

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom**  
**Monday, April 11, 2022**

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; BOH Member Melanie Zamojski; Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto, and Tree Advisory Committee member David Detmold.

VIMEO LINK: <https://vimeo.com/698441585>

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

**Approve minutes of April 4, 2022**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of April 4, 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

**FY2023 Selectboard Personnel Requests  
Community Information Session**

Ellis summarizes the Overview of the Proposal. Topics covered include reasons for increasing Selectboard Office staffing, the current FY22 Budget and Staffing, an Overview of the Town Departmental Structure, the Assistant Town Administer Role, the Functional Roles of the Town Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator, the cost, and the way this would serve the Town's interest.

Discussion:

- In response to a request by Judith Lorei, Ellis shares information regarding staffing consideration for other towns of different sizes.
- In response to a question by Pamela Hanold, Ellis shares how he feels increasing Selectboard Office staffing would benefit other departments. Kuklewicz gives examples of projects that would have run more smoothly had we had somebody who could more actively be involved (i.e., an Assistant Town Administrator).
- Ariel Elan recalls previous projects that would've greatly benefited from having an individual who was more actively involved.
- Mike Naughton expresses his opinion that the Selectboard has so many different responsibilities that increasing its staff would require an "incredibly (unbelievably) flexible professional." He is of the opinion that the responsibilities should be spread out more, especially when the time comes to address turnover (when Ellis and Bogusz are no longer going to be with us).
- In response to Naughton's comments, Lord states that project management/infrastructure development is a different set of skills than "tasks." He feels that Ellis's proposal makes sense as "so much of the capital/infrastructure investment, planning, project management is sort of grant-oriented, and so comes with a government-relations flavor that the Selectboard Office carries." With regard to the overall issue of concentration of duties and how to deal with turnover, there is an explicit orientation on human resources development.
- Lord hopes that as new systems are developed, there is redundancy and ability for multiple people to help things go smoothly.
- Hanold expresses concern about the definition of duties of the new position. He wonders if we will have increased our demands when we have only increased our supply of resources a little bit, which would still leave the staff on the Selectboard overextended.
- Hanold expresses his concern about the classification of the new position as there has not been any specific job description or appeal to a Pay & Class Study that would indicate why a Grade I is the right one.
- Detmold expresses his concern that there seems to be a tendency to consolidate power within the Town Hall to the exclusion of collaborating with the citizens the Town Hall serves.
- Kuklewicz responds to Detmold's comment by stating that we are constantly advertising for open positions of various boards, but getting volunteers from the community has been difficult.

**Liquor License Hearing**

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**Santo Taco, dba Santo Taco, Ivette Mateos Reyes as manager has applied for a Seasonal § 12 General On-Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License, located at 148 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Santo Taco, Ivette Mateos Reyes as manager, for a Seasonal § 12 General On-Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License, located at 148 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Liquor License Hearing**

**Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous, Mark Wisnewski as manager has applied for an alteration of licensed premises of the All Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License (Restaurant), located at 78 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request of Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous, Mark Wisnewski as manager, for an alteration of licensed premises of the All Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License (Restaurant), located at 78 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Steve Valeski, Pioneer Valley Brewery**

**Request to Close 125' Section of Alley between 151 Third Street and Unity Park ballfield through December 1, 2022**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request of Steve Valeski, Pioneer Valley Brewery to close a 125' Section of Alley between 151 Third Street and Unity Park ballfield through December 1, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**COVID Updates**

• **Review of COVID case counts and trends**

- Ellis views the most recent case counts.
- The split between vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals is evenly split.
- Zamojski reports on the contact tracing that she and Robin are still doing.
- Montague residents who have been vaccinated at least once is up to 75%.
- Montague residents who are fully vaccinated is at 67%.
- We are low on booster shots.
- Robin was at the annex last Tuesday to provide antigen testing, but no one came. She will be there tomorrow. This program will continue until May10.

• **State extends Outdoor Patio Service and Takeaway/Delivery of Alcohol by On-Premises Licensees until April 1, 2023**

Kuklewicz announces that the State has extended Outdoor Patio Service and Takeaway/Delivery of Alcohol by On-Premises Licensees until April 1, 2023.

• **Affirm Selectboard Decision to Continue Existing Outdoor Patio Service Licensees**

- Bogusz lists the names of the businesses that currently have existing Outdoor Patio Service Licenses.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to affirm the Selectboard's Decision to Continue Existing Outdoor Patio Service Licensees. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- The businesses will be notified.

**Personnel Board**

**Appoint Kathleen Lynch to the RiverCulture Steering Committee until June 30, 2024**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Kathleen Lynch to the RiverCulture Steering Committee until June 30, 2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Town Planner**

**Use of Montague Center Town Common, May Day Festival, Sunday, May 1, 2022, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of the Montague Center Town Common, May Day Festival, Sunday, May 1, 2022, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.; this event application is by RiverCulture, so the insurance binder is not necessary. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Rachelle Ackerman, Musica Franklin**

**Request for Entertainment License at Unity Park, June 4 (rain date June 5), 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to approve Rachele's Ackerman's request for an Entertainment License at Unity Park, June 4 (rain date June 5), 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**David Detmold, Tree Advisory**

**Execute Annual Arbor Day Resolution for the Town of Montague, April 29, 2022**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Annual Arbor Day Resolution for the Town of Montague, April 29, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Detmold reports on how the Tree Committee is promoting a healthy urban tree culture in all five villages and gives an update on this year's projects.

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner** *(not present; presented by Town Administrator)*

- **Execute Purchase and Sale Agreement with Nova Real Estate, LLC for sale of 500 Avenue A**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Nova Real Estate, LLC for sale of 500 Avenue A. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **MassDevelopment Invitation to participate in Portico Project for targeted economic development capacity**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to endorse MassDevelopment's grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for an Economic Adjustment Assistance investment in the TDI's Portico Project, and to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to MassDevelopment.. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Canal District Improvement Project Update**
  - Ellis reports that the construction firm is meeting tomorrow with the Planning Office, the Police Department, the Fire Department and the DPW as they get ready to implement the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Project.
  - The bridge has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in July.
  - The final engineering approvals are in process with FirstLight and FERC.
  - There will likely be a future proposal to reinstate some previously reduced engineering hours.

**Legislative Updates**

- **Federal Earmark Request for Avenue A Streetscape Improvements**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Town staff to apply for the Federal Earmark Request for Avenue A Streetscape Improvements as proposed, and to authorize the Chair to sign any related documents. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Winter Recovery Assistance Program, \$343,831**  
Ellis reports that Montague is going to be receiving \$343,831 through the State's Winter Recovery Assistant Program. This is part of the supplemental FY22 funding, and will give the DPW much more capacity to deal with the many roads that are in tough shape.
- **Cannabis HCA Legislation**  
Ellis: Senate 2801 has moved to the House, this is an act relative to equity in the cannabis industry. I think the general consensus is that potentially there are really positive things relative to the social equity component of managing cannabis enterprises and there are a lot of different elements to the legislation. The one the Town had expressed the most concern about related to the potential treatment of host community agreements and the notion that there would be a retroactive look back at all HCA's and potential complications from either undoing existing agreements with uncertainty relative to what that might mean for the revenues that have already been collected or past expenditures. There was some real progress made in terms of community voice making its way into the legislation as it came out of the Senate, and it is my understanding that the House may take up the bill, as it left the Senate. I think we would look at it as substantially advantageous in that regard. This will be something that we continue to watch carefully in the coming months

**Town Meeting**

- **Affirm recommendations for Articles not previously recommended**
  - Kuklewicz reads aloud recommendations for articles not previously recommended.

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend all those Articles to Town Meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to direct the Town Administrator to reorder the number of the Articles and change Article 4 into 4, 5, and 6 and renumber all subsequent Articles. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Town Meeting Warrant - To approve and execute draft May 7, 2022 attached hereto**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to approve and execute draft May 7, 2022 attached hereto, with the changes as were just voted to Article 4. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Business**

- **Award and Execute Contract for Unity Park Basketball Court & Walkway Sealing and Repainting Project with East Coast Sealcoating, Inc. of Abington in the amount of \$17,500 and authorize issuance of Notice to Proceed**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to award and execute the Contract for Unity Park Basketball Court & Walkway Sealing and Repainting Project with East Coast Sealcoating, Inc. of Abington in the amount of \$17,500 and authorize issuance of Notice to Proceed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Award and Execute Contract for HVAC Improvements at the Montague Center Library with Jamrog HVAC, Inc. of Turners Falls in the amount of \$17,950 and authorize issuance of Notice to Proceed**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to award and execute Contract for HVAC Improvements at the Montague Center Library with Jamrog HVAC, Inc. of Turners Falls in the amount of \$17,950 and authorize issuance of Notice to Proceed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Opioid Settlement Update**  
Massachusetts will receive approximately \$5,000,000 from the opioid settlement. Ellis states, "We should see a finish line on this sometime in the coming months."
- **Acknowledgement and Notice of Executive Session held on April 4, 2022**  
The 04-04-22 Executive Session was accidentally left out. Counsel has advised us to post public notice that that happened.
- **Invitation from GMRSB for Selectboard member to participate in collecting bargaining**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to nominate Matt Lord to represent the Town of Montague on the GMRSB negotiations. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**  
None

**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**

- The Chair declares that holding such discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into 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. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*