

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom**  
**December 14, 2020**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. 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, Police Chief Chris Williams, Highway Superintendent Tom Bergeron, Airport Director Bryan Camden, Assistant Planner Suzanne LoManto, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, and Town Planner Walter Ramsey.

**Zoom Video Link:** <https://vimeo.com/491198722>

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 Meeting of December 7, 2020**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting of December 7, 2020 as corrected. 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 December 7, 2020 as corrected. 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**

Nelson reports that both Police Advisory Groups are prepared to interview people that asked to be contacted via the survey. He suggests that the two groups have a joint meeting for the sole purpose of developing a process of how to do the interview, then set up a schedule to move forward. Elan suggests that Nelson facilitate. A joint meeting will be posted.

**COVID-19 Updates and Action Items**

- **Health Director: Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders and roll back to Phase 3, Step 1**
  - Wasiuk reports that the levels are rising. The fall case count from October 1 to December 12 is 75, from November 29 through December 12 is 34, and since the beginning of the pandemic is 105.
  - Continued diligence is strongly recommended.
  - We are now in the red-risk category.
- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**
  - We are regressing to Phase 3, Step 1.
  - The capacities have been reduced to 40% occupancy for several businesses (gyms, libraries, museums).
  - Some businesses are closed (trampolines, laser tag, rollerskating rinks, indoor theaters, performance venues).
  - Outdoor theaters may remain open, but only at 25% capacity or 50 people.
  - Outdoor gatherings in event settings are limited to 50 people.
- **Update on Montague COVID case counts and other summary data**
  - The Montague Board of Health sent a COVID-19 vaccine program agreement to the State; we are preparing to administer vaccines.
  - Ellis reviews the MA DPH COVID-19 Data Dashboard.
  - Ellis recommends that we go back to no public entries for our Town buildings, and that the curbside service for the libraries be stopped for now.
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to affirm the decision of the Town Administrator to close Town buildings and library curbside pick-up as described until further notice. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - Kuklewicz reminds the public that we are still in a State of Emergency.
  - In response to a question by Jen Audley, Ellis contacts the Library Director to follow through with clarification about the curbside service. He later reports that Hickman states that the service is continuing.

## SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

### Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom

December 14, 2020

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

#### **Chris Williams, Chief of Police**

##### **CoMIRS update and JAG grant update**

Chief Williams reports that the Migration to the 800 system is moving forward. The State has committed to cover the cost of dispatch (\$25,000). In addition, we have received a grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Fund for \$29,825, which will cover the costs for the upgraded purchase of handheld radios, cruiser radios, and a new computer for one of the cruisers.

#### **Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent**

##### **3rd Party Transfer Station Inspection Report and Corrective Action Form**

- Bergeron reviews the 3rd Party Transfer Station Inspection Report and Corrective Action Form. Things are running smoothly. The only things that need to be addressed are (1) a phone number listed for emergency oil spills and (2) a program for solid waste planning. In addition, actions have been taken to decrease the large leaf pile.
- *Nelson makes the motion to accept the report from the Solid Waste District and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

#### **Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Joshua Lively as full member of Zoning Board to fill Bob Sojka's term expiring 6/30/2025**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Joshua Lively as full member of Zoning Board to fill Bob Sojka's term expiring 6/30/2025. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Appoint Airport Commissioner to fill Peter Golrick's unexpired term through 6/30/32**  
*Nelson makes the motion to appoint Joseph Mazeski to the Airport Commission to fill Peter Golrick's unexpired term through 6/30/32. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Planner**

- **Use of Public Property: Parade, Santa tour of Montague, 12/22/20 (raindate 12/23/20); 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Parade, Santa tour of Montague, 12/22/20 (raindate 12/23/20) and authorize the Chair to sign it; 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Other (not on agenda)**  
The Santa mail box will be put in front of Town Hall as Spinner Park is not a good location for it this year.

#### **Brian McHugh, FCRHRA**

##### **Approve payment of Invoice #2019-135-13 for \$550 to Berkshire Design Group for Architectural services rendered for the Spinner Park Restoration Project**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the payment of Invoice #2019-135-13 for \$550 to Berkshire Design Group for Architectural services rendered for the Spinner Park Restoration Project. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Discussion of First Light Settlement proposal**

- **Town Staff and Selectboard**
- **Franklin Regional Council of Governments and CT River Conservancy**  
Ramsey reviews the recreational amenities in First Light's proposal (Cabot Camp, Unity Park, Fishway/Canal District, Cabot Woods Fishing Access/Rock Dam, Poplar Street Access, and Scheduled Boatable Releases).
- Discussion:
  - Andrea Dolon of CRC suggests that the Board may think about Native American history and sites, which was not mentioned in the proposal.
  - The CRC is disappointed as they were hoping for more investment in the recreational amenities and upgrades.

## SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

### Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom

December 14, 2020

- Dolon states that the fish-passage rate has been bad for years. First Light's proposal includes putting more water in the river channel, then installing a fish lift and an ultrasound device.
- According to Ramsey, the fish-viewing area is not ADA accessible.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ellis states that Treasurer/Collector Karen Tonelli has done preliminary outreach to get a sense of how Montague's First Light valuations may be impacted.
- Ellis is concerned with this first proposal and feels that there is a lot of work to be done in terms of crafting a response to it.
- Nelson expresses displeasure at the things that were omitted and not part of the plan. He feels we should advocate for additional projects (i.e., Unity Park access point). Boutwell agrees that there is a lot missing.
- The Board would like to see us look into other supports (i.e., consultants, experts) if they are necessary to help us get the most value that we can.

#### Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

- **Execute Regulatory Agency Correspondence regarding Millers Seconded Road Embankment repair project**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute Regulatory Agency Correspondence regarding the Millers Seconded Road Embankment repair project and authorize the Chair to sign them. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Authorize request for technical assistance from the Local Rapid Recovery Planning Program to develop a COVID recovery strategy for downtown Turners Falls**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for technical assistance from the Local Rapid Recovery Planning Program to develop a COVID recovery strategy for downtown Turners Falls. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Discuss 500 Avenue A Bid Results**
  - The bid opening was last week, but we have not received any bids as of yet. Some options that we can take include redoing the RFP in spring, considering alternative methods for disposing the property (auction or long-term lease), and seeking an appropriation for an environmental assessment.
  - Ellis feels that this issue needs a full conversation and consideration which should be postponed for a couple of months until we have made some progress on the other projects that really require our attention.
- **Other (not on agenda)**  
Nelson recognizes the full workloads that the Town Administrator and the Planning Department are focusing on to keep our Town moving forward, and feels that we should look at giving these departments some aid.

#### DPW Facility Construction Close-Out

- **Authorize subdivision plan for town-owned land identified as Assessors Map 21 Lot 5 to be submitted to the Planning Board for endorsement. Lot 1 (8.3 acres) is the DPW Facility Site with Frontage on Turners Falls road. Lot 2 (15.5 acres) is an undeveloped parcel with frontage on Turnpike Road**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the subdivision plan for town-owned land identified as Assessors Map 21 Lot 5 to be submitted to the Planning Board for endorsement. Lot 1 (8.3 acres) is the DPW Facility Site with Frontage on Turners Falls road. Lot 2 (15.5 acres) is an undeveloped parcel with frontage on Turnpike Road. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Proposal to Dedicate the DPW Conference Room as the "Ken Morin Conference Room"**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to dedicate the DPW Conference Room as the "Ken Morin Conference Room." Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Notes on project close-out and budget**
  - A\$35,000 bidirectional amplification system which aligns well with the 800 system migration will be installed in the next couple of months.
  - We are waiting for the fuel tanks at the transfer station to be emptied and removed. We will be doing a small procurement when they are ready to be removed.
  - Jason Burbank and our OPM are working on other small details of the project close-out.
  - According to the balance sheet, \$1.108 million in project contingency will be left unspent.

#### Town Administrator's Report

- **Update on Town Meeting survey results and plans for Remote Town Meeting**
  - Ellis and Bogusz still need to go over the Town Meeting survey results.

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom**

**December 14, 2020**

- A vendor can provide a demo for a tool called V Voter. Bogusz states she received a quote for \$5,945. We may need to purchase Zoom Webinar for \$400-\$1,400 to allow for more people. CARES act money will not cover these purchases. Ellis and Bogusz will continue to do due diligence.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**  
None

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved.  
Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*