

**Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**Monday, September 7, 2021**

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz and Chris Boutwell, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Police Chief Chris Williams, and Lieutenant Chris Bonnett.

VIMEO Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/600219949>

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

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Votes May Be Taken**

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

**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

**Discuss Downtown Tagging/Vandalism - Police Chief Chris Williams, Lieutenant Bonnett**

- Williams reports that there was another incident of graffiti etching in Gill and Turners Falls. The Town Hall and some local businesses were affected.
- Williams asks if the Town would be willing to fund a reward for an arrest.
- The individual responsible is likely not gang-related. He was dressed in black and his face was covered. There were no identifiable features.
- Approximately \$30,000 worth of damage was done.
- John McNamara, a local business owner, states that he looks forward to working with the police with regard to this issue. He states his insurance will be going up, and it will cost money to replace the windows of his business. He also expresses dismay that people have a tendency to respond to these incidences with, "Well, this is Turners Falls."
- Both incidents, the most recent and the one in March, occurred early in the morning.
- Kuklewicz encourages businesses to contact the Police Department if they are interested in increased monitoring.

**Anticipated Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30a, §21(a)(3), to comply with, or act under the authority of any general law; specifically to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.**

- The Chair deems having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30a, §21(a)(3), to comply with, or act under the authority of any general law; specifically to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved.*  
*Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Executive Session

**Provide Any Available Updates Relative to Resolving Dispatch Staffing Challenges**

- The Board has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NAGE Union, which is effective September 12, 2021.
- Kuklewicz reads aloud the MOU.

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- Bonnett explains that the MOU places our dispatch employees at a competitive level with the rest of the market in our geographical region.
- *Boutwell makes a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Montague and the National Association of Government Employees. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Other:**

- Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, September 25, at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station. Online preregistration by September 17th at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html).
- There is an upcoming election in a couple of weeks. On Thursday, September 16, there will be a candidates forum which will be broadcast on MCTV.

**Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*