

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

via ZOOM

Monday, May 16, 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; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; WWTP Superintendent Chelsey Little; BOH Members Michael Nelson and Melanie Zamojski; and Police Chief Chris Williams.

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

Approve minutes of May 9, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 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

Nelson thanks everyone who brought to the BOH's attention the issue regarding the mailings that were about to go out, and clarifies that the BOH was not aware of these mailings.

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture Director

- **Execute New American Banjo Festival Grant of \$1,500 (FY22-FE-FE2-20826) from the Mass. Cultural Council**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the New American Banjo Festival Grant of \$1,500 (FY22-FE-FE2-20826) from the Mass. Cultural Council, and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Use of Public Property: Avenue A Sidewalks for periodic retail sales during summer months, June, July, August 2022**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property: Avenue A Sidewalks for periodic retail sales during summer months, June, July, August 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Use of Peskeompskut Park: Free Summer Events sponsored by RiverCulture and Montague Parks and Recreation, Various dates June, July, and August 2022**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Peskeompskut Park: Free Summer Events sponsored by RiverCulture and Montague Parks and Recreation, Various dates June, July, and August 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Liquor License Hearing

Hole Pie, Inc. d/b/a Pie Hole, Evelyn Wulfkuhle as manager has applied for a transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) from Riff's, Inc. d/b/a Riff's North. The premise is located at 166 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Evelyn Wulfkuhle as manager for a transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) from Riff's, Inc. d/b/a Riff's North. The premise is located at 166 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Montague Board of Health

- **Call Meeting to Order**
Vice-Chair calls the BOH meeting to order at 6:58 PM.
- **Review COVID-10 data**
 - Bogusz displays the COVID updates on the screen and Ellis summarizes the data.
 - Zamojski summarizes Greenfield cases.
 - Greenfield and Amherst are doing water-testing. The newest variant is the more prevalent strain in the Northeast.
 - GCC's PCR testing will be open on Monday.
- **Consider trends and any necessary measures**
 - The BOH information regarding where to get tested will be posted on the website.
 - The BOH continues to strongly recommend indoor make-wearing.

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- The schools are requesting the BOH's guidance. Zamojski recommends that the children wear masks until the end of school.
- *Zamojski makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health at 7:23 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Zamojski - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

Consider parameters for proposed Sludge Compost Design Grant Application

- Ellis states that a preliminary Feasibility Report was conducted of the potential for Montague to have either a community level or regional sludge composting facility. This report concluded that of the two sites studied, only one of them, Sandy Lane, was feasible.
- The Community One Stop for Growth's deadline for the grant application is June 3rd.
- The Community One Stop portal gave feedback that the funding for a next level study would be a reasonable submission to make. We are trying to determine the general scope and the general cost of such a study.
- Ellis suggests that the study include (1) a community engagement component, and (2) the question of local versus regional, and (3) the recommendation that we focus on and design the options with the Sandy Lane site identified as a specific location of study, but that we also identify other sites in Montague that could similarly host the facility that may provide particular advantages and disadvantages.
- Boutwell thinks we definitely should take the regional facility under advisement. Lord agrees.
- Lord agrees with community engagement.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Montague Town staff to submit a Community One Stop for Growth grant application for a comprehensive feasibility study relative to the design and construction of a sludge composting facility, to include a community engagement component. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- In response to concerns expressed by Jeff Singleton, Little states that Wright-Pierce and other engineering firms have been informed that it is important that the following are included: (1) having community engagement, (2) studying the issue of odor control, and (3) looking at other facilities similar in size and location.

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

- **Summary of Chapter 90 Spending Plan**
 - Our portion of the Chapter 90 funding is probably going to be the same as last year (\$487,446).
- **WRAP Supplemental Funding Spending Plan**
 - We will be getting \$343,830 from the Winter Recovery Assistance Program.
 - This will not pay for some things (i.e., traffic control).
 - This will pay for road striping; replacement of traffic control devices, signage, guard rails, storm grates, road construction and prevention, and apparatuses (i.e., sidewalks)
 - Chip sealing needs to be done before July 1 to be covered by this contract.
- Bergeron states that our plan includes the following:
 - Overlay Gun Road and Leverett Road (\$129,215)
 - Coordinate with the construction company doing the Pedestrian Bridge
 - Mill and pave 3rd St from Avenue A to 7th Street signal lights, 7th Street to High Street, L Street up to the corner of High Street (or the corner of Stevens Street), Hatchery Road to Turnpike Road, and possibly Sunderland Road by the Sunderland town line.
- Discussion ensued about other towns hoarding their money, which has resulted in the possibility of Chapter 90 and WRAP funding being reduced.

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Jacob Dodge, DPW Summer Help, 40/hours/week, 3 Months, Effective 5/17/2022**
- *Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jacob Dodge, DPW Summer Help, 40/hours/week, 3 Months, Effective 5/17/2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Mass. Dept of Transportation Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program**

Bergeron summarizes the Mass DOT program, which gives Tech School students summer work in certain areas (automotive, forestry, grounds maintenance, etc.) for four weeks. The program pays the students minimum wage and covers their insurance. Students whose work we like can be kept for up to 12 weeks.
- **Other (not on agenda)**

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Bergeron reports that Mass DOT is looking for 30 people to fill spots and are going to start recruiting from tech schools.

- **Police/Dispatch Hiring Process**
 - Williams said they will start advertising within a week or so for a new dispatcher
 - Williams states he would like to move forward with promoting a sergeant now, and then have the assessment in late July/mid August.
 - Williams would like to wait before hiring a replacement officer until we are out of civil service (which would give us a broader pool of applicants).
 - Ellis states that he has checked in with both the Senate and the House staff, who have told him that the approval of coming out of civil service can be done in an informal session. We will know more once the AG is finished with our warrant and we get it approved.
- **Selectboard Office Hiring Process**
 - Ellis thanks the Selectboard, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee, and Town Meeting members for approving the hiring of the an Assistant Town Administrator and an Office Administrative Assistant.
 - Ellis states that we need to develop and finalize position descriptions, and determining hiring process and related logistics. The Office Administrative Assistant position has been outlined and can fit neatly into the NAGE contract.
 - Kuklewicz feels that we should use as open a process as possible. Boutwell and Lord agree.
 - Kuklewicz asks Ellis to provide the Selectboard with a slate of internal candidates. He suggests that the Building, DPW, and WWTP Departments be involved in the process as they would be the focus of this position.
 - Ellis suggests that the CIC be involved as it is a critical stakeholder.
 - Ariel Elan states that someone in EDIC or Planning would also be important.
- **Juneteenth Holiday**

Boutwell makes the motion to observe the holiday of Juneteenth on June 20 for Town staff as presented by the Town Administrator, but that there is no commitment to continuing this as it is a part of the bargaining process. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

1 Day Special License Request

Jason Cohen, Heartbeat Collective, Inc. 177 Ripley Road, Montague, June 19, 202; 5:30 PM to 11:50 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the 1 Day Special License Request by Jason Cohen, Heartbeat Collective, Inc. 177 Ripley Road, Montague, June 19, 202; 5:30 PM to 11:50 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

- **Withdrawal of 38 Avenue A Redevelopment Proposal**

Due to issues of cost and ability to get financing, Sohail Waien has chosen with reluctance to withdraw from the 38 Avenue A Redevelopment Project.
- **Review of FRCOG Short Term Rentals Report**

With regard to Short Term Rentals, Ellis provides an overview and summary report that shows which communities have adopted the room tax. The report shows the revenue streams of the communities as well as the number of short-term rental units registered with the State.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**
 - **Canal District Master Plan**

Ellis reports that we are having a Canal District Master Plan developed. There will be a community workshop for interested stakeholders to help shape the future of Turners Falls. This event will be happening at a Planning Board Meeting on May 24 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the downstairs annex meeting room. There is an option for remote participation.
 - **Summer Meeting Schedule**

Bogusz presents a schedule for BOS meetings. Selectboard will meet on July 18th, but not on the 25th. They will meet on August 1st if needed.
 - **Double Poles**

Boutwell mentions that there hasn't been much action with regard to the double poles. Bogusz will contact the utility company and ask them to attend a future meeting to give an update.

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○ **Election Day**

Tomorrow is an election day. Polls are open from 7 AM to 7 PM. Residents are encouraged to vote. Information is available on the website.

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.
Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*