

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 25, 2021

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz (Chair), Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord (via Zoom), Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz

VIMEO Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/638914340>

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye,

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting October 18, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2021. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Lord – 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

Review of Montague COVID Case Counts and Trends; Discuss any Selectboard actions Relative to Trends

Ellis goes over weekly data provided by the Board of Health

Liquor License Transfer

Watershed Restaurant, LLC, dba Watershed Restaurant, Melissa Stetson as manager has applied for a transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) from Bread and Water, LLC dba The Alvah Stone. The premise is located at 440 Greenfield Road, Montague, MA

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the liquor license transfer for the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) for Watershed Restaurant, LLC, dba Watershed Restaurant, Melissa Stetson as manager from Bread and Water, LLC dba The Alvah Stone. The premise is located at 440 Greenfield Road, Montague, MA. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk: Request to accept new precinct boundaries/maps

Bourbeau informed the board of changes: Precinct 3 would add population by expanding Precinct 4 to the south and west, would expand into precinct 5 gaining 6 and 7th street; a portion of Turners Falls Road would go to Precinct 6 to the west.

Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the new precinct boundary maps (re-precincting plan) as presented by Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Collector: Explanation of upcoming Bond

- Going out to Bond sometime in November to be completed by December 1st when all short term debt is due.
- We will be bonding \$1.4 Million for the DPW facility and \$283,000 for the Strathmore project.
- This will be the end of the project debt and the end for both projects
- All debt in town will be permanent debt and we will have no short term debt at that point. This will be a non taxable bond
- Will be going out for a taxable bond for the Airports' purchase of Pioneer Aviation and the \$68,000 for the fueling station that was approved at Town Meeting last year. This is taxable because the Airport receives income from other sources.

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 25, 2021

- Will be meeting with Standard and Poor's next week, have a AA rating and not expecting it to go up because capital stabilization and our regular stabilization is higher.

Personnel Board

Acknowledge Retirement of Linda Hickman, Librarian

Kuklewicz acknowledges the retirement of Linda Hickman and reads letter of appreciation into the record.

Authorize Town Credit Card for Caitlin Kelley, \$5,000

Boutwell makes the motion to approve a town credit card for Caitlin Kelley for \$5,000.

Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Accept resignation of Laurie Reid from Conservation Commission for term ending June 30, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to accept the resignation of Laurie Reid from Conservation Commission for term ending June 30, 2023. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously.

Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Appoint Margaux Reckard to Conservation Commission for Term ending June 30, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Margaux Reckard to the Conservation Commission for Term ending June 30, 2023. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Appoint Gary Downer, Police 911 Dispatcher, NAGE Grade D, Step 9

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Gary Downer, Police 911 Dispatcher, NAGE Grade D, Step 9, effective 11/3/2021. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Chris Williams, Police Chief

Execute MOU between Montague Police Department and Greenfield Community College Police Department

- Required by law and states the Montague Police Department will assist GCC to investigate certain crimes listed in the MOU

Boutwell makes the motion to Execute MOU between Montague Police Department and Greenfield Community College Police Department. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously.

Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Execute Addendum to Franklin County Emergency Communication System Equipment Agreement with the FRCOG

- This is for migration to the 800 system. All of the cruiser radios and equipment have been installed; we are just waiting on the dispatch equipment to be installed which is covered by the FRCOG

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Addendum to Franklin County Emergency Communication System Equipment Agreement with the FRCOG and authorize the Chair to sign. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 25, 2021

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Release of Request for Proposal for Disposition of Property at 500 Avenue A Due December 9, 2021

- Previous RFP did not receive a strong response because the Town had not implemented a Phase II environmental study. The study is now complete and the property has a clean bill of health.
- RFP is largely the same as last time and proposals would be reviewed on a comparative criteria basis, minimum purchase price is set at \$75,000 as recommended by the CIC

Boutwell makes the motion to Release Request for Proposal for Disposition of Property at 500 Avenue A and to be Due on December 9, 2021. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss expression of interest for Strathmore Building 11, 20 Canal Road

- The Town is in receipt of a letter of interest from Tom Cusano, owner of the former Southworth Paper Mill building to purchase Building 11 of the Strathmore mill complex.
- Selling and developing the building will require subdividing half an acre of land and will require deed and legal research
- Ramsey asked the Board if he should issue a solicitation to potentially sell the building to Town Cusano or wait to see if more grant funding for the area becomes available.
- The new owner will need to have all utilities connected and to pay for extensive sewer connections to the new lines coming across the new 5th Street pedestrian bridge
- The board authorized Ramsey to move forward with the RFP process and come back before the Board when he has a draft prepared.

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

Overview of a Proposed Sludge Composting Project Feasibility Study

Chelsey goes over presentation: https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/Meeting_Material_2021-10-25.pdf (see page 36 - 43)

Jan Ameen stated the FCSWMD is definitely interested in working with the town and providing as much assistance as possible and wants to see if we can make something happen that works for both; a win, win for Montague and the other facilities that I represent.

Consider Contract for a Composting Feasibility Study with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$35,000. \$18,500 of which is to be paid by the Town of Montague WPCF and \$16,500 to be paid by FRCOG

- This would leave a balance of approximately \$7,000 in the Town Meeting Article that will allow for any further exploration or questions.
- We have a letter of commitment from the FRCOG
- We have the verbiage of the proposal with the contract still needing to be finalized, Stantec's legal department is reviewing it and we hope to have that resolved by the end of the week..
- This should be put on next weeks agenda for execution of the contract.

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 25, 2021

Brian McHugh, Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Quarterly Progress Report 2019, QPR #9 – 2019 – Montague – 00845, 09.30.21

- Microenterprise Assistance: this quarter awardees were assisted in preparing the necessary documentation required for the forgiveness process
- Social Service Activity: Four Social Service programs were funded through this grant, all social service activities for this grant have been concluded as of 12/31/20
- Public Facilities/Infrastructure: Spinner Park Restoration Project has concluded. Architect issued a punch list for the contractor to complete. A rededication ceremony for both the Park and the Spinner were held on 10/2/21.
- There is \$17,335.74 remaining that will go back into the State pool of money

Execute Letter to Mark Southard, FY2019 CDBG Final Quarterly Report

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to Mark Southard at DHCD for the FY2019 CDBG Final Quarterly Report. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Authorization to Disburse No. 8 for Spinner Park, Contractor: Sciaba Construction Corp., \$15,357.11

Boutwell makes the motion to Execute the Authorization to Disburse No. 8 for Spinner Park, Contractor: Sciaba Construction Corp., \$15,357.11. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Authorization to Disburse No. 15 for Spinner Park, Contractor: Berkshire Design Group, \$669.32

Boutwell makes the motion to Execute the Authorization to Disburse No. 15 for Spinner Park, Contractor: Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$669.32. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Certificate of Final Completion for Spinner Park Restoration Project

Boutwell makes the motion to Execute Certificate of Final Completion for Spinner Park Restoration Project and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss Eversource's commitment to remove double utility poles, Mike Kane and Anna Raby

- Ellis sent a letter to Eversource regarding the double poles in town and how they have recently impacted some infrastructure work.

Raby:

- Eversource had a conversion to a new work management system and noticed a flaw where they were missing a point of entering poll data information into our engines database which is the centralized repository of communicating with other utilities (Comcast, Verizon).
- We've recognized the error, made corrections, updated our reporting and now we are going full force entering the information that was missed due to the conversion.
- I've received confirmation from Comcast, they are on it, they have hired a contractor to help move the transfers along and as soon as we receive confirmation the transfer is complete we will expedite the removal of the double poles
- Kuklewicz graciously accepts their reasoning but doesn't like it.
- Kuklewicz would like a pole removal timeline with milestones and come back to the Board at their December 6th meeting with an update.

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 25, 2021

Annabel Levine, Unity Park Community Garden/Great Falls Apple Corps
Entertainment Permit: Fall Clean-up Halloween Party, Unity Park, October 31, 2021 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Entertainment Permit during the Fall Clean-up Halloween Party at Unity Park on October 31, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Report

Discuss Procurement of Trash and Recycling services for FY23

- The current contract ends on 6/30/22 and there is a notice provision after which you are committing to a 2 year extension. Any changes would need to be in place by December to provide reasonable notice. State law does not require bidding for trash collection
- Would like to know if you would like us to rebid? There are 4 firms viable to do the work, none are any closer than Republic.
- Whenever you rebid you may get better prices or they may go up. There is a certain amount of uncertainty as you enter into bidding.
- Kuklewicz feels part of him wants to go out to rebid, but then you have to pick the lowest bidder and we know where that goes. All communities have had a difficult time with trash collection
- Lord does not have an appetite to rebid this and doesn't feel bidding will get something better in terms of service or price
- Jan Ameen: There are vendors who would be qualified to bid on this so while we would be picking the lowest bidder, the bid I had drafted for Steve to review requires that it's the most responsive and responsible bidder. It would also require 3 municipal references. There are ways to make sure the lowest bidder is actually responsible and meets the requirements of the bid.
- Kuklewicz has been responsive and made commitments to the Town and have been a cooperative partner to the Town
- Discussion how the service industry is being affected since the pandemic
- Kuklewicz feels we should stick with Republic Services and doesn't feel we will see a better deal
- Boutwell states we can stay, but hopes things get better
- Lord is inclined to stay even more so after hearing about the accelerators and how the escalators in the contract are worded
- The best way is for us to continue to communicate. The sooner they can notify the Town so we can post something the better it is.

MIIA Grant Application Proposal: Focus on Third Party Roof Inspections

Boutwell makes the motion that Steve Ellis submit the MIIA Grant application for \$7500 to focus on third party roof inspections (8 roofs in town) and it will also include \$500 pre negotiated by Jan Ameen for transfer station attendants. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Community Compact Grant Request Update: No Funds Availability

Ellis checked into applying for a community compact grant to perform a wage and salary study that would be approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000. We contacted DLS and all money was granted by October 6th. We do not have a ready funding source to fund a wage and

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 25, 2021

classification study so we will have to make a request through a special town meeting if we want to conduct a study.

Turners Falls Road in Greenfield Closure expected November 4th

- Apologies for last weeks traffic jam in downtown due to work being done on the hill to Stop and Shop. The plan was to leave one lane open, but due to many factors it was not possible.
- Paving is expected to be done on November 4th and we will make sure we do a better job of communication when this closure is expected.

Update on State Redistricting

There was a last minute attempt where Rep. Suzanna Whips filed an amendment to change the 1st Franklin district that would have potentially moved us into Rep. Whipps district and out of Rep. Blaise district. That amendment was soundly defeated on the floor. What upset me was our Selectboard would have had no say since we meet on Mondays.

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting

None

Anticipated Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property, votes may be taken

Kuklewicz states holding in open session will hold a detrimental effect on the public.

Boutwell makes the motion to go int Executive Session at 8:50 PM in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property, votes may be taken. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord -Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye