

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, February 10, 2020**

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.

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Votes May Be Taken**

Call to Order: Chair announces that the meeting is being recorded by MCTV and asks if anyone else is recording the meeting.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes of January 27 and February 3, 2020**

- *Nelson makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes of January 27 and February 3, 2020. 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**

None

**Kevin Boissonnault, WPCF Interim Supt., Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent  
Millers Falls I & I (Inflow & Infiltration)**

Ellis and Boissonnault give background information on the flow problem: The Town of Erving, with whom we have an arrangement regarding the Millers Falls collection system, brought to our attention two years ago that we have increasing high water levels and that they were getting an excessive amount of inflow and infiltration; clean water seeps into the sewers and winds up in the treatment process. The Town responded by identifying leaks through an engineering study last summer and making repairs (adding slip joints and grouting). Unfortunately, we are still seeing clear water running in the sewers consistent with some type of inflow and infiltration.

Discussion:

- Boissonnault would like to focus on working with residents and businesses to ensure that people don't inadvertently have streams that run into sewer drains instead of storm drains.
- A flyer went out with sewer bills recently giving residents necessary information to help build their awareness.
- There will be a small community event in Millers Falls in which residents can have questions answered.
- Ellis states that our warranty on the repair work gives us a single free re-inspection. We will wait until the fall for that.
- Ellis shares the process that we have embarked on:
  - 1) Continue to chase the clean water up the chain of manholes to see if critical spots can be identified
  - 2) Engage with residents to identify inappropriately hooked-up sumps, roof drains, etc.; possibly offer an incentive
  - 3) Use a camera to look at the areas that we have just improved to make sure none of them are failing

**Police Chief Christopher Williams**

**Request comfort dog for the Gill/Montague Regional School District**

*Nelson makes the motion to authorize the appropriate parties to move forward with adopting the comfort dog for the Police Department and return to the Selectboard for formal signatures. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Discussion of General Pierce Bridge Design and issues requiring advocacy**

- The public hearing was held last Tuesday. Nelson reports that residents were not pleased with the MassDOT's proposal.
- Nelson and Ellis met with the Mayor and the City Council President of Greenfield, and Senator Jo Comerford via phone. As a result of the meeting, Ellis put together a letter highlighting thoughts and concerns.
- Ellis reviews the letter, stressing the following:
  - Somewhere between \$17 and \$22 million is about to be spent on rehabilitating the bridge.
  - MassDOT waited too late in the design process to have a conversation about the design.
  - This is not the time to advocate for a new bridge that would cost \$60 million.
  - The deteriorating paint and rust above street level should all be stripped and repainted.

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- Aesthetics should be addressed as well as safety.
- We want to see functional lighting.
- We would like to see that MassDOT have clearly identified and considered the approaches to the bridge on either side (i.e., ADA-accessible sidewalks).
- We would like to thank them for replacing the existing gas line and adding a water main interconnect.
- We would like to see thoughtful sequencing of work with regard to the construction schedule, especially during winter.
- We would like to have access to a written monthly project status report.
- We are asking for more appropriate signage that highlights the value of coming to this community.
- We are asking MassDOT to engage public safety officials in Montague, Greenfield, Gill, and other areas in discussion of what needs to be done to ensure that response time increases are managed down to an absolute minimum.
- Nelson reports that the members of the State Delegation are very eager to help.
- Elan would like MassDOT to start working now on planning a new bridge for 25 years from now.
- Ellis suggests continuing to have the Town Administrator or another member of the government staff be on the Transportation Planning Organization.
- *Nelson makes the motion to endorse the letter to MassDOT regarding the General Pierce Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Meeting Warrant - To approve and execute draft warrant, attached hereto**

- Nelson reads aloud each Article on the Special Town Meeting draft warrant
- *Nelson makes the motion to add Article 1 to the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 2 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 3 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 4 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 5 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 6 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 7 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 8 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 9 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 10 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 11 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to put Article 12 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of March 5, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to appoint the Constables to post the Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 5, 2020 as has been read, and said Town Meeting will be held on March 5, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Report**

- **Execute revised Recycling Processing Contract at the Springfield MRT**

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*Nelson makes the motion to execute the revised Recycling Processing Contract at the Springfield MRT as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Highway Exit Renumbering**

Ellis reports that all of the numbering on Route 91 and Route 2 exits will be changing in substantial ways. All highways in the state with existing exit numbers will be converted from sequential (i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc) numbering to a milepost-based (i.e. 3, 5, 11 etc.) numbering system in Massachusetts per Federal requirement.

- **Capital Project Procurement Updates**

Ellis reports that we are in process of five major projects:

- 1) The Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof is being advertised now. The on-site pre-bid meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 9 AM. The opening of the Unity Park Fieldhouse Roof bid will be on March 2nd.
- 2) The Complete Streets bid is out. The opening for that will be on March 3rd.
- 3) Spinner Park's advertisement will be out on Wednesday, and the opening will be on March 11th.
- 4) The Strathmore Abatement project is posted to go out on Wednesday, and the opening will be on March 3rd.
- 5) The advertisement for the MassWorks Project is scheduled to go out in April.

- **Montague Wood Bank in accepting applications**

The Montague Wood Bank has firewood available for Montague residents in need of heating assistance. Kuklewicz reads aloud the notice.

- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

**OTHER:**

- Special Town Meeting, March 5, 2020, 6:30 PM, Turners Falls High School

The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **MONDAY, February 24, 2020** at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

*Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Documents and Exhibits:**

- Selectboard Minutes of January 27 and February 3, 2020
- Millers Falls I & I (Inflow & Infiltration)
- Request comfort dog for the Gill/Montague Regional School District
- Town Meeting Warrant
- Revised Recycling Processing Contract at the Springfield MRF
- Highway Exit Renumbering
- Capital Project Procurement Updates
- Montague Wood Bank is accepting applications