

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
by Zoom and in person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Monday, April 4, 2022

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Library Youth Services Director Angela Rovatti-Leonard; WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Police Chief Chris Williams; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Finance Committee member John Hanold; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; and FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton.

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/696177852> Part 1 and <https://vimeo.com/696141102> Part 2

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

Approve minutes of March 28

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022 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

COVID-19 Updates

Review of COVID case counts and trends

- Ellis reports that we are not at the substantial low point that we were three weeks ago.
- Ellis reviews the case counts, which are displayed on the screen.
- The Town is not taking any particular actions based on the data.

Caitlin Kelley, Library Director

- **Request to transfer \$3,500 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Outdoor Library Facilities (225-5-184-5287)**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the transfer \$3,500 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Outdoor Library Facilities (225-5-184-5287). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request Permission to Submit \$500 grant to the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board's Regrant program**
Boutwell makes the motion to grant permission to submit the \$500 grant to the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board's Regrant program. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Use of Peskeompskut Park for Puppet Show, August 5, 2022, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Peskeompskut Park for Puppet Show, August 5, 2022, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

- **Registration for Assembly: WPCF Second Annual Earth Day Celebration, Friday, April 22, 1:00 - 2:00 PM, Drive through Tour with Reveal of Commissioned Mural**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Registration for Assembly for the WPCF Second Annual Earth Day Celebration, Friday, April 22, 1:00 - 2:00 PM, Drive through Tour with Reveal of Commissioned Mural, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **PFAS Cost Recovery Program Litigation Retainer Agreement**
 - Attorney Hank Naughton summarizes the reason behind the lawsuit regarding PFAS chemicals.
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to enter into the PFAS Cost Recovery Program Litigation Retainer Agreement as described, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document and initial each page as necessary. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

DEP Asset Management Grant Authorizations

- **Designate Authority to File**
Boutwell makes the motion to designate the Authority to File the DEP Asset Management Grant Authorizations. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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- **Certifying Authority to File**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to file applications and execute agreements for grant or loan assistance, as well as furnish information data and documents pertaining to the applicant for a grant as may be required. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Approval to Complete and Submit Application**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to complete and submit the application for grant funding, and to authorize the Chair to sign the necessary documents. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian Westbrook, RPM Fest

RPM Fest at Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, September 2 - 4, 2022

Boutwell makes the support the RPM at Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, September 2 - 4, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Kyle Cogswell, Newt Guilbault Community Baseball

Use of Public Property, Opening Day Parade, April 24, 2022, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Leave TFHS, Left onto Turnpike Rd., Right onto Montague St., to baseball fields

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property, Opening Day Parade, April 24, 2022, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Leave TFHS, Left onto Turnpike Rd., Right onto Montague St., to baseball fields; and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

Discussion of FY23 DPW Discretionary Request

- Bergeron explains why he is asking for the DPW Discretionary Fund to be fully funded at \$100,000:
 - He needs to purchase a new zero turn for the Parks and Recreation Department, which will cost about \$18,000.
 - He needed to replace a hydraulic pump on one of the tractors, which will cost about \$5,500.
 - He's down to about \$39,000 and he still has a few months left where something may happen (i.e., a truck failing).
- Discussion:
 - Ellis reminds the Board that the Selectboard and Finance Committee each voted to recommend \$50,000.
 - In response to a question by Lord, Bergeron states that the list price for a pick-up is \$53,000. Each pick-up would need a plow, which would cost about \$6,000.
 - Kuklewicz states that there had been a lot of discussion around budget balancing and retaining surplus from taxation. He would rather that the Finance Committee and Capital Improvements Committee are consulted.
 - John Hanold states that future purchases like a truck would appear as a Special Article rather than be part of the Discretionary Fund.
 - In response to a question by Hanold, Bergeron states that he takes the opportunity to purchase vehicles during sales (i.e., President's Day).
 - Lord wants to make sure that Bergeron is able get the equipment he needs.

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Bob Austin to Montague Tree Advisory Committee, 1 year, Term end 6/30/23**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Bob Austin to Montague Tree Advisory Committee, 1 year, Term end 6/30/23. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Robert Steinberg to MEDIC, Real Estate seat, 2 years, Term end 6/30/2024**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Robert Steinberg to MEDIC, Real Estate seat, 2 years, Term end 6/30/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Matt Lord to Planning Board, 4 years, Term end 6/30/2026**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Matt Lord to Planning Board, 4 years, Term end 6/30/2026. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Abstain
- **Vacancy of the Associate Planning Board membership position**
Kuklewicz states that there is now a vacancy on the Planning Board for an Associate Member.
- **Vacancy on Other Town Boards**
 - There are vacancies in the Finance Committee.
 - Discussion ensued about the need for a Planning Board representative in the CIC.

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Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Consider Montague's participation in a regional application to the Complete Neighborhoods Partnership program offered by the Mass Housing Partnership

- Ramsey explains that Montague has been invited to be part of a regional grant application with Greenfield, Orange, Erving, Deerfield, and Whately. This program would allow Montague to receive technical assistance regarding the use of underutilized properties in Town such as the Griswold Mill or the Farren. There is no cash match requirement.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to express the Town's interest in considering Montague's participation in a regional application to the Complete Neighborhoods Partnership program offered by the Mass Housing Partnership, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Meeting

• Confirm Town Meeting Logistics

- The Town Meeting will be held at the TFHS auditorium, with a start time at 8:30 a.m.
- Kuklewicz would like the seating area expanded so that Town Meeting members can spread out if they want to.
- Ellis suggests providing high-quality masks for anyone interested.
- Discussion ensued about providing rapid-testing kits both before and on the day of the meeting.
- Bogusz will make arrangements for providing pre-wrapped food to minimize exposure.

• Town Meeting Warrant - To review draft May 7, 2022 warrant, attached hereto; and to make recommendations and sources for financial articles on all items in warrant; votes may be taken

Kuklewicz reads aloud each Article which he entertains a motion to be placed on the Warrant.

- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 1 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 2 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 3 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend to change the Airport Fuel Revolving Fund to allow funds to be used for maintenance as well as fuel purchases. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 4 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend adding the positions of Assistant Town Administrator, Selectboard Administrative Assistant, and WPCF Laboratory Manager to the Town's Classification Plan. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 5 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 6 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to place Article 7 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend the approval of \$11,176,944 for the Town's Operating budget with \$11,176,930.80 from taxation and \$13.20 from the Transportation Infrastructure receipts reserved for appropriation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 8 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend the approval of \$2,872,377 for the WPCF Operating Budget, with \$266,439 from taxation and \$2,605,938 from sewer user fees. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 9 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$316,015 for the Airport Operating Budget, said sum to be raised from airport revenue. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 10 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$49,950 for the Colle to be raised from Colle receipts reserved for appropriation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 11 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$1,029,566 for the FCTS Assessment to be raised from taxation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 12 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$11,341,466 for the GMRSD Assessment to be raised from taxation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 13 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$10,000 to increase the Conservation Trust Fund to be raised from free cash. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 14 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$45,000 for tuition and transportation for a student attending Smith Vocational to be raised from taxation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 15 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 16 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$130,000 for the WPCF generator, said sum to be raised from WPCF Capital Stabilization. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 17 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$21,584 to increase Article 18C from 05-22-21 Town Meeting Project Bid and Overrun Account to be raised from taxation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 18 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$415,000 for Town Capital Projects, with \$190,000 from free cash and \$225,000 from Town Capital Stabilization; that would allocate \$125,000 for the Town Hall Roof from Capital Stabilization, \$60,000 for the Shea Front Roof from free cash, \$130,000 for the Carnegie Basement Renovation from free cash, and \$100,000 for the Montague Center Library Masonry Repair from Town Capital Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 19 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to amend Article 4 of 03-03-22 to the previously appropriated \$125,000 for the lease of a vacuum truck used for the purchase of that vehicle; no funding source needed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 20 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$346,164 to increase various reserve accounts, to be funded from taxation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 21 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$173,800 for substance abuse counselors to be funded from the Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 22 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$40,000 for afterschool STEM Programs to be funded from the Cannabis Impact Stabilization Fee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 23 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend \$25,000 for the design and Feasibility Study cost for roadway safety improvements to the intersection of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard intersection to be funded by Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 24 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 25 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 26 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 27 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 28 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 29 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 30 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 31 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 32 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 33 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 34 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

FRTA Updates

- Singleton states that FRTA will be discussing weekend service this Thursday. Singleton would like Saturday service to be permanent. The Selectboard supports this idea.
- Public hearings on a range of issues that were meant to be held have transitioned into a poll (with the help of FRCOG).
- The RTA funding in the governor's budget is level-funded. RTAs are advocating for \$101,000,000 as opposed to \$94,000,000. Singleton has sent a letter of advocacy to Senator Comerford and Representative Blais.
- Singleton states that the role of the advisory board is not defined in the FRTA bylaws, and asks the Selectboard for a clearer statement of what the advisory board is or is not supposed to do.

Town Administrator's Business

- **FirstLight AIP Issues and Comprehensive Settlement Update**
Ellis states that there are disagreements related to the flow that would be present below the dam. Various organizations are concerned as the guaranteed minimum of the flow is only 250 cu ft/minute (as opposed to 500).
- **Montague Center Library HVAC Bid Results**
We have bid the HVAC improvements for the Montague Center Library. Jamrog has bid at \$17,950. Ellis hopes to have a contract to sign within the next two meetings.
- **Invitation from GMRSD for Selectboard member to participate in collective bargaining**
Ellis states that we have received an invitation from GMRSD for Selectboard member to participate in collective bargaining. The anticipated negotiating dates are Tuesday evenings between 6:00 and 8:00 beginning on May 3rd, every other week.

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- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hours posting**

- **Free COVID testing**

Ellis reads a public service announcement regarding free weekly COVID testing on Tuesdays from 9:00 am. to noon from April 5 through May 10 at the Town Hall. For questions, contact the Board of Health or Robin at 413-824-5854.

- **Winter Road Aid Funds**

Ellis states that the Town will be receiving \$343,831 through the Winter Road Aid Program.

- **Outdoor Dining and To-Go Alcohol Sales**

Bogusz reports that the State has continued outdoor dining and to-go alcohol sales through April 2023.

Anticipated executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a)(7), to comply with, or act Under the authority of any general law; specifically, to review draft minutes from executive sessions conducted on dates set forth below:

Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3)

- 1/11/22 Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NEPBA, Local 183, NEPBA Local 184, NAGE, and United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274)
- 2/14/22 Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE)

Kuklewicz deems that holding this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.

Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21 (a)(7), to comply with, or act Under the authority of any general law; specifically, to review draft minutes from executive sessions conducted on January 11, 2022 ad February 14, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz

Executive Session under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective Bargaining (NAGE, UE and NEPBA), Votes may be taken

Kuklewicz deems that holding this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.

Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective Bargaining (NAGE, UE and NEPBA), Votes may be taken. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz