

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, May 26, 2020**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Michael Nelson, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, Police Chief Chris Williams, Parks and Recreational Director Jon Dobosz, RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto, and Town Planner Walter Ramsey.

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Votes May Be Taken**

Chairs open the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

**Approve Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Minutes: May 18, 2020**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Minutes of May 18, 2020 as corrected. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Minutes of May 18, 2020 as corrected. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*

**Approve Joint Selectboard and Finance Committee Minutes: May 6 & 20, 2020**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Joint Selectboard and Finance Committee Minutes of May 6 & 20, 2020 as corrected. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - 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

**Personnel Board**

- **Appoint David Withers, DPW Transfer Station Attendant, 14 hrs/wk, Grade A, Step 1, \$14.74/hr, effective 5/27/20**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint David Withers, DPW Transfer Station Attendant, 14 hrs/wk, Grade A, Step 1, \$14.74/hr, effective 5/27/20. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Request to hire Truck Driver/Laborer**  
Bergeron informs the Board that he will be hiring a new Truck Driver/Laborer.

**Announcement/DPW Superintendent (not on agenda)**

Bergeron announces that the Turners Falls Road will be milled starting the first week of June from Millers Falls Road to Turnpike Road, then the corner of Montague Center will be milled, and then the following week they both will be paved.

**Chris Williams, Chief of Police**

**Pistol Permit Interviews will resume effective 5/27/20**

Williams states that with the 25% allowance, pistol permit interviews will resume tomorrow. He gives a brief summary of what these interviews will entail. Residents who need to work on those permits should contact Sergeant Deery at 863-8911.

**COVID-19 Updates and Action Items**

- **Discussion of Town Meeting Logistics and Date**
  - Ellis had a number of meetings last week, including one with TFHS Facilities Manager Keith Cummings. They put together a plan for the Town Meeting.
  - Ellis reviews the plan including key logistical and safety measures as well as what the members should bring.
  - In the event of rain, the Town Moderator, Town Clerk, and one other Town Meeting member would need to be present to allow the Moderator to defer Town Meeting to another date. Back-up dates are already established.

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- Nelson expresses concern about solar glare; Ellis responds that the sun will be coming from stage right, which means it will be at a 90 degree angle.
- The Town Clerk will be aggressive in her outreach approach.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting plan as presented by the Town Administrator. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Discussion and response to any new State Guidance or Development**
  - Ellis reports that some businesses are opening.
  - The 253 Pharmacy received permission from the State to reopen. They were very well-organized and well-attended yesterday.
  - Today was the recommencement of the Montague Public Libraries' opening in accordance with the Governor's orders.
  - Ellis states that according to Lieutenant Governor Polito, things remain on the schedule that was described last week in terms of the phase openings.
  - There is some discussion at the State level to help facilitate sidewalk café type arrangements.
  - Dobosz states that the basketball court is considered a contact athletic court, which he feels is more in line with the June 8/15 phase. Non-contact sports are being looked at to open up during this phase.
  - *Nelson makes the motion to authorize Turners Falls High School to re-open the tennis courts if they decide to do so. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye*
  - Dobosz states that skate parks are not specifically noted. Other Parks and Recreational Directors in Pioneer Valley that Dobosz has spoken to still intend to keep their skate parks closed; one skate park in Pittsfield has reopened. Dobosz feels that policing social distancing at the skate park would be too difficult. He recommends we hold out for another three weeks or so.
  - LoManto will be making signs telling the public what phase we are in for clarity's sake.

**Discuss proposed "Streetside Café and Sidewalk Sale Initiative"**

- **Understanding of business needs**
- **Public spaces that could be made available**
- **Licensing process and insurance requirements**
- **Pending Legislation relative to liquor licenses**

Discussion:

- LoManto and Ramsey started an outreach to local businesses to ascertain what their plans are for reopening. Answers have been mixed. Ramsey states he would like more time to get better feedback.
- Ramsey has a draft policy that the Massachusetts Metro Area Planning Committee has developed, so we have something to work off of.
- This topic will be discussed next week.
- Nelson requests that this be a priority and action be taken as soon as possible.
- Kuklewicz would like draft proposals next week.
- LoManto states that all of the businesses that have responded are making health and safety the number one priority.
- Janke wonders how this more broad plan intersects with the plan regarding outdoor seating that he brought to the Board last week.
- The Selectboard is supportive of streetside cafés, but feel the plan needs to be fair and open to everybody.
- The Selectboard would like a draft of a plan by Monday.
- LoManto intends to take photographs this weekend to help people get a better idea of what we are talking about.
- Ramsey notes that we might need to be temporarily sacrificing some parking on the avenue. Rerouting of pedestrian traffic would be necessary.
- A community-wide assembly area would have several logistical problems.
- Elan questions on what scientific criteria is our local Board of Health basing their criteria about surfaces.

**Town Meeting Warrant - To approve and execute the June 13, 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, attached hereto**

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- Kuklewicz reads aloud Articles 1 through 11 of the Town Meeting Warrant.
- *Nelson makes the motion to add the Articles to the Town Meeting Warrant as were just read. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Nelson reads aloud Articles 12 through 18.
- *Nelson makes the motion to add Articles 12 through 18 to the Town Meeting Warrant on June 13, 2020 as were just read. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion to instruct the Constable to post the Town Meeting Warrant as has been read in its entirety for the Town Meeting on June 13, 2020. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Report**

- **Vote to execute a Professional Services Contract between the Town and Franklin County Community Development Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$5,800 to administer a Microenterprise Loan Program to be financed through the Town's FY19 Community Development Block Grant**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute a Professional Services Contract between the Town and Franklin County Community Development Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$5,800 to administer a Microenterprise Loan Program to be financed through the Town's FY19 Community Development Block Grant. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Award FY21 contract for Town of Montague Information Technology Services and Support to Moody Consulting of Greenfield**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to award the FY21 contract for Town of Montague Information Technology Services and Support to Moody Consulting of Greenfield. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Sign Agreement allowing FRCOG to enter into highway contracts on the Town's behalf**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to sign the agreement allowing FRCOG to enter into highway contracts on the Town's behalf. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**  
None

*Cummings makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting at 8:03 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved.*

*Cummings - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:03 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*