

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
June 7, 2021

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:45 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, Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau, Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto, and FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton.

Zoom Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/560568327>

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 PA Advisory Committees Meeting: May 10, 2021

- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health, and PA Advisory Committees Meeting: May 10, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health, and PA Advisory Committees Meeting: May 10, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*

Joint Selectboard and PA Advisory Committees Meeting: May 17, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and PA Advisory Committees Meeting: May 17, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: May 24, 2021

- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: May 24, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the minutes of the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: May 24, 2021. 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 meeting will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Selectboard Membership Announcement

- Nelson reports that he is resigning as a Selectperson as of the end of August as he has received a large promotion at his job which requires a lot of travel.
- Bourbeau states she would require a 65-day notice for a Special Election.
- Kuklewicz suggests September 21, September 28, or October 5 as potential dates for the election.

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

Update on Montague COVID case counts

The active cases from May 30 to June 5, 2021 equals 1; active cases from May 23 to June 5, 2021 equals 6; cumulative cases from October 1, 2020 to June 5, 2021 equals 297; and total positive cases since March 1, 2020 to June 5, 2021 equals 326. The percentage of individuals fully vaccinated in Franklin County is 53% as of June 3. Cumulative percentage of individuals with at least one dose in Franklin County is 64% as of June 3.

Consider Rescinding Declaration of COVID-19 Emergency

- *Nelson makes the motion that the Board of Health rescind the State of Emergency in the Town of Montague effective June 15, 2021 concurrent and contingent upon the Governor of Massachusetts' same action on that date. Seconded by Boutwell, anonymously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard rescind the State of Emergency in the Town of Montague effective June 15, 2021 concurrent and contingent upon the Governor of Massachusetts's same action on that date. Seconded by Nelson, anonymously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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Resumption of in-person meetings

- Ellis states that at present, we will not have the ability to meet remotely beginning on June 15th. Pending legislation, there are bills in the Senate and the House that would extend the opportunity for communities to meet with a quorum of the Board not physically present in the same location. We would need to plan as though we assume meetings after the 15th will be in-person meetings.
- Next week's meeting will be a BOS and BOH joint meeting via Zoom.
- Research will need to be done with IT and Town Hall staff with regard to hybrid meetings.

Montague Parks & Recreation Dept. - Cleaning of High Touch Park Structures

The Cleaning of High Touch Park Structures will be discontinued.

CARES Update

- The CARES application would have to be completed after September 30.
- There is a general sense that the State will be scrutinous of the expenses that the funds are used for.
- Ellis is focused on the continued sanitization of the port-a-potties as well as the procurement of a tent for the children's library programs. He is also hopeful that there will be allowances for ventilation projects in our buildings.

Other/Library (not on agenda)

Ellis states that Library Director Linda Hickman would like to open the libraries to normal status as of June 14. They would like to have the same mask policy as Council on Aging (people not vaccinated should wear masks).

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director

Homelands Festival being held at Unity Park on August 6 - 8, 2021

David and Diane Brule present a Plan B to move the Homelands Festival being held at Unity Park on August 6 - 8, 2021 due to flooding issues. Topic will be put on the agenda once final details are clear.

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

Matt Lattanzi, Northampton Radio Group

Free Concert at Unity Park to Celebrate WRSI's 40th Birthday, 8/1/21, 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- **Entertainment Permit, Outdoor Concert**
Boutwell makes the motion to accept in concept the Entertainment Permit for a Free Concert at Unity Park to Celebrate WRSI's 40th Birthday, 8/1/21, 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM, pending insurance. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - Abstain
- **Special and One Day License Application**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Special and One Day License Application for the Free Concert at Unity Park to Celebrate WRSI's 40th Birthday, 8/1/21, 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM, pending insurance. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - Abstain

Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Town Planner

Local Rapid Recovery Plan - Initial Findings and Next Steps

- Dan Hodge shares that the State has a new program related to recovery from COVID and presents the Local Rapid Recovery Plan Overview & Objectives including a Downtown Turners Falls study area, LRRP Phases, Business Survey Highlights, Physical Environment, and Business Environment.
- Next Steps involve Hodge and LoManto conducting community/stakeholder focus groups in mid-June to gather more input and ideas and help prioritize projects, developing a draft project list, conducting an online stakeholder survey, and putting all the information together to facilitate applying for funding.

Personnel Board

Juneteenth Holiday

Boutwell makes the motion that for Fiscal Year 2021 the Selectboard will treat the Juneteenth Holiday as any other legal holiday identified in the union contracts; this will be a one-time accommodation and will be subject to future arbitration. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Increase Patricia Holloway to Full Time Status, WPCF Administrative Assistant, NAGE Grade B, Step 3, 40 hrs/week, effective 6/7/21

Boutwell makes the motion to increase Patricia Holloway to Full Time Status, WPCF Administrative Assistant, NAGE Grade B, Step 3, 40 hrs/week, effective 6/7/21. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint DPW Summer Help, 40 hours/week, \$13.50/hour, effective June 7, 2021, Jacob Dodge and Jacob Sak

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint DPW Summer Help, 40 hours/week, \$13.50/hour, effective June 7, 2021, Jacob Dodge and Jacob Sak. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Updates

- Ellis states that Linda Hickman has announced her retirement for this coming fall. Last Thursday Ellis and the Library Trustees met and looked at updating the Library Director's job description. Ellis will be part of the hiring committee.
- Bill Ketchen is officially on the job today as the Building Inspector. Chris Rice will be spending some vacation time supporting Bill's transition.

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

FY21 Sewer Use Abatements

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the abatement for 32 Center St., Montague Center in the amount of \$349.44. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the abatement for 21 Bernardo Drive, Montague in the amount of \$1,696.14. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the abatement for 37 Third St., Turners Falls in the amount of \$5,269.87. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Award bid for a Sludge Dewatering Press to Russell Resources Inc., of Brewer Maine for a total price of \$295,126.05, \$53,243.45 due at signing and twenty (20) quarterly installments of \$12,094.13

Boutwell makes the motion to award the bid for a Sludge Dewatering Press to Russell Resources Inc., of Brewer Maine for a total price of \$295,126.05, with \$53,243.45 due at signing and twenty (20) quarterly installments of \$12,094.13. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Approve Lease Agreement with Russell Resources, Inc. of Brewer Maine for up to \$295,126.05

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Lease Agreement with Russell Resources, Inc. of Brewer Maine for up to \$295,126.05. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Sale of Land to River Bluff Group, LLC

Execute Deed for 7.887 acres of land on Industrial Boulevard with River Bluff Group, LLC (\$157,000). Land described on "Plan of Land Prepared for The Inhabitants of the Town of Montague," dated June 10, 2013, and recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 132, Page 96

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Deed for 7.887 acres of land on Industrial Boulevard with River Bluff Group, LLC (\$157,000). Land described on "Plan of Land Prepared for The Inhabitants of the Town of Montague," dated June 10, 2013, and recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 132, Page 96. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

FRTA Updates

- FRTA had their annual meeting in May.
- Singleton reports they have a 5-year plan. He had made three suggestions: (1) prioritize expanding the social base of the FRTA to include people who want to reduce their gas usage, (2) implement weekend fixed route service by next year, and (3) have the board vote on governance issues: 5-year plans, MOUs. The FRTA Board approved all of Singleton's suggestions.
- Singleton reports that after convincing the board to send a letter to the DOT asking for a meeting to discuss why FRTA does not have weekend fixed route service, they met with a man named Tom Schiavone from DOT who told them that

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they don't have anything to do with the formula for how the RTA funding works. This led to revelation that there is an organization of RTAs that meets once a year who is responsible for the funding.

Town Administrator's Report

Reserve Fund Transfer: \$2,500 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund to account #001-5-946-5740, Property and Liability Insurance

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer: \$2,500 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund to account #001-5-946-5740, Property and Liability Insurance, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Racial Equity Webinar Training Series

The Massachusetts Municipal Association has made available a three-part racial equity training series, which Ellis has signed up for. Nelson, Kuklewicz, and Elan express interest in participating.

Farren Care Center Update

Ellis reports that according to one of the Farren's regional executives, Jan Hamilton, as well as their real estate division, they have committed to a process which involves hiring a local commercial real estate agent that would be responsible for identifying the real market for redevelopment of the facility. If there is no apparent market, one option they would look at would be demolition and preparation of the site for its next iteration. They will be going through an extensive assessment to determine what the likelihood will be for redevelopment as well as to identify what the costs would be for demolition. Ellis states that we have a clear promise that the Town will not be left with a building that could potentially be an albatross.

Grant Summary Review - One Stop

Ellis lists the projects submitted for grant funding through the One Stop for Growth Program:

- 1) Turners Falls Canal District Revitalization Strathmore Mill Site Stabilization, \$5,000,000 submitted to the Site Readiness Fund.
- 2) Turners Falls Airport Industrial Park Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation, \$169,700 to the Rural and Small Town Development Fund's Capital Grants Program.
- 3) Turners Falls Canal District Master Plan, \$120,000 to the Predevelopment and Permitting.
- 4) Downtown Turners Falls Parking Management Plan, up to \$25,000 for Community Capacity Building.
 - o We also submitted one grant outside of the One Stop expression of interest to another funding source at Housing and Economic Development the Montague Comprehensive Plan for Community Visioning and Scenario Planning, \$33,000 to an FYI 22 Planning Assistance grant.

Ellis Thanks Walter Ramsey for his work on this project

Boutwell makes the motion to reaffirm the Board's support for the projects submitted for grant funding through the One Stop Growth Program as follows:

- 1) *Turners Falls Canal District Revitalization Strathmore Mill Site Stabilization, \$5,000,000 submitted to the Site Readiness Fund.*
- 2) *Turners Falls Airport Industrial Park Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation, \$169,700 to the Rural and Small Town Development Fund's Capital Grants Program.*
- 3) *Turners Falls Canal District Master Plan, \$120,000 to the Predevelopment and Permitting.*
- 4) *Downtown Turners Falls Parking Management Plan, up to \$25,000 for Community Capacity Building.*

A grant outside of the One Stop program for submission Housing and Economic Development. The Montague Comprehensive Plan for Community Visioning and Scenario Planning, \$33,000 for an FY22 Planning Assistance grant.

Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Topics not anticipated in 48 hours posting

None

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Upcoming Meetings:

Selectboard Meeting, **MONDAY, June 14, 2021, 6:30 PM** via Zoom

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye