alter its purpose for the Power Town residents making it less private with more open space in the center.
- Several members of the audience came to express their disappointment with the plan to move the statue in Spinner Park to the back. Expressing their belief that it will diminish the stature of the statue. They were also concerned that the benches be comfortable and sufficient in number.
- Kuklewicz acknowledged the concerns of these residents and is open to further consideration of the park's design, with conversations that could be informed by more design work and community engagement.
- The FY2019 Grant's total application is for \$612,050 and the application is due on March 8th. The grant will be awarded sometime in July/August 2019.

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the FY2019 CDBG Grant Application as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

**Community Development Discretionary Account Public Hearing: Spinner Park Restoration, \$6,325**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the request to appropriate \$6,325 from the Community Development Discretionary Account for the purpose of refurbishing the Spinner Park statue.*

**Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Elizabeth Irving as Board of Registrar until June 30, 2021 (to fulfill Jay DiPucchio's Term)**  
*Nelson makes the motion to appoint Elizabeth Irving as Board of Registrar until June 30, 2021 to fulfill Jay DiPucchio's Term. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Tax Collector request for multi step wage increase in FY20**  
*Nelson makes the motion to move Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Tax Collector for FY2020 from Grade G3 to Grade G5, and for FY 2021 from Grade G5 to Grade G7. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Special Town Meeting Warrant, 2/19/19 - To review draft warrant, attached hereto, and to make recommendations on all items in the warrant; votes may be taken**

Nelson gives quick review of articles.

**ARTICLE 1.** Is to provide the sum of \$47,975, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the appropriation for Article #3 of the February 15, 2018 Special Town Meeting, which appropriated \$49,000 for the purpose of repairing or replacing all or part of the Shea Theater building roof and related appointments, including any and all incidental costs related thereto

**ARTICLE 2.** Is to provide the sum of \$165,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing or replacing the Town Hall and Town Hall Annex roofs and related appointments, including any and all incidental costs related thereto

**ARTICLE 3.** Is to amend its Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map, as most recently amended, by repealing said Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map in their entirety and adopting new Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map

*Nelson makes the motion to send the draft warrant for the February 19, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant to the Finance Committee for further review. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator Business**

**Execute Letter of Agreement to extend lease of Town property with Gill-Montague Regional School District through April 1, 2019**

*Nelson makes the motion to sign the Extended Lease Agreement with the Gill-Montague Regional School District through April 1, 2019. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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**GMRSD Efficiency & Regionalization Grant Presentation**

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30 PM at the Council on Aging in which the public will have an opportunity to hear from Superintendent Sullivan's team and the consultants who worked on the Efficiency & Regionalization Grant Study.

**Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

**Executive Sessions:**

**Anticipated Execute Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE), votes may be taken**

**Execute Session under G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss potential litigation concerning Southworth Company, votes may be taken**

Kuklewicz declares holding the above executive sessions in open session will be detrimental to the Town

*Nelson makes the motion enter Executive Sessions (1) in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE), votes may be taken; and (2) under G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss potential litigation concerning Southworth Company, votes may be taken. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Documents and Exhibits:**

- Minutes of January 7 and 14, 2019
- AMR Dispatch Services Agreement
- FY2019 CDBG Grant Application Public Hearing information, Community Development Block Grant Program
- Community Development Discretionary Account Request: Spinner Park Restoration, \$6,325
- Appointment for Elizabeth Irving as Board of Registrar until June 30, 2021 (to fulfill Jay DiPucchio's Term)
- Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Tax Collector request for multi-step wage increase in FY20
- Special Town Meeting draft Warrant, 2/19/19
- Letter of Agreement to extend lease of Town property with Gill-Montague Regional School District through April 1, 2019