

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

via ZOOM

Monday, May 23, 2022

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Lieutenant Chris Bonnett; and Parks and Recreational Director Jon Dobosz.

Approve minutes of May 16, 2022

Postponed until the next meeting

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

Reorganization of the Board

- **Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk**

Boutwell makes the motion to nominate Matt Lord as Clerk, Chris Boutwell as Vice Chair, and Rich Kuklewicz as Chair. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Approve Summer Meeting Schedule**

- The New Summer Meeting is displayed and will be placed on the website.
- Ellis states he has received nothing from the legislature regarding remote meetings. He will send a follow-up inquiry. The current provision expires July 15.

COVID Updates

Review of COVID case counts and trends

- Ellis displays the most recent regional COVID breakdown.
- The GCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.
- A colleague of Ellis informed him that as of this morning, there are 106 patients with a diagnosis of COVID in the Baystate system, two of whom are critical.
- Hospitalizations continue to rise.
- Kuklewicz encourages people to continue to wear masks when in large groups.

Julia Moore

Entertainment Permit: Makers Market at 27 Center Street, June 11, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Entertainment Permit: Makers Market at 27 Center Street, June 11, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM; and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Unity Park Festival and Makers Market, June 11th, 148 Second Street, Turners Falls

- **Entertainment Application: 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Entertainment Permit for Unity Park Festival and Makers Market, June 11th, 148 Second Street, Turners Falls from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM; and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **One Day Beer & Wine License: Pioneer Valley Brewery, 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for a One Day Beer & Wine License: Pioneer Valley Brewery, 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Steve Ellis, Town Administrator

- **Introduce Tyler Finnegan, Republic Services**

- Ellis introduces Tyler Finnegan as our new Town Representative from Republic Services.
- Finnegan summarizes his background in the waste and recycling business.
- Finnegan mentions some possible changes to the route.
- Ellis and Finnegan share that Republic dropped off toters at the DPW for Unity Park.
- With regard to the app, Finnegan shares that this issue is still in beta testing. He does not yet have an update, but Republic is really trying to make it work as soon as possible for this area.

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- With regard to the Community Partnership Program, Republic is planning to drop off an open-top for the Unity Park Festival and will be putting up some banners and stickers. Finnegan states he has a check for the program and suggests a photo op.
- **Execute Trash and Recycling Contract**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Trash and Recycling Contract, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Ariel Elan, Montague Energy Committee

DPU "Future of Gas" Docket 20-28

- Ariel Elan shares that the Montague Energy Committee voted to submit a public comment to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. She reads aloud a letter of introduction.
- The DPU's deadline is June 22nd.
- Lord states he does not feel that the Montague Energy Committee's position is clear in the letter. Kuklewicz agrees and feels that the letter should end with a restatement of what it is we want.
- The Committee will bring an edited letter to the next meeting.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Execute Delegation Agreement for a Sole Assessment Center between Montague Police Dept. and the Mass. Human Resources Division, Requisition #8589**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Delegation Agreement for a Sole Assessment Center between Montague Police Dept. and the Mass. Human Resources Division, Requisition #8589; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Congressman McGovern files \$675,000 Federal Earmark Request for Avenue A Streetscape Improvements**
 - Ellis shares that Congressman McGovern filed \$675,000 Federal Earmark Request for the Avenue A Streetscape Improvements. These are focused on the north end of Town from 3rd Street to the bridge. We had requested \$975,000.
 - We will get a sense whether Earmark survives when a Federal budget is likely passed.
 - Ellis thanks everyone who signed letters of support for us.
- **Cannabis Host Community Agreement Legislation Update**
 - Ellis reports that the House and the Senate have both passed version of a cannabis reform bill.
 - This legislation indicates that there would be no impact fees after a five-year term.
 - Ellis suggests that when we have the bill in its final form the Board consider what the implications of the final product might be for how we conduct our business.
 - In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ellis states that this will not affect our sales tax revenue.
- **FirstLight response to actuator Hydraulic Leak**
 - Tighe and Bond prepared an Immediate Response Action Plan on behalf of FirstLight Power regarding a release of hydraulic oil from pistons 7 and 8 of Bascule Gate #4 at the Turners Falls Dam.
 - Kuklewicz asks whether FirstLight has considered an improvement that could reduce or eliminate the need for constantly pressurized hydraulic cylinders. Ellis states he will send a note asking that Kuklewicz be connected with their Director of Government Relations.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/Transfer Station closed**
The Transfer Station will be closed on Wednesday, May 25th. They are going to begin making improvements to Sandy Lane as part of the FRTA Bus Garage Maintenance Project. They will, however, be open on Saturday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye