

# MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

via ZOOM

Monday, June 27, 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; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, BOH Member Melanie Zamojski, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little; and FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton.

VIMEO Meeting link: <https://vimeo.com/724730447>

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

## Approve minutes of June 13, 2022

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 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

## Pole Location Hearing

**Eversource is requesting permission to install (5) jointly owned poles. Existing poles 151/B15, 151/B16, 151/B17 will be relocated out of the right of way to the road. 151/B15 will move 20 feet southerly toward the road and 2 feet easterly. 151/B16 will move 55 southerly toward the road and 15 feet easterly. 151/B17 will move 37 feet southerly toward the road and 10 feet easterly. Three new midspan poles will be installed on the road. All poles will be installed approximately 10 feet from the edge of the road.**

- An Eversource representative states that there will be a total of five poles installed.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the replacement of poles as stated on the agenda. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

## Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Collector

**Execute 2022 VADAR Systems contract for Financial Software Application(s), 3 years, \$6,784.00/annually**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the 2022 VADAR Systems contract for Financial Software Application(s), 3 years, \$6,784.00/annually and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.*

*Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

## COVID Updates

- **Review of COVID case counts and trend**
  - Numbers are coming down significantly (although we are not getting all the reports of people that are testing positive)
  - The BOH is looking at wastewater treatment to see about numbers.
  - The newest variants are in the area.
  - We are now in the endemic part of the pandemic.
  - The Board of Health is looking primarily at education pieces.
- Discussion:
  - In response to a question by Lord, Zamojski states that Daniel Wasiuk will be talking to Chelsey Little and the State about getting data from our WPCF.
  - Lord expresses concern that the State distributed free COVID tests to municipalities this month, but we were not on that list. Zamojski agrees to look into this.
  - Singleton asks that the Regional COVID Breakdown Sheets have clearer labels with regard to active cases.
  - The Board decides that weekly updates are no longer necessary; monthly updates are reasonable.
- **2022 Municipal Spraying Mosquito opt-out approval**

Zamojski reports that we are one of 25 municipalities that have been accepted into the 2022 Municipal Spraying Mosquito opt-out program.

## Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

- **Week of July 11th - Smoke Testing - Turners Falls**

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Bergeron states that smoke testing will take place on the week of July 11th in Millers Falls and adjoining areas. The testing involves filling our sewer lines with smoke to see where it comes out. This test may potentially identify leaks, roof drains, or open lines into residents' cellars.

- **Endorse use of Chapter 90 Funds for Ferry Road Culvert Design**

Bergeron states that Ramsey has decided to forego doing the pedestrian bridge. With the grant, we can mill and repave all of 3rd St. from the signal light on Avenue A to the 7th Street signal lights. We will use Chapter 90 funds to do the culvert on Ferry Road. Mass DOT says that if we do the culvert according to their regulations, they will pick up the cost of putting the culvert in and doing the complete job.

- **5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Project Amendment Update**

According to Ellis, there are two tracks we can take: (1) winding down the old project, and (2) scaling up for a new project (i.e. improvement along Canal Street). Housing and Economic Development has informed us that if we resubmit an amended application in mid-July, we should get a green light as long as we stay within the original parameters of the project area. ATD is paying for a bridge, the materials for which were cut to size and are bought and paid for. Ellis has requested an inventory of those materials. The Board agrees to receive those materials for potential future use.

### **Tyler Finnegan, Republic Services, Check in regarding recent trash collection problems**

- Finnegan states that things have improved over the past two weeks and trash collection is all caught up.
- Republic Services has hired a new General Manager who started on Monday of last week.
- Discussion ensued about Republic giving us a number that residents can call for trash collection problems.
- Ellis states that he is still receiving calls regarding missed collections and that we still need to focus on improvement.
- Finnegan gives an update on the online app.

### **Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Albert A. Miller, DPW Custodian, UE Grade A, Step 10, effective 7/11/2022**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Albert A. Miller, DPW Custodian, UE Grade A, Step 10, effective 7/11/2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Appoint Mitchell Alexander Ryan, WPCF Seasonal Help, 32-35 hrs. week, for 8 - 9 weeks, effective 6/27/22**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Mitchell Alexander Ryan, WPCF Seasonal Help, 32-35 hrs. week, for 8 - 9 weeks, effective 6/27/22. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent**

- **Updates on WPCF fine bubble, blower and controls upgrade project and Screw Pump Project**

Little states that we've been waiting for the Gap III grant to come out, which would allow us to size all of the equipment and blowers properly. We are now going to have staff install the fine bubble piece, which will save us \$200,000. Little would like to shift that \$200,000 to do a conventional construction project for the screw pumps. The anticipated cost for the second half of the project is \$115,000, which changes our Cost Share to \$9,000.

- **Authorize Amendment #2 for GAP II Grant (Blower portion of project)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Amendment #2 for GAP II Grant (Blower portion of project), and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Authorize DEP Gap III grant submission, including "Cost Share Certification," \$107,000**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the DEP Gap III grant submission, including "Cost Share Certification," \$107,000; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Authorize use of \$9,000 in WPCF operating funds for GAP III grant match (Diffuser portion of project)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the use of \$9,000 in WPCF operating funds for GAP III grant match (Diffuser portion of project). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Kathy Lunch, Montague Village Store, 60 Main Street, Montague, Entertainment License, 7/1/22 to 11/1/22**

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*Lord makes the motion to approve the request by Kathy Lunch, Montague Village Store, 60 Main Street, Montague for an Entertainment License, 7/1/22 to 11/1/22. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

### **Linda Tardiff, The Shea Theater**

#### **One Day Beer and Wine License for Suds and Song at 60 Main Street, Montague on July 7, August 5, September 1 and October 6, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

*Lord makes the motion to approve the One Day Beer and Wine License for Suds and Song at 60 Main Street, Montague on July 7, August 5, September 1 and October 6, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

### **Brian McHugh, FCRHRA**

#### **Discussion for re-allocating uncommitted FY20 CDBG Funds**

- The Town has \$106,999 left over from the Shea and Colle Opera House Sidewalk Project. McHugh recommends that that money get reallocated into the Housing Rehab Program.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the FCRHRA's request to the shifting of FY20 CDBG Funds to the use for housing, and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Jeff Singleton, FRTA Advisory Board**

#### **FRTA Advisory Board Bylaw Proposal**

Singleton expresses discomfort at the language of the proposed addition to the FRTA bylaws. Lord made some suggestions. Singleton will make changes to the wording.

#### **Other (not on agenda)**

- Singleton reports that the FRTA Advisory Board voted to make the access program permanent, which expands the demand-response system.
- Another program Singleton would like to continue to be looked at is a work force collaboration (for people at Industrial parks, etc.).
- There is a special committee trying to create weekend transit service.

### **Personnel Board**

#### **Job Descriptions:**

#### **Assistant Town Administrator**

- In response to a question by Lord, Ellis states that he has been serving as the Town's ADA Coordinator.
- In response to a question by Lord, Ellis clarifies that he is the co-appointee to the FRTA.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Job Description of the Assistant Town Administrator as presented pending any minor editorial changes, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Administrative Assistant**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Job Description of the Administrative Assistant as presented pending any minor editorial changes, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Shawn Hubert, Hubies Tavern and Restaurant**

#### **Request to extend ownership of liquor license until December 31, 2022**

- Kuklewicz states he would not want to continue to extend the license past December 31.
- Lord states he would like more assurance than "There are some people who want to buy."
- Hubert states he has at least three interested buyers.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Shawn Hubert, Hubies Tavern and Restaurant to extend ownership of liquor license until December 31, 2022; if it is not sold by December 31, 2022, the license will not*

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*be renewed and will revert to the Town. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Abstain*

### To approve annual appointments as set forth in the attached list

- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the following 1-year appointments until 6/30/2023: ADA Coordinator Steve Ellis; Alternate Building Inspector David Jensen; Auction Permit Agents Wendy Bogusz and Debra Bourbeau; Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee David Brule, Kit Carpenter, Joe Graveline, Doug Harris, Rich Holshuh, Roger Longtoe Sheehan, John Nove, Elizabeth Santana Kiser, and Bettina Washington; Cable Advisory Committee Jason Burbank, Richard Kuklewicz, and Richard Widmer; Cemetery Commission Annabel Levine, Judith Lorei, and Mary Kay Mattiace; Conservation Commission - Associate Member Albert Averill; Constables Wendy Bogusz and Christopher Williams; Council on Aging Debra Bourbeau, Barbara Kuklewicz, and Larry Parker; DWP Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Emergency Manager John Zellmann; Energy Committee Jason Burbank, Ariel Elan, Pamela Hanold, Chris Mason, Sarah (Sally) Pick, Bob Reuter, and Tim Van Egmond; Forest Warden Richard Sawin, Jr.; Forest Warden - Deputy Kyle Cogswell; Franklin County Regional Council of Governments Steven Ellis and Richard Kuklewicz; Franklin County Regional Council of Governments - Planning Rep Elizabeth Erving; FRTA Advisory Board Rich Kuklewicz and Jeffery Singleton; Gas & Plumbing Inspector John Letourneau; Public Works Facility Building Committee Jason Burbank, Jay DiPucchio, Ariel Elan, Mark Fairbrother, Pamela Hanold, David Jensen, Robert MacNeice, Ken Morin, and Richard Widmer; Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) John Zellman; Six Town Regionalization Committee Michael Naughton and Marlyn Reynolds; Tax Title Custodian Eileen Seymour; Town Counsel KP Law, PC; Tree Advisory Committee William Codington, David Detmold, Charles Walker Korby, Annabel Levine, Tom Sullivan, and Jeffrey Warren-Pukis; Veteran's Burial Agent Christopher Demas; Veteran's Director Timothy Niejadlik; Veteran's Graves Officer John T. Murphy; Wells Trust Ron Sicard; Wiring Inspector Wayne Shaw; Wiring Inspector - Alternate Todd Weed and Thomas W. Wyman; and Zoning Board of Appeals - Alternate Robert Obeare. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Christopher Boutwell, Sr. to the F. C. Solid Waste District Waste Management District 2 for a 1-year term, ending June 30, 2023. Seconded by Lord, approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain.*
- *Lord makes the motion to authorize the following 2-year appointments until June 30, 2024: Gill-Montague Transit Authority Steve Ellis and Carolyn Olsen; and RiverCulture Steering Committee Kristi Bodin, Tammy Ketcham, and Lilith Wolinsky. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to authorize the following 3-year appointments until June 30, 2025: Airport Commission David Brule and Seth Rutherford; Conservation Commission Tobias Carter and Sean Werle; Cultural Council Anne Harding, Kathy Lynch, and Betty Tegel; Economic Development and Industrial Corporation James Mussoni; Historical Commission Chris Clawson, Edward Gregory, and Jane Hockley; and Planning Board Ron Sicard. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to appoint David Jensen to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5-year term, ending June 30, 2027. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### Town Administrator's Business

- **Request second tranche of Montague's ARPA/CLFRF (\$1,227,312) grant from US Treasury**  
*Lord makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign and submit the US Treasury CLFRF financial assistance agreement and any related documents required as part of the Town's application for the second half (\$1,227,312) of its ARPA grant, inclusive of its Town allocation of \$429,769 and its county reallocation of \$797,543. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Extend Agreement with FRCOG for Prevention Related Services**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to extend the Agreement with FRCOG for Prevention Related Services until June 30, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Town Hall Roof Project Updates**
  - Ellis states that Bergeron has a purchase agreement for the new vactor truck.

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- The Town Hall Roof Project is a complex project and Ellis feels we would benefit from having a dedicated resource to assist us in the procurement and management of that project. Ellis would like to use CMS Inc. This will cost between \$15,000 - \$25,000.
- Kuklewicz states it seems like a lot of money.
- **Legislative Updates**
  - The House and Senate looked at the Governor's intent to spend ARPA funding through the Forward Bill which was an economic investment bill. This money would assist in the selective demolition and stabilization of the Strathmore Mill. Ellis submitted a letter of testimony to the joint committee stating that we have great interest in this priority.
  - Ellis received an update from Senator Comerford's office. They were hoping to get a Senate bill to extend FY22 to allow time for the FY23 budget process to be completed. The bill did not happen. This means that we will be waiting to find out whether remote meetings are going to be extended. Ellis will send additional communications to the Senate president.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/Complaints about Sandy Lane**

Boutwell reports that he received a lot of complaints about Sandy Lane being closed last week. Ellis encourages residents to go to the Town website to get onto the Code Red system to receive public notifications.

### **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 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 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*