

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, September 13, 2021

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz (Chair) and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Finance Chair Jen Audley, Board of Health members Al Cummings (Chair) and Melanie Ames Zamojski, and WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little.

VIMEO Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/604436140>

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

Approve Minutes

Selectboard Meeting August 9, 23, 30 and September 7, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes for August 9, 23, 30 and September 7, 2021. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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

Audley states that the Finance Committee's presentation on the financial policies has been rescheduled for October 6, 2021.

Board of Health Chair calls the Board of Health to order.

Montague Board of Health

Review of Montague COVID Case Counts and Trends

- Case counts between September 5 to 11 equals 8, 2 of whom were fully vaccinated and 6 of whom were not. Four were between the ages of 18-35, 3 were between ages 50-64, and 1 was 81+.
- Case counts between August 29 and September 11 equals 21.
- Ellis states that we did not see a continued escalation; we saw it fall back to the weekly number we've been seeing since the middle of August.

Consider any necessary response to recent trends

- Zamojski states the BOH feels that the numbers don't presently warrant a mask mandate.
- Ellis states that the EMT feel that we should not react too late to a crisis. If the number reaches 13, then the EMT would like to implement a mask mandate inside Town buildings.
- Kuklewicz encourages residents to wear masks when in large groups.

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

Personnel Board

Appoint Joanne Palhete, DPW Custodian, U.E. Grade A, Step 7, 40/hrs. week, effective 9/2021

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Joanne Palhete, DPW Custodian, U.E. Grade A, Step 7, 40/hrs. week, effective 9/2021. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Oliver Beane, Assessing Technician, NAGE Grade B, Step 4, 35/hrs. week, effective 09/27/21

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Oliver Beane, Assessing Technician, NAGE Grade B, Step 4, 35/hrs. week, effective 09/27/21. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

911 Dispatcher NAGE Grade Change:

- **Steve Chase, Grade B, Step 10 to Grade D, Step 10, effective 9/12/21**
Boutwell makes the motion to move Steve Chase from Grade B, Step 10 to Grade D, Step 10, effective 9/12/21. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Tracy Hall, Grade B, Step 6 to Grade D, Step 6, effective 9/12/21**
Boutwell makes the motion to move Tracy Hall from Grade B, Step 6 to Grade D, Step 6, effective 9/12/21. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Robin Wells, Grade B, Step 2 to Grade D, Step 2, effective 9/19/21.**

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Boutwell makes the motion to move Robin Wells from Grade B, Step 2 to Grade D, Step 2, effective 9/19/21. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Other (not on agenda)/Library Director

Ellis reports that the Library Trustees will likely move to appoint a new Library Director within the next two weeks.

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

FY22 Sewer Rate Hearing

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the WPCF proposed Sewer Rates for FY 2022, Septage, Trucked-in Sludge Flat Rates, and Other (Interest Rate, Demand Charge, and Minimum Bill).
- *Boutwell makes the motion to adopt the WPCF Sewer Rates as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Chelsey Little, WPCF

Execute NetDMR Subscriber Agreement Form to authorize Chelsey Little as Signatory of Discharge Monitoring Reports as required per the MSGP#MAR05J015 (Industrial Stormwater Permit)

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the NetDMR Subscriber Agreement Form to authorize Chelsey Little as Signatory of Discharge Monitoring Reports as required per the MSGP#MAR05J015 (Industrial Stormwater Permit). Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Nancy Kay Maleno, Betty Allen Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution Request to Sign Proclamation recognizing the week of September 17th - 23rd as Constitution Week

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by the Betty Allen Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution to sign and accept the Proclamation recognizing the week of September 17th - 23rd as Constitution Week. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Peter Chilton, Nova Motorcycles

Use of public property (2nd St. end in front of 141 - 147 2nd St. to Unity Park parking lot): Vintage Motorcycle Road Rally and Ride, October 2, 2021, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of public property (2nd St. end in front of 141 - 147 2nd St. to Unity Park parking lot): Vintage Motorcycle Road Rally and Ride, October 2, 2021, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Special Town Meeting

Schedule Special Town Meeting; suggested date October 14, 2021. Finalize date and meeting logistics, and set article submission deadline: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM

- Ellis states that the air systems in the high school auditorium have been upgraded. If we use the auditorium, attendees should wear masks. Another option is to have an outdoor meeting on a weekend.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to schedule the Fall Town Meeting on October 14, 2021 as suggested. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to set the article submission deadline for Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator's Report

Issue Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Montague Center School Redevelopment project in accordance with the terms of the 2015 Land Development Agreement

Boutwell makes the motion to issue the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Montague Center School Redevelopment project in accordance with the terms of the 2015 Land Development Agreement. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute MOU with Franklin County Solid Waste Mgt. District for Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on September 25, 2021, \$5,500

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Boutwell makes the motion to execute the MOU with Franklin County Solid Waste Mgt. District for Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on September 25, 2021, \$5,500. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Update on CARES Funding and Reimbursement

- Ellis reports he had attended a workshop on Thursday. We can use some of our balance of funds for additional nursing or contact tracing support hours relative to COVID through October 29. We also can use ARPA funding.
- Ellis acknowledges the extraordinary job that our Town Accountant, Carolyn Olsen, has done.
- The projects that we have done include improving ventilation and air quality in the Gill-Montague School District, renovating the annex conference room, upgrading wifi outside of public buildings in key locations, obtaining tents for children's programming, and sanitizing the ADA-accessible port-a-potties on a daily basis.

Topics not anticipated in 48 hours postings/Candidates Forum

There will be a Candidates Forum via Zoom on Thursday, September 16, at 7 PM. The link is on the Town's website.

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
- Anticipated Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye