

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, September 20, 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, Board of Health members Al Cummings (Chair) and Melanie Ames Zamojski, Library Trustee Secretary Margot Malachowski, New Library Director Caitlin Kelley, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, and Town Planner Walter Ramsey.

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/610634672> and <https://vimeo.com/610704668>

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

Approve Minutes

Selectboard Meeting September 13, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2021 as presented. 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

None

Lew Collins, Between the Uprights, 23 Avenue A, Turners Falls

- **Execute 2021 License to Use Real Property Café License, 23 - 29 Avenue A, Turners Falls**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Lew Collins, Between the Uprights, 23 Avenue A, Turners Falls for a 2021 License to Use Real Property Café License, 23 - 29 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration, or Use of Public Property, and One day Special License: Great Falls Festival Celebration, October 23, 2021, 9:00 AM to 1:00 AM**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration, or Use of Public Property, and One day Special License for the Great Falls Festival Celebration, October 23, 2021, 9:00 AM to 1:00 AM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Board of Health Chair opens the Board of Health meeting, roll call taken.

Montague Board of Health

- **Review of Montague COVID Case Counts and Trends**
Active COVID cases from September 12 - 18 equals 8, and from September 5 - 18 equals 17. Cumulative cases from October 1, 2020 - September 18, 2021 equals 355, and from March 1, 2020 - September 18, 2021 equals 384. The percentage of individuals fully vaccinated in Franklin County totals 63%; individuals with at least one dose totals 70%. For the 8 cases, fully vaccinated individuals equals 1, partially vaccinated equals 0, and not vaccinated equals 7; under 17 equals 4, from 18-35 years old equals 3, 36-49 years old equals 0, 50-64 years old equals 0, 65-80 years old equals 1, and 81+ equals 0.
- **Consider any necessary response to recent trends**
 - The Emergency Management Team has agreed upon continuing to monitor the case counts. If the case numbers next week double, they will likely make the recommendation of wearing masks in public buildings.
 - Ellis states that The EMT will implement wearing masks in Town buildings if Montague enters the red zone.
 - In response to a question by a resident, Wasiuk states that results from home tests are not considered as they are not analyzed through a lab. The accuracy of results is in question.
 - In response to a question by a resident, Wasiuk states that the severity of the symptoms for the most recent cases were moderate, not severe.

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- Discussion ensued regarding mask mandates at universities.
- In response to a comment by a resident, Wasiuk states that he will speak to the Board of Health regarding considering data in Franklin County as a whole.
- Kuklewicz shares that a resident expressed the danger to children as they are not able to be vaccinated.

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

Discussion of Recent Trash and Recycling issues

- Kuklewicz states that there have been some issues with trash not being picked up on the appointed time or day, sometimes even missing being picked up for a week.
- Republic Service staff met with Town staff and discussed this issue.
- Ellis reports that Republic has had difficulty hiring and retaining the staff. One modification they have made is sending two trucks on Wednesday.
- Another issue is that their regional dispatch line has so much traffic that calls are not efficiently getting to dispatchers. We have pushed on their regional managers to improve the efficiency.
- Kuklewicz states that the hope is to have better communication with Republic Service so that if a truck is not going to be able to make it to an area, the information can be posted on the Town website.
- There will be another meeting with Republic Service to follow-up.
- Ellis states that we are in the final year of our three-year contract with Republic Service.
- Ellis explains that changing contracts would be difficult.

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Cameron Tucker, DPW Grounds, UE Grade C, Step 4, effective 10/12/21**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint, DPW Grounds, UE Grade C, Step 4, effective 10/12/21 pending his passing the physical. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Roy Dennis, DPW Mechanic, UE Grade D, Step 3, effective 10/12/21**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Roy Dennis, DPW Mechanic, UE Grade D, Step 3, effective 10/12/21 pending his passing the physical. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Bob Obear to Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternate Member, until June 30, 2022**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Bob Obear to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member, until June 30, 2022. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Update on Library Director Hiring**
Malachowski reports that the Library Trustees appointed Caitlin Kelley as the new Library Director for the Montague Public Libraries, and gives a summary of her experience. Kelley will be starting as the new Library Director on October 18, 2021.

Brian McHugh, FCRHRA
Spinner Park

- **Authorization to Disburse No. 6, payment to Sciaba Construction, \$36,185.50**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement No. 6, payment to Sciaba Construction, \$36,185.50. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Execute Certificate of Substantial Completion**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion, and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Discussion of Park Opening, Statue Placement and Park Rededication Ceremony**
 - The statue will be delivered on Thursday.

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- A Park Rededication Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 2.

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

Upcoming FRTA Advisory Board Meeting

An FRTA Advisory Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 4:00 PM. Singleton shares and summarizes the agenda for the upcoming FRTA Advisory Board Meeting.

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

FY21 Shared Streets and Spaces Grant

- **Issue Notice to Proceed to Taylor Davis Landscaping & Construction Company for the Second Street/Unity Park Entrance enhancement project for a contract in the amount of \$66,075.55.**

To be funded by a FY21 Shared Streets and Spaces grant.

Boutwell makes the motion to issue a Notice to Proceed to Taylor Davis Landscaping & Construction Company for the Second Street/Unity Park Entrance enhancement project for a contract in the amount of \$66,075.55; to be funded by a FY21 Shared Streets and Spaces grant. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Authorize Construction Agreement with Taylor Davis Landscaping & Construction Company in the amount of \$66,075.55, subject to forthcoming receipt of required bonds and insurance certificates**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Construction Agreement with Taylor Davis Landscaping & Construction Company in the amount of \$66,075.55, subject to forthcoming receipt of required bonds and insurance certificates. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

FY21 Green Communities Grant Project

Execute Energy Management Services Agreement with Energy Resources US for projects at Millers Falls Library, WPCF, and 2nd Street Parking lot. Green Communities in the amount of \$61,129.00. To be funded by FY21 Green Communities Grant.

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Energy Management Services Agreement with Energy Resources US for projects at Millers Falls Library, WPCF, and 2nd Street Parking lot; Green Communities in the amount of \$61,129.00; to be funded by FY21 Green Communities Grant. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Grant Submissions requests

- **DLS Community Compact Info Technology Grant**

- Ellis, the Director of Assessing, the Accountant, and the Treasurer/Collector are seeking to obtain funds to replace our antiquated assessing software.
- In addition, we are hoping to implement a new HR and procurement system.
- All preliminary vendor product reviews are done.
- Kuklewicz states he hopes we take a comprehensive look at a more enterprise-wide solution that we could grow into so there could be a collaboration between the Town departments.
- Ellis responds that assessing software is not well-integrated with other programs. On the accounting, HR management, procurement side, our accountant is very interested in exploring expansion of our current accounting software in order to have more cohesion.

- **DLS Community Compact Best Practices Grants**

- Ellis states that it has been brought to his attention that it may be time to do a wage and classification study.
- The DLS Community Compact Best Practices Grants would cover a broad array of projects.
- Ellis offers to bring a list of other potential projects.

- **MA Office for Disabilities Grant Program**

Ellis states that over the last two years, we have been focused on trying to get automatic door openers for some of our Town buildings. He proposes that we do this in a limited number of buildings that are in areas that are more likely to be utilized by the public and individuals with disabilities.

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Proposed Community-Based Prevention Programming RFP (Use of Cannabis Funds)

- Ellis proposes including in the Special Town Meeting Warrant designing the first round of a Community-Based Prevention Program. This would involve requesting \$50,000 in funding that would be made available through a competitive RFP process. There are several human service agencies in Montague that have the capacity to implement these kind of evidence-based programs.
- Kat Allen from the Communities That Care Coalition agrees that this would be an ideal use of the cannabis impact fees. She states that the data shows that family management problems is a particularly high need in our area.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ellis states that the year-to-date commitment that 253 Pharmacy is going to have to the Town is \$260,000. If sales continue on the current trajectory, they expect to be adding another \$400,000 to the fund this January.

Proposed 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Project Appropriation

- Ellis shares that the project cost has gone up. The base bid only has a \$40,000 margin of error, which he is not comfortable with.
- There is no flexibility in the MassWorks Program to provide any supplemental funds should the bid cost exceed the available funding for the base bid.
- The total grant was \$2.163 million, deducting \$360,000 for engineering and ongoing construction oversight.
- Kuklewicz wants to make sure we account for anything that needs to be underground.
- Discussion ensues about the possible complexity of laying conduits underground for street lightning.
- We will have the bids in hand next Wednesday.
- Construction will be starting this fall, but will primarily be done in the spring.
- Ellis would like to ask Town Meeting for \$100,000 for an additional cushion. He asks the Board to think about this issue, then come in with a recommendation at Wednesday's Finance Committee meeting.

Special Town Meeting - October 14, 2021

To review draft warrant, attached hereto, and to make recommendations on all items in warrant; votes may be taken

Kuklewicz and Ellis give brief summaries of each of the Articles on the draft warrant.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Update of FirstLight FERC Settlement Process**
 - Ellis reports that discussion of the recreation component of the FERC Settlement Process with FirstLight has commenced.
 - Confidentiality agreements that Ellis and Ramsey signed three years ago remain in effect.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

Ellis reports that he attended the Bridge Bash at Lake Pleasant as well as the Montague Soap Box Derby. He gives very positive feedback on both events.

Other:

- **Special Town Election for Selectboard Member, Tuesday, September 21, 2021**
- **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 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 8:51 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved.
Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*