

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, September 16, 2019**

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

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE, NEPBA & U.E.). This meeting will be held in the downstairs conference room of Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls; Votes may be taken.

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

None

Jeff Singleton, Montague FRTA Representative

Review of items to be addressed at upcoming FRTA quarterly board meeting

- Tina has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State committing us with certain goals in terms of accountability and ridership over the next three years.
- Singleton discusses a letter he had sent to the Selectboard to review, which expresses his unhappiness regarding the goals.
- Items to be addressed at the quarterly board meeting include an update on the maintenance facility, a discretionary grant, a micro-transit pilot, an update on the Route 23 expanded pilot, the demand-response technical assistance contract, the Valley Flyer schedule, the GMTA lease, the Transit Advisory Committee, and any other FRTA updates.

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Kevin Boissonnault, Interim WPCF Superintendent, Grade H1, temporary position**
Nelson makes the motion to appoint Kevin Boissonnault, Interim WPCF Superintendent, Grade H1, temporary position, effective September 16, 2019. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Robert Trombley, Consulting Superintendent, Grade H10, up to 4 hrs/week, temporary position**
Nelson makes the motion to appoint Robert Trombley as a Consulting Superintendent, Grade H10 for up to 24 hrs/week, temporary position, effective September 16, 2019. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Tina Tyler, Admin. Asst/Lab Tech, Grade D, Step 10, up to 4 hrs/week, temporary position**
Nelson makes the motion to appoint Tina Tyler, Admin. Asst/Lab Tech, Grade D, Step 10, up to 4 hrs/week, temporary position. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Charge Town Administrator with starting WPCF Superintendent Search Process**
Nelson makes the motion to charge the Town Administrator with starting WPCF Superintendent Search Process. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Review and discussion of FirstLight Settlement Terms

Ellis: Beginning in FY14 FirstLight gave notice that it was not in agreement with the valuation of its assets, specifically related to two pieces of real estate and their personal property. Montague's value (90%) were valued at \$114 million. That carried through for FY14, FY15, and FY16. In FY17, we had hired a qualified appraiser who assessed the property at \$135 million. Any disputed value is subject to an 8% interest rate. The longer this continues, the more jeopardy it presents to the Town. We have been putting an extra \$275,000 beyond the normal amount into an Assessors Overlay Account. FirstLight agrees to withdraw and not pursue any abatements relative to FY14, FY15, or FY16. We struck a deal and went from \$135 million to \$125 million. Through the agreement the Town was able to successfully resolve and give nothing back on the first three years; we will not in any of our abatements be subject to the 8% interest for FY17, FY18, or FY19; and we have a tax agreement that would hold the \$125 million value for the next two years subject to Town Meeting approval.

Approve and execute draft October 2, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant ATTACHED

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, September 16, 2019**

- *Nelson makes the motion to approve and execute the draft of the October 2, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant, and to add and endorse the following Articles.*
- Nelson reads aloud the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.
- Article 6 is amended to read "Article 4 and Article 5."
- *Motion seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator's Business

- **Southworth Update**
The Southworth building is under Purchase and Sale. The prospective owner is in the process of evaluating the property. They have partial electricity and more surveillance. Once the sale goes through, we will see where the Town, Fire District, and Water District are relative to taxes and fees that have been liened.
- **Mass. Office of Disabilities Grant Opportunity**
Nelson makes the motion to endorse submitting a grant to improve building access to several buildings in Town. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Regional School Study Committee Application Reminder**
The Moderator is accepting applications for individuals interested in serving on the Regional School Study Committee. Applications must be received by the Town Administrator's office by this Thursday.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**
The Shea Theater alley will be closed off this week as the contractor has begun the Shea Theater roof replacement project.

OTHER

Reminder: Mass. Office on Disability (MOD) and TF Fire Dept. will be hosting a meeting to bring together people with disabilities and local emergency preparedness professionals, September 25, 2019, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Turners Falls Fire Dept., 180 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, 01376

The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **MONDAY, September 23, 2019** at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Appoint Kevin Boissonnault, Interim WPCF Superintendent, Grade H1, temporary position
- Appoint Robert Trombley, Consulting Superintendent, Grade H10, up to 24 hrs/week, temporary position
- Appoint Tina Tyler, Admin Asst./Lab Tech, Grade D, Step 10, up to 4 hrs/week, temporary position
- FirstLight Settlement Terms
- October 2, 2109 Special Town Meeting Warrant