

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
MONDAY, September 28, 2020

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, and Director of Business and Operations Joanna Blier.

Link to Zoom Meeting: <https://vimeo.com/463027457>

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

Approve Minutes

- **Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, September 14, 2020**
- **Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, September 21, 2020**
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meetings of September 14 and September 21, 2020. 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

Pole Location Hearing

Millers Falls Road - Install one (1) jointly owned pole #134/58M on northern side of Millers Falls Road. To be located one hundred three (103) feet west of the centerline with Industrial Road and ninety-eight (98) feet east of existing pole #134/58

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Eversource to install one (1) jointly owned pole #134/58M on northern side of Millers Falls Road. To be located one hundred three (103) feet west of the centerline with Industrial Road and ninety-eight (98) feet east of existing pole #134/58. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

Update on Millers Falls Road Embankment Repair

- Last week 240 feet of pipe was installed and tested.
- On Friday the pipe was buried and more stone and dirt was put in.
- The project should be complete by the end of the week.
- Next week a basin for the water to dump into will be cleaned out, some paper will be put on the bottom, and some stone will be put at the end of the pipe.
- Bergeron will contact Joe Lucas about putting up a six-foot chain link fence to keep residents from dumping trash into the embankment.

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

Review of any Updated State Guidance Orders

- The State has issued guidance relative to Halloween. They have issued a set of precautions, but have not cancelled or forbidden Halloween.
- Nelson has asked Wasiuk to put the State's guidance on the website.

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- Bergeron ordered some sterilizing equipment, which he will be bringing to the departments for their use.
- Dobosz states that the Commission voted to recommend no longer spraying the playground equipment starting October 12 due to concerns about adverse reactions now that the weather is getting colder.

Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Town Planner

Announce Mass. Development "Resurgent Places" grant, \$6,500

- LoManto reports that the Turners Falls Cultural District has received a \$6,500 Resurgent Places grant from Mass Development. The grant will cover two projects: (1) a mural at 38 Avenue A, and (2) art integration to mitigate the look of the construction fence at Spinner Park.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Mass. Development Resurgent Places grant in the amount of \$6,500, and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign it. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Jon Dobosz

Vote to accept gifts for Unity's Community Garden

Boutwell makes the motion to accept gifts for the Unity's Community Garden. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Christina Forde, WPCF Administrative Assistant, NAGE Grade B, Step 2, \$17.99/hr., 20 hrs/week, effective 10/5/20**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Christina Forde, WPCF Administrative Assistant, NAGE Grade B, Step 2, \$17.99/hr., 20 hrs/week, effective 10/5/20. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Tree Advisory Committee Appointments: Jeffrey Warren and Annabel Levine, term until 6/30/21**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jeffrey Warren and Annabel Levine to the Tree Advisory Committee, term until 6/30/21. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Public Property: Peskeompskut Park, Jan Doody, United Arc, Grandparents Support Group, October 6, 2020 (raindate: 10/13/20), 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Peskeompskut Park, Jan Doody, United Arc, Grandparents Support Group, October 6, 2020 (raindate: 10/13/20), 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM; the fee is waived and the insurance certificate is up to date. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Doody will touch base with the Board of Health to let them know what they are doing as food is involved.

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, FCRHRA

- **FY18 Montague CDBG Final Quarterly Report**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the FY18 Montague CDBG Final Quarterly Report. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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- **Update on Spinner Park**
 - McHugh: There was a power line that was discovered in the park that feeds Powertown Apartments that was not in the plans of the original construction of the park. Eversource wanted us to reroute those lines so that they weren't under any of the hardscape material that is going into the park.
 - We worked with Eversource and the landscape architect and his MEP to come up with a design which includes putting another spare line in, in case there is an emergency. The design was also going to include having the electrical box that was presumed to be fed by a pole 8 feet away would be fed instead by a pole on 4th Street.
 - Eversource backed off and is allowing us to leave the line in place so long as the empty conduit next to it is cleared out. They would also like a spare empty conduit run in the back of the park where the new line was going to go.
 - Kuklewicz: Eversource is amenable to our cutting the section of pipe out as it comes into the handhold, which would allow you to use the riser that is on the pole that was there for a spare in the future to be able to pull the service into the new power box for Spinner Park.
 - There will be a project meeting tomorrow. A surveyor has to delineate where the lines are right now. Then the electrical engineer can finalize the design.

Town Meeting Warrant - To approve and execute October 13, 2020 Special Town Meeting Warrant (attached hereto)

- *Nelson makes the motion to add the following language to the October 13, 2020 Special Town Meeting and for the Selectboard to endorse said Articles enclosed:*
Nelson reads aloud the Special Town Meeting Warrant from the beginning to the end of Article 12.
Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place onto the Warrant and for the Selectboard to endorse the following Articles:*
Kuklewicz reads aloud the Special Town Meeting Warrant from Articles 13 to the end.
Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye

GMRSD Cares Act Request

- Joanna Blier presents recommendations made by JAMROG regarding improvements to the school buildings.
- Air flow needs to be increased and a filtration system needs to be implemented.
- Some rooms do not have any ability to have fresh air brought in, so more evaluation needs to be done.
- Not all of the classrooms have air conditioning.
- Blier: We have purchased \$350,000 worth of materials and equipment so far, and we spent another \$150,000 last year. We received two grants under the CARES Act. One needs to be spent by the end of December; that grant is just about gone. The second grant can be used to pay for additional staff or an extra bus.
- Ellis states that if we were to allocate the funds necessary for the school improvements, the Town would still have a balance of approximately \$276,000.
- Boutwell expresses concern about the Hillcrest building.
- Kuklewicz wonders about the maintenance costs of air purifiers and suggests having some extra ones.

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- Kuklewicz comments on the high cost for the repairs of the HVAC system at the high school.
- Elan suggests pre-paying for a year of more sophisticated maintenance. Blier responds that there already is a maintenance agreement, which is covered by the budget.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the proposal presented by Joanna Blier, to authorize the use of up to \$175,000 of the Town of Montague CARES Act for related activities in the Gill-Montague School District, and to authorize Joanna Blier to continue looking for additional items that would aid in the reopening of the schools. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Audley suggests that the Town have the same assessment done for other buildings, especially those frequently used by the public. Ellis responds that he has already touched base with JAMROG regarding this issue.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Capital Article Submission Schedule**

Ellis describes a two-phase approach for the Capital Article Submission Schedule. Town Department heads are required to provide their initial submission on November 2, and Gill-Montague Regional School District is required to provide theirs on December 2. Submitters are then provided feedback relative to what the full and complete submissions should include. The final deadlines would be January 11 for the Town Department heads and January 18 for Gill-Montague Regional School District.

- **DPW Project Update**

- The expected date of substantial completion is October 6.
- Walkthroughs are being done this week.
- They are continuing to work on the landscaping and the commissioning of systems.
- There are ongoing conversations about how to optimize the safety and air flow of the building.

- **Opportunity for Public Comment: Chapter 70 Local Contribution Study**

Ellis shares that the Division of Local Services within the Department of Revenue, along with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has just announced a public comment period relative to the Chapter 70 Local Contribution Study. The deadline for providing feedback to that process is October 16.

The Division of Local Services within DOR, along with DESE [just announced the public comment period for this local contribution study \(click here for more information\).](#)

[They need to hear from our district and are requesting that responses be sent by October 16 via an online survey \(click here to access\).](#)

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

None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Board of Health Chair opens the meeting, roll call taken
- Approve Minutes:
- Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, September 14, 2020

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