

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
April 5, 2021

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, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Board of Health Chair, Al Cummings; Town Planner Walter Ramsey, Parks & Recreation Director Jon Dobosz, Fire Chief John Zellmann, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, Airport Manager Brian Camden, FCRHRA Brian McHugh, Six Town School Regionalization Planning Board Rep Michael Naughton, Jane Alessandra

Zoom Video link: <https://vimeo.com/533446061>

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

Al Cummings, Board of Health Chair opens the meeting at 6:31 PM, roll call taken

Approve Minutes: Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: March 22, 2021

Minutes not available at this time

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

Jane Alessandra: In 2020, Massachusetts changed its mosquito control law. Mass. may now spray mosquitos anywhere in the State, from trucks or aerially, historically using Anvil 10 + 10. This will be charged to municipalities through deductions to State local aid funds. The law allows the state to spray any town; the only way to prevent this is for the town to opt out and maintain local control. I propose Montague opt out. To opt out, the town does **NOT** need to join a mosquito control project. The town must submit a mosquito plan where the **only requirement** is a public outreach and education program. More details can be outlined; model opt-out guides exist. The town must submit this by May 15.

Kuklewicz wants this to go before the Board of Health on April 21 then back to the Selectboard on April 26th

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

Update on Montague COVID case counts

- Active cases 3/21/21 – 4/3/21 = 21 cases; Cumulative cases 10/1/20 – 4/3/21 = 236 cases; Total positive since beginning of pandemic: 3/1/20 – 4/3/21 = 266. Cases are on the rise
- Boutwell does not feel we should loosen anything at the moment
- We should continue to monitor the trend and act accordingly
- Waziuk feels if we meet the Red level will need to enact control measures and start closing things down.
- Ellis states there are no new set of mandates if we reach the numbers as we did previously.
- Boutwell states if it gets worse we need to do what we need to do, closure
- Ellis and Wasiuk will review numbers on Thursday and act accordingly

Update on Vaccine Eligibility & County Clinics

- 55 and over and any age with one medical condition are now eligible for the vaccine
- On Friday, 4/9/21 shot 2 will be given at the Tech School, there will be some 1st doses available, link goes live at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, 4/6/21
- John Zon Center will be having a clinic with the J & J shot
- There is an increase in doses coming, 1,600 to Greenfield and 1,100 to FRCOG, Greenfield and the FRCOG will be merging at some point
- 2700 vaccines coming into the county the next two weeks

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director

Adult Spring Programs Proposal

- Adult Softball, Unity Park, start 5/3, will follow adult softball COVID-19 2021 Rules; no spectators

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- Adult Soccer, Highland Park, Millers Falls, start 4/10 (conditions pending); will follow COVID protocols, no spectators
- Yoga, Picnic area, Unity Park, drop in program; will have 6 foot diameter circles will be traced out with white field paint delineating the individual space per participant. Each circle will be at least 6 feet from one another

Ice Cream Ride Application (with Sean Condon)

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the use of public property for River Valley Ice Cream Ride on July 31, 2021 from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Unity Park Community Garden event proposal with Entertainment License Request (with Great Falls Apple Corps)

Garden clean up event, people will have to sign up for a shift, 20 people in garden at once to maintain social distancing. Band members will have individual platforms, barricades will designate 25' from the band, and signs indicating "mandatory mask zones" will be posted.

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the entertainment license for music during the Community Garden Spring Clean Up event at Unity Park on April 25, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. COVID 19 protocols to be followed and pending any Board of Health closures. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Announcement that the Unity Park Ballfields will be named after Mr. George Bush of Turners Falls

The Park and Rec Commission has decided to name the Unity Park Ballfields after Mr. George Bush of Turners Falls for his commitment to the youths in Town. The event will be held at a later date and Jon will notify the Board so they may attend.

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

Change trash service days from Friday to Wednesday: Maple Street, Pleasant Street, Chestnut Street, Grove Street, Hillside Avenue, Riverside Drive, Goddard Avenue Republic Services has had a lot of turnover and the new drivers do not know our area. They will be changing trash service days from Friday to Wednesday: Maple Street, Pleasant Street, Chestnut Street, Grove Street, Hillside Avenue, Riverside Drive, Goddard Avenue additional streets added to original list: Worcester Street, Madison Avenue, Wrightson Avenue, Broadview Heights. The change in the route will enable Republic Services to adequately plan and supplement the existing routes and equipment servicing the town to avoid issues with the truck becoming fully loaded and "packing out" and to comply with DOT operating hour restrictions. Implementation date is May 5, 2021.

Sixth Street Bridge Reopening

The Bailey Bridge was closed late fall last year. Bergeron sent out an RFP and when bids were received back he discovered the DPW could fix the bridge for less money. The first inspection was last week and had the second inspection on 4/5/21. Will know 4/6/21 if the bridge can open. Environmental Restoration, LLC who is taking down the old Railroad Salvage Building would like keep this bridge closed until they are finished in late June early July since trucks loaded with debris from the site cannot go over the 11th Street Bridge due to weight restrictions. They would like to hire a detail officer and install a temporary gate on the Bailey bridge; Police and Fire will have a key.

Mike Naughton

Update on the Six Town School Regionalization Planning Board

- The main message is the Committee is still here, still working, still collecting information and hasn't reached a conclusion.
- They have received a 3rd grant that will allow them to collect more detailed information in several areas having to do with aspects of the finances of a combined district on educational possibilities and what transportation might look like. They have already received some information but would like to receive more

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- They are in the process of selecting consultants
- The Town of Montague is supposed to have a member on the Board from the G/M School District School Committee and currently does not. The Superintendent is aware of this and is taking efforts to get someone.
- As part of their information collecting they are expecting to be communicating in financing and educational side with various stakeholders in the 6 towns including Montague.
- If there are questions people would like to make sure they are covered they can contact Mike Naughton or Lynn Reynolds. The RFP has gone out but will do their best to get the questions answered.
- Depending on data collections, hope to have something to present the end of summer, beginning of fall.
- Three separate RFQ's are due 6/30/21

Bryan Camden, Airport Manager

Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Award, \$13,000

- This is the 2nd Cares Act granted by FAA
- The purpose is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Funds provided under this ACRGP Grant Agreement must only be used for purposes directly related to the airport. Such purposes can include the reimbursement of an airport's operational and maintenance expenses or debt service payments in accordance with the limitations prescribed in the Act. ACRGP Grants may be used to reimburse airport operational and maintenance expenses directly related to Turners Falls incurred no earlier than January 20, 2020. ACRGP Grants also may be used to reimburse payment of debt service where such payments occur on or after December 27, 2020.
- Airport development projects not directly related to combating the spread of pathogens and approved by the FAA for such purposes, may not be funded with this Grant.

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Grant Offer, Grant No. 3-25-0032-024-2021 for Turners Falls Airport, \$13,000. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye.

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Authorize Green Communities FY 21 Grant Application for LED lighting conversions at WPCF plant, Second Street Public Parking Lot, J and G Street Sewer Pump Stations and HVAC/Window upgrades to Millers Falls Library. Total request: \$112,128

- WPCF: Interior and exterior LED lighting and heat pump
- Second Street Public Parking Lot: Outdoor lighting (17 poles) LED Conversion
- J Street Sewer Pump Station: Interior and exterior LED lighting conversion
- G Street Sewer Pump Station: Interior and exterior LED lighting conversion
- Millers Falls Library: Heat Pump, LED lighting Conversion, replacement windows and door
- Building Assessment to convert heating system, lighting and windows. In order to do work will need to upgrade electrical service to building
- Second Street Parking Lot (Discovery Center): Upgrade lighting, 17 lights that are on 1 meter will be converted to LED.
- Total cost of project \$155,535.54, Utility incentive of \$46,373.99, GC Grant Funding: \$112,128.84. Projected Annual Cost Savings: \$7,605.64
- Sally Pick asks about weatherization to Library building. Air Source heat pump works best is building is weatherized.

Boutwell makes the motion that Walter continue with the Green Communities FY 21 Grant Application. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Downtown Electric Vehicle Charging Stations- Review of first year of operation

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- Montague has 2 EV charging stations (4 Ports) that went into operation April 2020. They were installed by Eversource at no expense to the Town of Montague. They are located in the Second Street Parking Lot and on 6th Street.
- The Town currently charges all users \$0.30 per kwh, while many area towns offer free charging or lower rates. 10% of that revenue goes to a "flex billing fee" before being distributed to the town.
- A stated goal of the Selectboard was to break-even on operating expenses for the EV stations, however the town operated at a deficit of \$2,500 in the first year.
- It is worth noting that, driving miles have been severely limited during the pandemic, the period when charging stations have been monitored for this review, so this likely will not represent a typical year.
- Nelson suggests leaving rate as is and see where it goes
- Kuklewicz feels we should lower our rate rather than raise it.

Boutwell makes the motion to lower the rate to \$0.25 per Kwh. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant, City Road Flooding Relief, \$237,287.02

- The brook beside Montague City Road over runs the bank several times a year and goes into the road.
- MEMA and FEMA has awarded the Town a grant in the amount of \$237,287.02 to go towards the repair project and covers 75% of the cost
- Total project costs \$320,510.00; need to find funding for gap of \$83,222.98.
- Options to fill gap: (1) Chapter 90, (2) Seek appropriation or (3) Seek State grant through the Municipal Vulnerability Project
- Feels it would be prudent to accept grant award and seek a match

Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant, City Road Flooding Relief, \$237,287.02. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

Abatement Requests (Second Half FY21 Billing Cycle)

Boutwell makes the motion to abate the FY2021 Second Half Sewer Bill for 440 Greenfield Road in the amount of \$1,092.00. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to abate the FY2021 Second Half Sewer Bill for 65 5th Street, 2B. Seconded by Nelson. Not approved. Boutwell – Nay, Nelson – Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay

Boutwell makes the motion to abate the FY2021 Second Half Sewer Bill for 381 Montague City Road. Seconded by Nelson. Not approved. Boutwell – Nay, Nelson – Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay

Boutwell makes the motion to abate the FY2021 Second Half Sewer Bill for 60 K Street in the amount of \$960.96. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Agreement with Wright-Pierce for Aeration Blower Upgrades in the amount not to exceed \$24,700 (from existing DEP Gap II Grant Work)

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the agreement with Wright-Pierce for Aeration Blower Upgrades, amount not to exceed \$24,700 (from existing DEP Gap II Grant Work). Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss Final EPA AO issued March 19, 2021

EPA had been talking about issuing an order relative to our purchase of a screw press to aid in our treatment; this is the final order that they have issued us.

Orders:

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- By September 30, 2021, the Town shall submit to EPA and MassDEP an Effluent Limit Compliance Plan for maintaining consistent compliance with the effluent limits in the NPDES Permit.
- By September 30, 2021, the Town shall submit to EPA and MassDEP a High-Flow Management Plan. The High-Flow Management Plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. An evaluation of the maximum flow that can be provided full secondary treatment
 - b. An evaluation of the maximum flow that can be provided at least primary treatment and disinfection by the WPCF; and
 - c. Procedures to maximize pollutant removal at the WPCF and minimize the volume of discharges through the CSO outfalls.
 - Upon submission to EPA and MassDEP, the Town shall immediately start implementing the High-Flow Management Plan in accordance with the schedule set out in the Plan subject to the Town addressing any comments provided by EPA and MassDEP. The High-Flow Management Plan, as may be modified to address EPA and MassDEP comments, shall be enforceable under this Order.
- By July 31, 2021, the Town shall submit to EPA and MassDEP a 2021 Administrative Order Progress Report describing the Town's progress in preparing the Effluent Limit Compliance Plan (pursuant to Paragraph IV.1, above) and the High-Flow Management Plan (pursuant to Paragraph IV.2, above).
- EPA worked with Chelsey and Wright-Pierce to develop a timeline and that's why they came up with September 30th.
- Ellis was contacted by EPA Regional Management and they expressed their appreciation for Chelsey Little

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, FCRHRA
Execute Agreement by and between Town of Montague and Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Inc.; The Brick House Community Resource Center, Inc., LifePath, Inc., Montague Catholic Social Ministries, The Western Massachusetts Training Consortium

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement by and between the Town of Montague and Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Inc.; The Brick House Community Resource Center, Inc., LifePath, Inc., Montague Catholic Social Ministries and The Western Massachusetts Training Consortium and authorize the Chair to sign where necessary. Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Inspector of Building Search Committee

- **Establish Ad Hoc Inspector of Buildings Search Committee to Replace Chris Rice**
- **Appoint Steve Ellis – Chair, Karen Casey, Bill Doyle, Josh Lively, Walter Ramsey, Chris Rice, Karen Tonelli, Daniel Wasiuk, Tom Wyman, John Zellman to Inspector of Buildings Search Committee until position filled**

Boutwell makes the motion to Establish the Ad Hoc Inspector of Buildings Search Committee to Replace Chris Rice and Appointing Steve Ellis – Chair, Karen Casey, Bill Doyle, Josh Lively, Walter Ramsey, Chris Rice, Karen Tonelli, Daniel Wasiuk, Tom Wyman, John Zellman to Inspector of Buildings Search Committee until position filled. Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Annual Town Meeting

Article submission deadline for May (date to be determined) 2021 Annual Town Meeting, April 20, 2021 at Noon.

Boutwell makes the motion to open the May Annual Town Meeting and the article submission deadline is April 20, 2021 at Noon. Secoded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administor's Report

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Execute Agreement with LaRochelle Construction, Inc. for Council on Aging Roof Replacement, \$21,050

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with LaRochelle Construction, Inc. for the Council on Aging Roof Replacement, \$21,050. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting

Ellis: I wanted to follow up with information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (AFPA) and it appears funding is quite significant. We have yet to see guidelines, guidance we don't know how the money will flow into the Town and with what required process but the indications that are received the Senator Comerford's Office and Mass. Municipal's Association and other associations is it should be around \$2.4 million. This money is funding that can be spent for replacement of lost revenue, we understand it will be funding eligible for use on infrastructure projects, in particular waste water has been noted, which is an area we have done a lot of advocacy. We will be hearing more on this in the coming months.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye