

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom**  
**Monday, December 20, 2021**

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, BOH members Melanie Zamojski and Michael Nelson, EMT Director Chief John Zellman, Police Chief Chris Williams, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, and Town Planner Walter Ramsey.

**MCTV VIMEO Link:** <https://vimeo.com/658813608>

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

**Approve Minutes**

**Selectboard Meeting of December 6 and 13, 2021 if available**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - 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

**COVID Updates**

- **Review of COVID Case Counts and Trends**
  - Case counts are as follows: from December 11 through December 18, 2021 = 47; from December 5 through December 18, 2021 = 79; from March 1, 2020 through December 18, 2021 = 595. The percentage of individuals fully vaccinated in Montague is 63%, and all individuals with at least one dose administered is 73%. Vaccination history for the active cases in the last week is as follows: fully vaccinated 13; partially vaccinated 1; not vaccinated 33. Age group history for the active cases in the last week is as follows: 18-35 years old = 17; 36-49 years old = 8; 50-64 years old = 6; 65-80 = 1; 81+ = 0; under 17 = 16.
  - Ellis states the data shows that what Montague is experiencing is being experienced throughout Franklin County.
  - Ellis presents data from the State's website, focusing on hospitalizations.
- **Discuss any other needed response to COVID situation**
  - Chief Zellman states that the Emergency Management Team feels it is prudent to implement the mask mandate.
  - In response to a question by Lord, Zellman states that although enforcement is difficult, the message needs to be sent.
  - Nelson feels that it would be helpful if DPH and/or the Governor gives us a little more State-level guidance about how to do this.
  - Elan feels it would be better to have a mask mandate, but does not suggest active enforcement.
  - Zellman emphasizes that we need to take this situation seriously and that everybody needs to step up.
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to implement the mask mandate in the Town of Montague effective December 22, 2021 through March 1, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - In response to a question by Nelson, Zellman states he believes that the EMT has some KN95 masks. Wasiuk states that the BOH has approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 1,000 procedural masks that were initially bought available for distribution.
  - Kuklewicz would like local businesses to be given a formal document from the Selectboard regarding the mandate as well as some masks by Wednesday. Wasiuk responds that this would be a challenge and asks for assistance. Ellis will work on the document.
  - Boutwell suggests having a sign coming off the Gill-Montague Bridge, alerting people coming into Town about the mask mandate. Chief Williams states he will check with the Sheriff of Franklin County about a sign.

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- **Update on COVID Test Kits & Distribution Strategy**
  - The EMT plans to distribute 2,700 COVID test kits, with the intention of making these kits available in particular to individuals who are economically disadvantaged or who belong to a subgroup that may have a low vaccination rate or who may have difficulties with access to these kits.
  - Wasiuk states the BOH has constructed of a list of organizations that would be suitable to accept the test kits for their distribution to the intended persons.
  - Lord suggests adding daycares to the list of organizations/agencies.

**Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, FCRHRA**

- **Authorization to Disburse Payment #1 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$134 for the Shea Theater Sidewalk Project funded through the Town's FY20 Community Development Block Grant**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement Payment #1 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$134 for the Shea Theater Sidewalk Project funded through the Town's FY20 Community Development Block Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Authorize spending \$1,500 for ground penetrating radar of the Colle/Shea Streetscape Project area, Unexpected Engineering**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize spending \$1,500 for ground penetrating radar of the Colle/Shea Streetscape Project area, Unexpected Engineering. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent**

- **Award contract for sludge cake hauling & disposal with New England Waste Services of ME, Inc. (Casella)**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to award the contract for sludge cake hauling & disposal with New England Waste Services of ME, Inc. (Casella) for a period of 12 months, effective January 1, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Update on Compost Feasibility Study Progress**  
Little reports that the engineers at Stantec have completed layouts for both sites (at the WPCF and at the transfer station). They did odor modeling and are working on cost estimates, and they have completed a survey for third party processes and disposal. A rough draft of a report will hopefully be available at the end of the year.

**Execute 30B Purchasing Agreement for Building Roof Assessments with Northeast Roof Consultants, LLC, \$7,110**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the 30B Purchasing Agreement for Building Roof Assessments with Northeast Roof Consultants, LLC, \$7,110 and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Potential Winter Town Meeting Dates**

*Boutwell makes the motion to set the date of the proposed Winter Town Meeting to Thursday, March 3, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**To approve Annual Permit Applications and Licenses as set forth in the attached listing**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the following 2022 licenses:*

- **LIQUOR LICENSES**
  - *Brewery/Wintery Pouring Permit to Brick & Feather Brewery, Inc.; Element Brewing Company dba Element Brewing Co. LLC; and Pioneer Valley Brewery, LLC*
  - *Club, All Alcohol to Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.; Montague Bpo Elks Lodge 2521; St. Kazimierz Society dba St. Kazimierz Society, St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; and Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.*
  - *General On Premises - Wines & Malt to Sow Loud, LLC dba The Upper Bend; and Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc.*
  - *Package Store, All Alcohol to Bryan Call dba Crestview Liquors; Slow Village Ahead dba Montague Village Store; Purple Meadow Ventures, Inc. dba Connecticut River Liquor & Wine; and Sahirat, LLC dba Carrolls Market*

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- *Package Store, Wines and Malt to Crooked River Corp. dba Food City*
- *Restaurant, All Alcohol to Arthur Binaco & Merchant dba Five Eyed Fox; Between the Uprights, LLC dba Between the Uprights at 2nd St; Crystal Spring Investments, LLC dba Millers Pub; Hubbies Tavern Inc. dba Hubbies Tavern and Restaurant; Pamela Tierney dba Black Cow Burger; Riff's Inc., dba Riff's, North; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; Secondhand Smoke, Inc. dba North Village Smokehouse; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club; and Watershed Restaurant, LLC dba Watershed Restaurant*
- *Restaurant, Wines and Malt to Argy Pizza, Inc. dba Turners Falls Pizza; CVB Harvest LLC dba Great Falls Harvest; Lady Killigrew Café, Inc. dba Lady Killigrew Café, Inc.; and Shady Glen, Inc. dba Shady Glen*
- **MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES - (WITH LIQUOR LICENSE)**
  - *Automatic Amusement to Between the Uprights, LLC dba Between the Uprights at 2nd St.; Millers Pub; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club Inc.; Montague B.P.O. Elks #2521; St. Kazimierz Society; and St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.*
  - *Entertainment to Arthur Binaco & Merchant dba Five Eyed Fox; Between the Uprights, LLC dba Between the Uprights at 2nd St.; Great Falls Harvest; Element Brewing Company; Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club Inc.; Millers Pub; Montague Elks #2521; Pioneer Valley Brewery, LLC; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; St. Kazimierz Society; Secondhand Smoke, Inc. dba North Village Smokehouse; Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc.; St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club, Inc.; Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club; and Watershed Restaurant, LLC dba Watershed Restaurant*
  - *Common Victualler to Argy Pizza, Inc. dba Turners Falls Pizza; Arthur Binaco & Merchant dba Rive Eyed Fox; Between the Uprights, LLC dba Between the Uprights at 2nd St.; Black Cow Burger; Crooked River Corp. dba Food City; Crystal Spring Investments, LLC dba Millers Pub; CVB Harvest LLC dba Great Falls Harvest; Element Brewing Company; Lady Killigrew Café, Inc. dba Lady Killigrew Café, Inc.; Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club Inc.; Montague B.P.O. Elks Lodge 2521; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; Sahirat, LLC dba Carrolls Market; St. Kazimierz Society dba St. Kazimierz Society; Secondhand Smoke, Inc. dba North Village Smokehouse; Shady Glen, Inc. dba Shady Glen, Inc.; Sow Loud, LLC dba The Upper Bend; St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club - Dining Room; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club - Clubhouse; Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc; and Watershed Restaurant, LLC dba Watershed Restaurant*
- **MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES - (NOT RELATED TO LIQUOR LICENSES)**
  - *Lodging House to F. C. Housing Authority*
  - *Class II - Used Cars to Bob's Auto; Koch's Auto Sales; Mark's Auto at 366 Federal St.; Mark's Auto at 484 Federal St.; Montague Garage (Gregory Precourt); Rau's Sunoco; Semaski General Contractor & Equipment Sales; and Zak's Auto Sales and Repair*
  - *Class III - Junk to Bob's Auto and Rau's Sunoco*
  - *Entertainment to Montague Book Mill*
  - *Common Victuallers to Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant; Country Creemee; Scotty's; TF F. L. Roberts dba NEC OPCO I, Inc.; and Subway dba CK Sandwiches*

*Motion seconded by Lord; approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

**Request for On Premise, Section 12 Licenses to remain open until 2:00 AM on January 1, 2022**

*Lord makes the motion to approve the On Premise, Section 12 Licenses to remain open until 2:00 AM on January 1, 2022; upon request, Section 12 licensees are allowed to remain open until 2:00 A.M. on January 1, 2022. Seconded by Kuklewicz; approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

**Town Administrator's Business**

- **Execute Purchase and Sale Agreement, 4 Sandy Lane (Assessors Map 21, Lot 150) 1.27 acres, \$55,000**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement, 4 Sandy Lane (Assessors Map 21, Lot 150) 1.27 acres, \$55,000; and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Update on Community Prevention Program RFQ**  
*The Community Prevention Program RFQ will be sent in early January to a selected group of community-based providers who have a deep connection to Montague.*
- **Discussion of ARPA Priorities and Public Input**

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- Ellis reminds the Board that, as we look at the capital needs that have been submitted as well as the obligations that we have already made, and as we begin to move forward and talk about what our priorities should be for the ARPA funding, they (the Board) had expressed an interest in having a community conversation and welcoming public input.
- Kuklewicz suggests starting next Monday's meeting early to allow for public input.
- Lord emphasizes good advertising and organizing of the public input session.
- Kuklewicz suggests putting together a form with specific information (i.e., "We will allocate up to x number of dollars for support of local businesses").
- Ellis shares that regarding the DEP Asset Mapping Planning Project, the DEP will provide 60% of the funding for a project of up to \$250,000.
- **Update regarding FRTA timeline for initial site work on Sandy Lane**  
DWC Construction is expected to begin clearing the lot in the next two weeks.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/Delay in Issuing Bills**  
Ellis shares that following the Rate Classification Hearing with the Director of Assessing, there is some concern that we could be delayed in issuing bills past the December 31st deadline because we have to wait for DOR to approve them.

**Executive Sessions**

- **Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a)(3)**
- **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 - FirstLight Power, votes may be taken**
- The Chair determines that holding these discussions in public would be detrimental to our bargaining position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into the two following Executive Sessions: (1) To discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a)(3); and (2) in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(A)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property - FirstLight Power, votes may be taken. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord- Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Other:**

**Anticipated Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**