

**Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**Monday, September 27, 2021**

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz (Chair), Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Airport Manager Bryan Camden, Board of Health members Al Cummings (Chair) and Melanie Ames Zamojski, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Town Meeting Moderator Chris Collins, Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto, and Town Planner Walter Ramsey.

VIMEO Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/616610446>

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

**Approve Minutes**

**Selectboard Meeting September 20, 2021**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - 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

**Personnel Board**

**Appoint Jason Kingsbury, DPW, UE Grade C, Step 1, 40 hrs/wk, effective 10/12/21**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jason Kingsbury, DPW, UE Grade C, Step 1, 40 hrs/wk, effective 10/12/21. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Appoint Jake Whitney, Airport Grounds Maintenance, FCTS Co-op, \$15.50/hr., 30 hrs/wk., temporary 12 months, effective 9/27/21**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jake Whitney, Airport Grounds Maintenance, FCTS Co-op, \$15.50/hr., 30 hrs/wk., temporary 12 months, effective 9/27/21. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Appoint Aiden Baily, Airport Grounds Maintenance, FCTS Co-op, \$14.00/hr., 10 hrs/wk., temporary 18 months, effective 9-27-21**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Aiden Baily, Airport Grounds Maintenance, FCTS Co-op, \$14.00/hr., 10 hrs/wk., temporary 18 months, effective 9-27-21. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Appoint Eli Gueren, Airport Grounds Maintenance, FCTS Co-op, \$14.00/hr., 10 hrs/wk., temporary 18 months, effective 9/27/21**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Eli Gueren, Airport Grounds Maintenance, FCTS Co-op, \$14.00/hr., 10 hrs/wk., temporary 18 months, effective 9/27/21. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Status Change:**

**Samuel Stevens, Wastewater Tech, Grade D, Step 1 (previously WPCF Laborer, Grade B, Step 5), effective 9/27/21**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Status Change for Samuel Stevens, Wastewater Tech, to Grade D, Step 1 (previously WPCF Laborer, Grade B, Step 5), effective 9/27/21. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Robert Bessette, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, Grade C, Step 8 (previously Mechanic, Grade D, Step 4, effective 10/12/21)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Status Change for Robert Bessette, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer to Grade C, Step 8 (previously Mechanic, Grade D, Step 4, effective 10/12/21). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Luke Timberlake, Airport Operations Manager, Grade A, Step 8 (previously Grade A, Step 6 prior to obtaining his license)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Status Change for Luke Timberlake, Airport Operations Manager to Grade A, Step 8 (previously Grade A, Step 6 prior to obtaining his license). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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

**Montague Board of Health**

**Review of Montague COVID Case Counts and Trends**

- Active cases from September 19 to September 25, 2021 equals 15; from September 12 to September 25, 2021 equals 23. Cumulative cases from March 1, 2020 to September 25, 2021 equals 399.
- As of September 23, the percentage of all individuals 12 years and older that are fully vaccinated in Franklin County is 63%; the cumulative percentage with at least one dose is 71%.
- For the active cases from September 19 to 9/25/21, vaccination history is the following: 3 fully vaccinated, 2 partially vaccinated, and 10 not vaccinated.
- Age group breakdown is as follows: 18-35 equals 3; 39-49 equals 2; 50-64 equals 1; 65-80 equals 2, 81+ equals 2; and under 17 equals 5.
- We are still in the yellow status.
- In response to a question by a resident, Wasiuk states that the number of children who have contracted COVID has not been significant.
- Ellis presents Franklin County data of COVID cases.
- Discussion ensues about collecting data in expanded geographical areas. Wasiuk states that resources are limited and we are doing the best we can.

**Receive Board of Health recommendation to reinstate mask mandate in Town buildings**

- Cummings states that the BOH recommends reinstating the mask mandate in Town buildings. They are leaving it up to businesses to decide what they want to do.
- Wasiuk states that the BOH does not feel that the current levels justify a mask mandate for businesses.
- Zamojski states that the BOH members feel that the mask mandate for libraries especially is important.
- Ellis shares FRCOG's data regarding mask mandates for each town.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the Board of Health's recommendation to reinstate the mask mandate in Town Buildings. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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- Lord states that our neighboring communities who have imposed a mask mandate have decreased the slope of their rate of spread, and expresses his wish to show some solidarity with them.
- *Lord makes the motion to reinstate the mask mandate for all public businesses and buildings in Montague. Seconded by Boutwell. Kuklewicz makes a friendly amendment to have the effective date of the Town-wide mandate be October 4. Seconded by Boutwell. Unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Discuss any other needed response to COVID situation**

- Kuklewicz states that there are a number of events coming up and asks the BOH what their recommendations are with regard to these events. Wasiuk states he would like to take some time to think about this issue.
- Town Meeting:
  - Kuklewicz states that a number of residents have expressed concern about Town Meeting being in an indoor venue.
  - Franklin Tech has agreed to allow the Town to use their large tent, which would be problematic if there is bad weather.
  - Discussion ensues about the possible use of the Highway Department building. Logistically it would be difficult.
  - Lord approves using the tent.
  - Boutwell approves using the tent, as well as having a remote meeting.
  - Collins feels that the outdoor tent would be our best choice. He is opposed to using the Highway Department building.
  - LoManto suggests adding a second tent to the FCTS's tent.
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to change the date of Town Meeting to Saturday, October 16, at 10 AM at Franklin County Technical School. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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

**Use of Public Property: Rag Shag Parade, October 31, 2021, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.**

**Aubuchon Parking Lot down Avenue A to Discovery Center, approx. 100 people**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property: Rag Shag Parade, October 31, 2021, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Aubuchon Parking Lot down Avenue A to Discovery Center, approx. 100 people. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Event Application, Peskeompskut Park**

**Musica Franklin, Inc. Community Night, October 14, 2021, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, 30 - 50 people (rain date: October 21)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Event Application for Musica Franklin, Inc. Community Night, October 14, 2021, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, 30 - 50 people at Peskeompskut Park (rain date: October 21). Seconded by Lord with the friendly amendment of giving approval pending the recommendations of the Board of Health. Unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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**Musica Franklin, Inc., Ongoing after school classes, if schools go remote, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:30 or dusk, 12 - 20 people**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Event Application for Musica Franklin, Inc., Ongoing after school classes, if schools go remote, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:30 or dusk, 12 - 20 people at Peskeompskut Park. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Town Planner**

**Use of Public Property:**

**Spinner Park Rededication, October 2, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property for the Spinner Park Rededication, October 2, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Spinner Park, Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi, October 9, 2021, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property for Spinner Park, Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi, October 9, 2021, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**FAB Fashion, 69 Second Street, Use of sidewalk and 3 parking spaces, with 3 small pop up tents being set up in front of/facing boutique October 9, 2021, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property for FAB Fashion, 69 Second Street, Use of sidewalk and 3 parking spaces, with 3 small pop up tents being set up in front of/facing boutique October 9, 2021, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

**Execute Grant Agreement with MA Division of Ecological Restoration in the amount of \$25,000 for engineering services in support of replacing a culvert on South Ferry Road**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute and authorize the Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with MA Division of Ecological Restoration in the amount of \$25,000 for engineering services in support of replacing a culvert on South Ferry Road. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Amend Engineering services with McMahon Associates for construction admin. oversight and final engineering for Canal District Gateway project. Contract increase not to exceed \$127,400. To be funded by a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant**

*Boutwell makes the motion to amend the Engineering services with McMahon Associates for construction admin. oversight and final engineering for Canal District Gateway project. Contract increase not to exceed \$127,400. To be funded by a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Overview of Turners Falls Rapid Recovery Plan Priority Actions (Preview of Public Presentation on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM)**

The Planning Board will be hosting a Public Presentation on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM for the Turners Falls Rapid Recovery Plan. Ramsey lists and summarizes the 12 projects that the Planning Board identified as priority action items.

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**Jeff Singleton, Franklin Regional Transit Authority Representative**  
**FRTA's 9/23/21 Advisory Board Meeting Updates**  
Postponed until the next meeting

**Execute Contract with Comm. of Mass for the federal share of reimbursement under FEMA-4496-DR-MA associated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) program, \$19,641.61**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute and authorize the Chair to sign the Contract with the Comm. of Mass for the federal share of reimbursement under FEMA-4496-DR-MA associated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) program, \$19,641.61. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Special Town Meeting**  
**Finalize Meeting logistics and Safety Protocols**

Not discussed

**Special Town Meeting Warrant - To make recommendations, approve and execute draft warrant, attached hereto**

Kuklewicz, Boutwell, and Lord take turns reading aloud the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Report**  
**Colle Lease Extension**

The Board members agree to give the Town Administrator their blessing to discuss extending the Center for Responsive Schools' lease for the former Colle Opera House Building.

**Update on Mass. Office for Disabilities Grant Application**

The Board members give the Town Administrator their blessing to add including a portable stage lift to the Shea Theater project.

**Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

**Other**  
**School Representative**

Kuklewicz reports that we received a request from the Franklin County Technical School regarding the fact that they are entering into negotiations with the Teachers Association this year. There is an opportunity to have one representative from the sending districts so that the districts are represented by somebody other than school committee members. There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 4:30 PM in the Library Conference Room at FCTS. Anyone who is interested in being the representative should contact the Selectboard's Executive Assistant.

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**Selectboard Meetings**

The Board members agree to continue having their hybrid meetings, with attendees wearing masks at the in-person setting.

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*