

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom**  
**January 11, 2021**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson (appears at 6:46 PM in the meeting), and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Fire Chief John Zellman, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, Highway Superintendent Tom Bergeron, and Town Planner Walter Ramsey.

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, Airport Commission, Finance Committee and Capital Improvements Committee: December 21, 2020**  
Postponed until next week
- **Joint Selectboard and Board of Health: December 21, 2020**  
Postponed until next week

**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

**Liquor License Transfer Request**

**Sow Loud, LLC dba The Upper Bend, William McKerchie as manager has applied for the transfer of the Annual §12 General On Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License from Mystic Pinball, LLC located at 110 - 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls**

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the public notice.
- *Nelson makes the motion to approve the transfer of the Annual §12 General On Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License from Mystic Pinball, LLC located at 110 - 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls to Sow Loud, LLC dba The Upper Bend. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

**COVID-19 Updates and Action Items**

- **Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders**
  - As of December 26, 2020 there is a 10-person maximum for indoor gatherings and a 25-person maximum outdoors.
  - There are links on the Town website for the State website if the general public would like information on regulations, orders, etc.
- **Update on Montague COVID case counts and other summary data**
  - Active cases from December 27, 2020 to January 9, 2021 equals 23; cases from October 1, 2020 through January 9, 2021 equals 137; cases from March 1, 2020 through January 9, 2021 equals 166.
  - The Emergency Management Team is researching where to hold vaccination clinics for Phase 2 of the vaccination schedule. Two locations that are being looked at are the annex in the Town Hall and the airport.
  - Our public health nurse has sent the Mass COVID-19 Program paper work to the State and we are all set to be a vaccinator site and can receive the vaccine when available.
  - Chief Zellman says the FRCOG is in the process of researching giving vaccinations on a grander scale.
  - First responders are getting their vaccinations currently.
  - Ellis states that we are waiting for the accounting to come in on the CARES Act remaining funds.
  - The EMT requests that the Selectboard and Board of Health consent to their emphasizing and prioritizing support for vaccination, particularly if we develop an internal program in the community through use of available CARES funding. Boutwell and Kuklewicz give their consent.
  - Ellis hopes that our low active case count may result in a change in our status (out of the red status).
  - Greenfield Community College is now a free testing site. A direct link will be placed on the Town website.

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

**Nour Elkhattaby Strauch, Age-Friendly Program Manager, LifePath**  
**Age-Friendly Communities Presentation**

- Strauch gives a presentation on LifePath's Age-Friendly Program.
- In response to a request by Kuklewicz, Strauch agrees to include the presentation on the Town website.
- In response to a question by Ariel Elan, Strauch shares the financial benefits to the Town as well as information on existing funding resources.
- Singleton feels that we should have a public discussion this summer about how we can do a better job of dealing with people in nursing homes.
- In response to a question by Roberta Potter, Strauch states that the program welcomes individuals from other groups (i.e., Council on Aging) who want to participate.
- *Boutwell makes the motion for the Selectboard to participate and send a letter of our interest in the program to LifePath's Age-Friendly Program Manager. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Kuklewicz suggests applying for CDBG funds for this program.
- Kuklewicz asks Roberta Potter to be the Selectboard's liaison with LifePath regarding this program for now.

**Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Town Administrator as MMA Annual Meeting Delegate**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint the Town Administrator as the MMA Annual Meeting Delegate. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **DPW Superintendent request for hourly compensation for response to major storm events (continued from 12/7/2020)**  
The Board expresses that although they are very appreciative of Bergeron's work, they are concerned that approving his request would open a Pandora's box and lead to other department heads also asking for hourly compensation for extra hours that they need to put in.

**Bridge Updates**

- **General Pierce Bridge project status and proposal for additional improvements**
  - Shawn Clark, Project Manager from Northern Construction Services, believes there is an opportunity to get the project done in a shorter time span and to address the major issues of the deck of the bridge.
  - Northern Construction has requested Mass DOT to approve their proposed change order.
  - Most of the work including the painting would be done in the fall of 2022. The new end date would be around May of 2023.
  - The bridge would be closed to pedestrians while it is being worked on.
  - Ellis will write a letter advocating for the change order after he checks with DOT to make sure the Town does not incur any costs or penalties associated with having to remediate the lack of pedestrian fare.
  - Clark will reach out to Greenfield about the proposed change.
- **6th Street Bailey Bridge Repair Research**  
Bergeron has met with Davenport Trucking as well as Northern Construction Services at different times regarding the 6th Street Bailey Bridge repairs. We have received quotes from both companies.
- **5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Replacement**  
Ramsey states that the 5th Street Bridge project is still in the early design stages. The latest challenge is that DOT came back with a design comment to relocate the bridge further downstream due to a policy that any new bridge needs to be at least 30 feet from an existing bridge for maintenance and inspection activities. In addition, new abutments need to be built and they will need to be set back off the canal. The plan right now is to get the design submitted to DOT in February, bid the project in spring or summer, and begin construction in the fall.
- **South Street Bridge Replacement**  
The Commonwealth of Mass has had their engineers at the location and are in the preliminary phases of bridge design. The bridge will be closed around February 8, 2021 to do some borings. They anticipate that it may

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require some easements and will bring notice of any easements to us next fall and ask for approval at a Special Town Meeting this time next year.

- **Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge Replacement**  
Postponed until next week
- **North Leverett Road Bridge Advocacy**  
Postponed until next week
- **General Advocacy Work Relative to Bridge Maintenance and Repair**  
Postponed until next week

**Brian McHugh, FCRH&RA**

**Authorize payment to FC Community Development Corp. for loan service fees and reimbursement of loan funds given to 4 Montague businesses through the Town's FY19 Community Development Block Grant, \$21,600**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize payment to FC Community Development Corp. for loan service fees and reimbursement of loan funds given to 4 Montague businesses through the Town's FY19 Community Development Block Grant, \$21,600. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

**Execute contract for FY21 Complete Streets Engineering Services (extended sidewalks on Montague St., Turnpike Rd., and Keith St) with McMahan Associates for lump sum fee of \$23,700, subject to Ch 90 reimbursement authorization from Mass DOT.**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract for the FY21 Complete Streets Engineering Services (extended sidewalks on Montague St., Turnpike Rd., and Keith St) with McMahan Associates for lump sum fee of \$23,700, subject to Ch 90 reimbursement authorization from Mass DOT. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**EPA Removal Action at 11 Power Street in Turners Falls (Railroad Salvage Property)**

The EPA plans a Removal Action of any hazardous substances, primarily asbestos, at 11 Power Street in Turners Falls (Railroad Salvage Property). The clean-up process will begin in March and will be very carefully controlled to insure public health and safety. The project will take approximately one year to complete.

**Final Foreclosure of Railroad Salvage Property (not on the agenda)**

- Ellis asks the Board to consider the timing of the execution of the Town's right to file for the final foreclosure of the property. He states that there is a possibility that our Tax Title Attorney could prevail upon Land Court to handle the granting of the final foreclosure in an expeditious way. Without ownership, the Town cannot execute the grant that the Town received for real estate technical assistance from Mass Development.
- KP Law believes it is in the Town's best interest to allow EPA to begin its clean-up action and to encounter whatever it may through that process for us to see how and whether they might resolve anything that is unexpected (i.e., delay taking until we understand exactly what we are receiving on the other end of the project).
- This topic will be put on next week's agenda.

**Montague Priorities Relative to FirstLight FERC Application**

- Ramsey lists some projects that may be advantageous to the community from a recreational and economic development standpoint:
  - 1) Additional improvements to river access below the Turners Falls Dam, including an overlook deck with interpretive kiosk. Firstlight is proposing some upgrades to the existing pathway from the IP bridge to the dam.
  - 2) Improvements at Unity Park, including improvements to the parking lot and creation of a path from the parking lot to the end of the grassy area.
  - 3) Improvements to Poplar Street including addition of porta-potties, changing stations, bicycle parking, and overflow parking. Firstlight is proposing putting in decking and a dock.
  - 4) Improvements in the Canal District, specifically creating a multi-use path that would run from the Railroad Bridge to the IP Bridge by the Discovery Center.

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- 5) Improvements to Rock Dam, specifically having access improvements by creating a 200-foot path from the existing picnic area down to the dam itself.
- 6) Activate shuttered camp buildings at Cabot Camp.
- Other priorities include enhancement of the condition and value of Firstlight generation assets, and Swift Water rescue capacity (equipment and training).
- Ramsey has been invited to a meeting next week with the Appalachian Mountain Club to meet with the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to begin discussion and advocacy around a 401 water quality certificate (as part of the relicensing progress).
- Ellis states that we would seek to engage both our legislators and the company in a conversation about these specific proposals.

**Consider Host Community Agreement and Letter of Support to the Cannabis Control Commission for Flower Power Relative to a Proposed Cannabis Cultivation and Manufacturing Establishment at 180 Industrial Boulevard (Map 17, Lot 13A)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to accept and approve the Host Community Agreement as well as authorize the Town Administrator to sign the letter certifying the agreement to the Host Community Agreement, to the Cannabis Control Commission for Flower Power Relative to a Proposed Cannabis Cultivation and Manufacturing Establishment at 180 Industrial Boulevard (Map 17, Lot 13A). Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund**

**Transfer \$10,000 to Property & Liability Insurance, #001-5-946-5740-000, present balance (\$5,304.72). (For: \$3,415 New DPW Building, \$288 - 11 Power Street)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to advance the transfer of \$10,000 to Property & Liability Insurance, #001-5-946-5740-000, present balance (\$5,304.72). (For: \$3,415 New DPW Building, \$288 - 11 Power Street). Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Winter Special Town Meeting**

- **Review of Logistical Requirements**
  - The registration process will take longer than normal. We need to provide at least a half-hour for check-in.
  - If we do webinar, it will have to have panelists and speakers. If an individual wants to speak, they would have to raise their hand and Bogusz would unmute them.
  - Kuklewicz asks Bogusz to look into a possible enhancement feature that would allow a Zoom regular meeting to accommodate over 100 people.
  - Bogusz is working on voting software that can be used during a Zoom webinar meeting.
  - This technology will be tested during the airport outreach meeting.
  - The platform we would be using includes two members of their technical team, control computers, monitors, and cabling, support for one virtual training session, and a rehearsal meeting for Town Meeting members.
  - Bogusz will see if there is a demo available. If there is a live demonstration available and it does not take too long, it is possible to have it done at a Selectboard meeting.
- **Consideration of Meeting Date**

*Boutwell makes the motion to set the Winter Special Town Meeting for Thursday, February 25 and a training session for that meeting on the preceding Thursday, February 18.*
- **Opening of Winter STM Warrant**

*Boutwell makes the motion to open the Warrant for the Town of Montague February 25, 2021 Special Town Meeting, with the deadline for submission being January 20. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Report**

- **Airport Land Acquisition Key Meeting Dates**

Bryan Camden and the Airport Commission are planning to have two public outreach meetings, tentatively set for Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 PM and Saturday, January 23, at 10 AM. These will be remote events, and the goal of the meetings is to give interested individuals to an opportunity to hear about the Airport Commission's

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proposed purchase of the Pioneer Aviation property and present questions relative to that purchase. Camden has invited members of the State Mass DOT Aeronautics Program to be on hand, as well as consultants from Stantec. Dates and links will be posted on the Town website.

- **CARES Act update**
  - As mentioned earlier, we are waiting for final reconciliation of all bills from the Accountant's Office. We anticipate that it is in the vicinity of \$100,000 to \$150,000.
  - The EMT feels that there are going to be a number of operationally necessary expenses associated with the pandemic that we will want to cover through the CARES act money.
  - We will utilize if necessary some CARES act funding to cover the cost of Option Technology for the virtual Town Meeting.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**
  - **Selectboard Meeting**  
Upon suggestion by Ellis, the Selectboard agrees to have a meeting next week to cover the Railroad Salvage foreclosure as well as the information technology function in Town.
  - **Christmas Tree Pick-Up**  
The Montague DPW will pick up discarded Christmas trees between now and the last week of January. Residents can leave their trees on the curbside.

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