

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2020

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Parks & Recreation Director Jon Dobosz, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, Highway Superintendent Tom Bergeron, and Airport Director Bryan Camden.

Link to Zoom Meeting: <https://vimeo.com/488535777>

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, Board of Health, and Finance Committee Minutes of November 23, 2020**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health, and Finance Committee Meeting of November 16, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of November 16, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*
- **Joint Selectboard, Board of Health, and Finance Committee Minutes of November 30, 2020**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of November 23, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of November 23, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**

Ellis states that he is still examining the updated State Guidance, which indicates that there are modifications in DPH guidance relative to quarantines, testing, return to work, and return to more regularized life.
- **Update on Active COVID case counts and other summary data**
 - From November 22 through November 28, we've had 8 confirmed cases; from November 29 through December 5, we've had 17 confirmed cases; the fall case count numbers (October 1 through December 5) is 50 cases; and the total cases since the beginning of the pandemic is 80; there have been 9 cases in the last two days.
 - These numbers will presumably rise as there are more case numbers in the MAVEN Program; Wasiuk reviews the challenges with getting the numbers from the MAVEN Program.
 - The Board of Health and the Clerk's Office were able to identify a gap between the deaths associated with COVID-19 of Montague residents. There have been 7 deaths outside of Montague.
 - Wasiuk recommends that we have to be ultra-diligent to do our best to get the case numbers stable.

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

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director

- **Winter Basketball Program Plans**

The start date for the Winter Basketball Program will be pushed back to probably the middle of January.
- **Sawmill River 10K Run - Virtual Event, 12/31/20 - 1/3/21**

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Instead of people running in-person on one particular day, people are going to be given a range of days to run on their own course at their own time from 12/31/20 - 1/3/21. Information can be obtained from the website or Facebook.

- **Aquatic Plan - Currently being reviewed by GMRSD**
The Aquatic Plan will not start until the beginning of February at the very least.
- **New departmental website**
The Montague Parks and Recreation Department is hoping to launch their own website on Friday. Minutes and agendas of meetings will still be accessible on the Town website.
- **Removal of portable toilet at Unity Park for the winter**
The portable toilet at Unity Park has been removed.
- **Removal of old skatepark fence**
The fencing at the old skatepark can be removed through grant funding.

Update from Police Advisory Review Committees

- **Progress Report**
 - Chris Pinardi states that the Police Advisory Community Engagement Group has made good progress in collecting data, and reviews the breakdown of responses. There will be a discussion this week with Police Chief Williams to discuss sanctuary city status and how the police department interacts with that. The committee will tabulate the surveys and make a presentation to the Board sometime after the first of the year.
 - Ariel Elan states that the Police Advisory Group on Equity and Use of Force has an extensive archive of documents available on the Town website. Elan, on behalf of the committee, thanks Chief Williams and Lieutenant Bonnet for generously answering their many questions. Their meeting, as well as the Police Advisory Community Engagement Group meeting, are on the MCTV Vimeo site.
 - Elan shares questions the Equity and Use of Force Group had for Williams and Bonnet: What is policing about? How does the rubber meet the road?
 - Elan asks the Board if the Equity and Use of Force Group can "immerse" themselves in the raw data from the survey of the Community Engagement Group. Pinardi and Nelson are very happy to share the data from the surveys.
 - Elan suggests reaching out and inviting the community to report problems that are in our area.
 - There are about 20 residents who are interested in follow-ups. Kuklewicz suggests that one member from each group be present at the interviews to answer questions.
 - Elan asks what the Board's expectations from the get-go are about how closely the two groups are to work together.
- **Next Steps**
 - The Community Engagement Group will have a summary done for the following meeting.
 - Kuklewicz: I think it would be good to look at what the surveys have to say, and then we can have another discussion in January. There may be other directions or we may want to refocus our effort and do something that shift things a little bit, maybe merging into one group.

Personnel Board

- **DPW Superintendent request for hourly compensation for response to major storm events**
 - Bergeron explains that he is allowed to accumulate 75 hours of comp time, but he has difficulty taking time off just for the purpose of not losing his earned comp time. He requests that when he gets called in for large emergencies and needs to put in a lot of hours, that those hours be compensated at his regular rate during the winter as opposed to being considered comp time.
 - Nelson asks if we have protocols in place for other department heads (i.e., the Police Chief or Director Public Health) who need to come in for emergencies.
 - Ellis responds that there are other department heads that may feel that they should be equally compensated.
 - The Board decides to have a larger discussion about this issue and to give Bergeron a response on January 11, 2021.
- **Resignation of Peter Golrick from the Airport Commission**
Boutwell makes the motion to accept the resignation of Peter Golrick from the Airport Commission and to send a letter from the Board thanking him for his many years of service. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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- **Appoint Airport Commissioner to fill Peter Golrick's unexpired term through 6/30/21**
 - The Board decides to publicize the vacancy for another week before making a decision as to who will fill Golrick's unexpired term.
 - Discussion ensues about coming up with an informal policy to address vacant positions.

Walter Ramsey

- **Extend Strathmore Abatement and Stack Demolition Contract with Air Quality Experts, Inc., to December 31, 2020**

Boutwell makes the motion to extend the Strathmore Abatement and Stack Demolition Contract with Air Quality Experts, Inc., to December 31, 2020. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Greenhouse Mobility Cannabis, Inc.

- **Consider proposed Host Community Agreement in association with proposed delivery-only cannabis establishment**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Host Community Agreement between the Town of Montague and Greenhouse Mobility Cannabis, Inc. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Consider submitting a letter of support to the Cannabis Control Commission for delivery-only cannabis license for Greenhouse Mobility Cannabis, Inc.**

Boutwell makes the motion to submit a letter of support to the Cannabis Control Commission for delivery-only cannabis license for Greenhouse Mobility Cannabis, Inc., and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Report

- **Approve Reserve Fund transfer request for Town Hall COVID Entry Screeners**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Reserve Fund transfer request for Town Hall COVID Entry Screeners. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **FRCOG Culvert Assessment Project**

The Town will be receiving a full GIS-mapped inventory of all of its culverts, complete with photographic evidence, specific compositions, condition assessments, and maintenance assessments. This is paid for by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Community Compact Grant Programming.
- **Update on Intersection Improvements at Route 63 and North Leverett Road**

A survey of the intersection has been requested by Mass DOT District 2 and should be underway this fiscal year or early next year. Once the survey and a base plan is completed, the District will do a preliminary investigation, then request a consultant to do the preliminary design. This project is not yet at the point of having funding on the Transportation Improvement Program schedule. Ellis states that the preliminary estimated total federal participating construction cost for the intersection's reconfiguration is \$3.03 million.
- **DPW Facility Update**

The DPW Committee continues to meet and are in the "tweaking phase." Commissioning Agent Jason Burbank is working on optimizing the control systems and layout and fine-tuning the building. The facility is fully operational.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour period/FirstLight executive summary**

FirstLight has filed its FERC application. We received a copy of the executive summary associated with that, which allows us to see what some of the ecological accommodations are being made and what type of impact they could eventually have on FirstLight's ability to generate revenue, which could be diminished by as much as 10% over a 50-year period. We have engaged the Director of Assessing to help us think through what the financial consequences may be. We also have looked at the extent and scope of the recreational improvements that they are describing. More assessments and information will be shared with the Board at the next meeting.

Other/Parking Ban

Nelson reports that due to the fact that 4-6 inches of snow was predicted for Montague last Friday, the parking ban has been activated.

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*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved.
Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*