

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Public Participation is by Zoom and in Person at 1 Avenue A
Monday, May 2, 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; Director of Public Health Dan Wasiuk; Board of Health member Melanie Zamojski; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; FCSWMD Executive Director Jan Ameen; Stantec Engineer Charlie Alix; WWTP Supervisor Chelsey Little; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; FCRHC Community Development Director Brian McHugh; and Airport Manager Bryan Camden.

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

Approve minutes of April 25, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Abstain

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

- Wasiuk reviews the updated COVID case counts and percentages of vaccinated individuals.
- RN Covid Contact Tracing Nurse Robin Neipp has been doing the contract tracing through the Inter-Municipal Grant that we received.
- Neipp states that the number of MAVEN tests (38) does not include the number of home tests and therefore is not accurate. She is still available for testing on Tuesdays at the annex between 9:00 and noon until the end of May.
- Zamojski reports that Greenfield had 67 last week, Deerfield had 16, and Sunderland had 8.
- Zamojski states that we have met with the new epidemiologist who will be working with the grant as well and will be with us for the next three years. He will be formatting reports based on the needs of all the communities involved.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Zamojski states we are still not getting consistent, viable results with regard to hospitalization cases.
- Although COVID symptoms have increased, people are not getting as sick and not being hospitalized as much.
- Lord suggests getting a CO2 monitor for the Town Meeting on Saturday.

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

- **Municipal Vulnerabilities Program FY23 Grant Application proposal: "Incorporating Climate Resiliency into the Montague Comprehensive Plan." Grant request \$80,000. Local match: \$27,000 provided by in-kind services and local cash match across FY23 and FY24**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to the Secretary of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs regarding the "Incorporating Climate Resiliency into the Montague Comprehensive Plan" FY23 Grant Application. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Downtown Turners Falls Parking Study updates and survey announcement**
 - Ramsey encourages anyone who parks in Turners Falls to take the survey, which is available on the website. This information is needed by the consultants who are doing an assessment on parking in Turners Falls in order to help us better manage our parking.
 - There is a public workshop on Tuesday, May 10, at 5:00 at the Town Hall in which the consultants will present their data.
 - The study and its findings will be presented to the Selectboard in late June or early July.
- **Canal District Master plan study updates and survey announcement**
 - Ramsey encourages residents to take a survey on the Canal District, which is available on the website.
 - This information is needed by the consultant team that is doing the master plan for the Canal District.
 - There will be a community planning meeting on Tuesday, May 24.

Jan Ameen, FCSWMD and Charlie Alix, Stantec

Review Findings of Sludge Composting Feasibility Study Report

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Alix summarizes the Findings of the Sludge Composting Feasibility Study Report: Goals of the Study, Regulatory Framework (Current Regulations, Future Regulations, Massachusetts Regulations), Third Party/Disposal/Processing (Incinerators Contacted, Landfills Contacted, Reuse Processing Facilities Contacted, Third Party Costs, Future Incineration Capacity), Composting Facility Sizing (Weekly Materials Balances), Composting Facility Options (Eight Options Examined for both WPCF and Sandy Lane locations, Facility Components, WWTP Site, Sandy Lane Site), Odor Management (Odor Control for 2 Composting Alternatives, Odor Emissions - Sandy Lane, Odor Emissions - WWTP, Odor Modeling & Targets, Odor Modeling and Targets, Odor Modeling Results - Sandy Lane, Odor Modeling Results - Sandy Lane), Economics (Opinion of Probable Cost), and Conclusions (Odor Modeling Results).

Discussion:

- In response to question by Kuklewicz, Alix states that the CFM for our proposed site is between 13,000 and 15,000.
- In response to question by Kuklewicz, Alix states that there would be no benefit to fully enclosing the facility. He provided low-cost alterations that have proven to be successful.
- Selectboard feels that this project is worth continuing to pursue, but would like to see more details on models and costs, etc.
- Alix gives information on the State Revolving Loan Fund, which is for projects like this.
- Kuklewicz would like us to have a regional facility if we can guarantee the impact on the residences is no worse than if we do a small facility.
- Ellis would like to make sure that PFAS does not come in. What testing protocol will ensure that a bad load of sludge will get detected?
- With regard to the Sandy Lane site, Bergeron reminds us that where the trucks will be dropping off sludge is now owned by FRTA and is unavailable. In addition, he calls attention to the fact that the ground water is only about four or five feet from the surface.
- Alix will consult with Ameen, Ramsey, and Little and determine what the next steps are.

FY23 One-Stop Grant Program Submission

- **Review of Feedback to Expression of Interest**
- **Establish Priority for Submission to Rural & Small Town Development Fund**
- Ellis reiterates that the Board was brought a couple of critical priorities for consideration under the Expression of Interest. Both projects are eligible for the same program, but we can only get one award. We decided today to try to submit an MVP application for the Comprehensive Plan Project. The choice needs to be made over the next couple of weeks as the due date is only a month away.
- This topic will be put on a future agenda.

Brian McHugh, FCRHRA

- **Authorize Payment: Invoice for FY20 MONT Avenue A Streetscape from Berkshire Design for bidding and construction oversight (\$2,526.00)**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize payment for the Invoice for FY20 MONT Avenue A Streetscape from Berkshire Design for bidding and construction oversight (\$2,526.00). Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Payment: Invoice for FY20 MONT Hillcrest Neighborhood Design Project from Berkshire Design (\$5,040.00)**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize payment for the Invoice for FY20 MONT Hillcrest Neighborhood Design Project from Berkshire Design (\$5,040.00). Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorization to execute/sign FY21 MONT contracts with four Social Service Agency Programs. These contracts are DHCD-approved templates.**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the FY21 MONT contracts with four Social Service Agency Programs, and to authorize the Chair to sign the documents; these contracts are DHCD-approved templates. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

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- **Request permission for Treasurer/Collector to execute a contract with Pitney Bowes for a 2-year lease for the shared postage machine. Total cost of lease agreement \$9,155.28**
Boutwell makes the motion to give permission for the Treasurer/Collector to execute a contract with Pitney Bowes for a 2-year lease for the shared postage machine; total cost of lease agreement \$9,155.28. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Consider Increase of Property Insurance Deductible and Strategy to Buffer Enterprise Fund Risk**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the change in the Property Insurance Deductible from \$1,000 to \$5,000 as presented; and to hold harmless the Airport and WWTP Enterprise Funds. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Overview of Draft TIP - State and Regional Road and Bridge Projects FY23**
 - Projects on the Draft of the State Transportation Improvement Plan include replacement of the South Street Bridge over the Sawmill River (FY24), replacement of the North Leverett Road Bridge over the Sawmill River (FY25), and replacement of the Sixth Street Bridge over the Utility Canal (FY26).
 - We are working to see whether we can get additional funding to support the Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project and the Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**
None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye