

**Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**And via ZOOM**  
**Monday, August 23, 2021**

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell (arrived later), and Michael Nelson; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; Finance Committee Members Jen Audley (Chair), Christopher Menegoni, John Hanold, Fred Bowman, Greg Harrison, Francia Wisnewski, and Jennifer Waryas; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; and WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little.

Topics may start earlier than specified, unless there is a hearing scheduled

**VIMEO Meeting Link:** <https://vimeo.com/592168216>

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

**Approve Minutes:** Selectboard Meeting August 9, 2021 – Will be approved on 9/13/21

**FY21 CDBG Public Hearing**

- McHugh reads aloud the FY21 CDBG Grant Application Legal Notice.
- Overviews were given of the four Social Service Programs applying for the funds (Lifepath, Inc., Montague Catholic and Social Ministries, The Brickhouse, and Wildflower Alliance).
- McHugh reviews the application process.
- McHugh gives an overview of the Infrastructure Construction Activity - Continuation of Avenue A Streetscape Phase III.
- Ramsey states that the Planning Department is in support of the Streetscape update.
- McHugh gives an overview of the Housing Rehabilitation project.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Department Housing and Community Development to submit a CDBG application in the amount of \$788,174 on behalf of the Town of Montague for the 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the signatures for the final document of the grant application. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Finance Committee**

Audley calls the Finance Committee to order.

**Review of draft Financial Policies**

- Audley presents the results of the Financial Policies.
- The Finance Committee asks the Selectboard to consider adopting 15 of the policies, but to wait for at least a month; there are 3 more policies that the committee would like to continue working on and present to the Selectboard within the next year.
- Audley explains that the charge the committee gave the consultant was to use the policies that were already established and to build on that.
- Audley speaks of the Tax Rate Setting and Annual Audit as examples of some issues that the Selectboard would need to review.
- The Finance Committee would like to be able to devote one of its meetings to give a more detailed presentation and collect input and suggestions. They will then give another presentation on September 22nd, after which they hope the Selectboard will schedule a time to formally vote to adopt the policies.
- Residents with questions or suggestions can contact the Town Accountant or email the Finance Committee.

*Bowman makes the motion for the Finance Committee to adjourn. Seconded by Hanold, unanimously approved. Hanold- Aye, Bowman - Aye, Garrison - Aye, Wisnewski - Aye, Waryas - Aye, Menegoni - Aye, Audley - Aye*

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**Pole Location Hearing**

**Eversource proposes to set (1) new 40' Class 2 pole for lining extension to building lot. Pole will be located 130' west of P#142/11 (Davis Rd.) and 17' from centerline of Mormon Hollow Rd., in line with existing poles**

*Boutwell makes the motion to set (1) new 40' Class 2 pole for lining extension to building lot. Pole will be located 130' west of P#142/11 (Davis Rd.) and 17' from centerline of Mormon Hollow Rd., in line with existing poles.*

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

**Pole Location Hearing**

**Eversource Energy and Verizon New England, Inc. requests permission to install eighteen (18) jointly owned midspan poles, one (1) jointly owned stub pole, eight (8) jointly owned anchors and relocate four (4) existing joint poles along North Leverett Road**

Topic to be continued next week.

**Personnel Board**

- **Resignation of Lynn Meehan, full time 911 dispatcher effective 8/24/21**

*Boutwell makes the motion to accept with regret the resignation of Lynn Meehan, full time 911 dispatcher effective 8/24/21. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Appoint Lynn Meehan, per diem 911 dispatcher, effective 8/25/21, \$21.00/hr**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Lynn Meehan, per diem 911 dispatcher, effective 8/25/21, \$21.00/hr.*

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

- **Discussion regarding 911 Dispatch**

Ellis states that we only have four full-time dispatchers and a group of per diem staff, which makes it difficult to cover dispatch 24/7. A discussion will be necessary at some point to address this.

**Approve Deed and receipt of trust funds for Highland Cemetery**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize and execute the Deed with the Millers River Cemetery Corporation for the purchase of the Highland Cemetery property and its various improvements, located on Millers Falls Road in Montague, Franklin County as described in said deed. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- *Boutwell makes the motion to accept and issue a receipt for the Highland Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund in the amount of \$34,302.62, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Authorize and execute Deed from Town for 25 Sixth Street to John Ancitil in the amount of \$25,000 in accordance with real estate agreement dated 1/25/21**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize and execute the Deed from the Town for 25 Sixth Street to John Ancitil in the amount of \$25,000 in accordance with real estate agreement dated 1/25/21. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Complete Streets Sidewalk Project: Updates and Change order to accept bid alternate 3; Installation of Rapid Flashing Beacons at Turnpike Road near Letourneau Way. \$21,000 to be funded by a gift from Judd Wire**

- The project will be mobilized within the next two weeks and wrapped up by October 30th.
- All of the affected property owners have been notified.
- The property limits have been staked on Montague Street and Turnpike Road.
- Bids came 20% higher than the top end of our budget.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Change order to accept bid alternate 3; Installation of Rapid Flashing Beacons at Turnpike Road near Letourneau Way; \$21,000 to be funded by a gift from Judd Wire. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Kuklewicz asks Ramsey to prepare a thank you note to Judd Wire.

**Execute MOU with FC Solid Waste Mgt. District and Town regarding Hauling and Disposal of Sludge**

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*Nelson makes the motion to execute the MOU with FC Solid Waste Mgt. District and Town regarding Hauling and Disposal of Sludge. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

**Town Administrator's Report**

- **Proposal from Larochelle Construction Co., Inc. for repairs to exterior of 62 5th Street, Turners Falls**
  - Larochelle Construction has provided a cost estimate for replacement/painting of siding of the Council on Aging building.
  - Ellis suggests that we look into replacing the deteriorated siding and paint the building in one swoop as a comprehensive project, which would be in the order of \$35,000. This would involve rescinding the remaining \$25,000 from the roof project and asking for \$40,000 to \$45,000 at Town Meeting for the larger project.
  - Discussion ensues about other siding methods that may be a better choice than wood.
  - Boutwell asks if this would be an appropriate time to look at insulation.
  - Ellis reports that the roof project is essentially done, but the contractor is trying to locate a crane that would allow completion of the project on the back side of the building.

**Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

**Power Canal Service Outage**

- We received notice from FirstLight that they are planning to do the Power Canal service outage from Sunday, September 19 through Friday, September 24.

**COVID Updates**

- There have been six new cases in the community, 14 in the last two weeks. We are still in the green with regard to the State's coding and status system. Approximately 69% of Franklin County residents have been vaccinated.

**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

**Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a)(7), to comply with, or act under the authority of any general law; specifically to review draft minutes from Executive Sessions conducted on dates set forth in the attached listing**

- The Chair deems that holding this discussion in open session may be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the regular meeting and to go into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a)(7), to comply with, or act under the authority of any general law; specifically to review draft minutes from Executive Sessions conducted on dates set forth in the attached listing; votes may be taken. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Ellis publicly thanks Michael Nelson for his service as a Selectboard member.

**Other:**

- Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, September 25 at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station. Online preregistration by 9/17/21 at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html)
- Next Meeting Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:30 PM