

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, September 14, 2020**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, and Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto.

Link to Zoom Meeting: <https://vimeo.com/458032094>

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

Board of Health Chair opens the meeting roll call taken.

Approve Minutes

Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, September 8, 2020

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of September 8, 2020 as modified. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of September 8, 2020 as modified. Seconded by Cummings, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - 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

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

- **Update on Millers Falls Road Embankment Repair**
 - On Thursday 1,362 tons of material was brought in, and on Friday 1,568 tons was brought in.
 - On Tuesday, another 1,300 tons will be brought in.
 - On Wednesday, the equipment operator will start stabilizing the base so that pipe can be put together and buried.
- **Engineering Services Update**
 - The update is still in the works.
 - Ellis shares that he feels reassured that the approach we are taking is a reasonable and appropriate remedy.

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders

- The total number of cases in Montague remains at 29.
- 2,496 COVID tests have been administered to Montague residents.
- With regard to the travel order, New Mexico has been added to the lower-risk states; but Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia have been removed from the list.
- There are still some clusters of cases in the eastern part of the state.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Cummings, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye

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Personnel Board

Request from Chief Williams to work up to six additional road details beyond his contract allowance for the present contract year

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Chief Williams to work up to six additional road details beyond his contract allowance for the present contract year. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

FY2021 Sewer Rate Hearing

- Little reviews the Sewer Rate Explanation 2020 spreadsheet. She recommends a 3% increase for 2021.
- Boutwell comments on how residents don't like to see large increases.
- The press to get the water out from the paper byproducts will probably consume about half of the retained earnings that presently exist.
- Ellis would like the Board to consider how we should go about establishing enough of an ongoing retained earnings pool so that everything that comes does not have to go directly onto the rate. Either the 2% or 3% scenario would give an appropriate cushion.
- Little would like to consistently keep the increases small each year.
- Kuklewicz would prefer the 2% as folks will be hit with a good increase because of the DPW facility. In addition, we are facing unknowns with regard to state funding.
- John Hanold feels that "cutting this too close to the bone is unrealistic." He is in favor of 3%.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize a 2% increase in the sewer rates. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

Update on Millers Falls I/I

- Bob Trombley and Little met with Peter Sanders from Erving and had discussed some of the ways to tackle finding out where all the excessive I&I is coming from. There will eventually be a public outreach session.
- CATV will camera the lines and check on all the repairs that were done last year.

Use of Public Property: Event Application for Peskeompskut Park, Musica Franklin, Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays, 9/21/20 to 11/19/20, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, 20 people max

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property: Event Application for Peskeompskut Park, Musica Franklin, Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays (and occasional Wednesdays in consultation with the Director of the Board of Health), 9/21/20 to 11/19/20, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, 20 people max; pending receipt of a certificate of insurance; the fee is waived. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner and Suzanne LoManto, Asst. Town Planner

Review Draft Mural Policy for the Town of Montague

- LoManto reviews the draft of the Mural Policy as well as the process used when writing the policy.
- Applicants seeking a mural permit must meet the standards and requirements.
- Applicants looking to participate in the RiverCulture Mural Program are required to give more documentation and to present their proposal to the RiverCulture Steering Committee.
- Ramsey states that this policy was shared with local landlords and received nothing but positive feedback.

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- The goal is to encourage public art and creative place-making while simultaneously protecting the integrity of our historic villages.
- Kuklewicz and Boutwell are in favor of this and are willing to review the final policy with the Board after it is tweaked.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Town Letters re: Farren Care Closure**
Ellis discusses the letters regarding (1) the Selectboard's preference to continue redevelopment of the Farren site, and (2) the challenge the pandemic presents to patients, staff, family, and guardians in transferring patients to another facility.
- **Railroad Salvage Update**
 - Ellis states that it looks as though a clean-up action on the part of EPA may be forthcoming.
 - At this point in time, the Town has the ability to move towards final judgment on that property.
 - Ellis and Kuklewicz are in favor of holding off taking possession for now.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**
None

Upcoming Meetings:

- Selectboard Meeting, **MONDAY, September 20, 2020, 6:30 PM** via Zoom
- Special Town Meeting, **Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 6:30 PM**, Montague DPW Garage, 128 Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Update on Millers Falls Road Embankment Repair
- FY2021 Sewer Rate Hearing information
- Use of Public Property: Event Application for Peskeompskut Park, Musica Franklin, Monday, Tuesday & Thursdays, 9/21/20 to 11/19/20, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, 20 people max.
- Draft Mural Policy for the Town of Montague
- Town Letters re: Farren Care Closure