

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**Wednesday, August 8, 2022**

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau; Director of Parks & Recreation Jon Dobosz; BOH Member Melanie Zamojski; FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; and WWTP Superintendent Chelsey Little.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded

**Approve Minutes of July 18 and August 3, 2022 (if available)**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Approval of Minutes for August 3, 2022 postponed.

**Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**

- Resident Kelley Jewell reports bouts of vandalism in her neighborhood. She asks for a short-term community police presence.
- Resident Oliver Miller also reports an increase of vandalism and criminal activity in Turners. He asks the Town to address the situation and look for a solution.
- Resident Edite Cunha reports that things are being taken out of her garden and her car. There is also some apparent drug activity in the area.
- Resident Maureen McNamara reports the presence of an intimidating group of individuals, one of whom had attempted to trip her on a previous occasion. She too is requesting police presence, even if it is only for the summer.
- Kuklewicz has spoken to the Police Chief and will reach out to them again. He states that there are active investigations.
- Ellis reports that some of the younger kids have been identified and agrees that there needs to be some kind of intervention.

**Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk**

**Execute 2022 State Primary Warrant**

- Earlier this summer early voting by mail absentee ballot postcards were mailed to the voters. Anyone who did not receive one can go on the website or the Town Clerk's Office.
- To vote in the Primary, residents must be registered to vote by August 27.
- There will be a box and some forms in the police station lobby.
- In addition there will be early voting in-person starting on Saturday, August 27. Bourbeau will be in her office from 8:00 to 2:00. Early voting will be held in the Town Hall Annex Conference Room for one week.
- Lord reads aloud the 2022 State Primary Warrant.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the 2022 State Primary Warrant as read. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation**

- **Registration for Assembly, Use of Public Property - First Street, Montague Soap Box Races, September 18, 2022, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Use of Public Property - First Street, Montague Soap Box Races, September 18, 2022, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Registration for Assembly, Use of Public Property - Montague Center Village Common & Streets, Annual Sawmill River 10K, October 8, 2022, 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Public Property - Montague Center Village Common & Streets, Annual Sawmill River 10K, October 8, 2022, 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Melanie Zamojski, COVID Updates**

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

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- Case counts are up.
- The majority of what we are seeing is the variant ba.5.
- The BOH has been meeting weekly with the Inter-municipal Grant with Deerfield, Sunderland, and Greenfield. The new variant will probably be here around the end of September.
- Wastewater testing will be started in Montague, hopefully by Thursday.
- **Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination & Booster Clinics**
  - There are upcoming clinics in the Federal Street School in Greenfield on August 24, Sheffield Elementary School in Turners on August 24, Gill Elementary School in Gill on August 25, and Deerfield Elementary School in Deerfield on August 26.
  - Walgreen's is still offering vaccines.
- **Other (not on agenda)**
  - The meetings for the second Inter-Municipal Grant have just started to meet and get organized.
  - Mosquito education has been posted in storefronts and on the BOH website.

**Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Adam Kleeberg, CWF Lead Operator (formerly Operator), UE Grade E, Step 2, \$23.22/hr, effective August 8, 2022**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Adam Kleeberg, CWF Lead Operator (formerly Operator), UE Grade E, Step 2, \$23.22/hr, effective August 8, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Appoint Rebecca J. Sabelawski, 12 Meadow Road to fill the position vacated by Paul Emery on June 1, 2022 until the next Town election on May 16, 2023**
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to ask the Town Administrator or Executive Assistant to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Board to Paul Emery, with regret. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Rebecca J. Sabelawski, 12 Meadow Road to fill the position vacated by Paul Emery on June 1, 2022 until the next Town election on May 16, 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Appoint Walter Ramsey, Franklin Regional Planning Board - Selectboard Rep., 1 year until June 30, 2023 (Missed during annual appointments)**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Walter Ramsey, Franklin Regional Planning Board - Selectboard Rep., 1 year until June 30, 2023 (Missed during annual appointments). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Brian McHugh, FCRHRA**

- **Authorization to Disburse, Payment #7, to Berkshire Design Group for FY20 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Bidding and Construction Administration, \$6,895**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement #7 to Berkshire Design Group for FY20 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Bidding and Construction Administration, \$6,895. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Authorization to Disburse, Payment #8, to Berkshire Design Group for FY20 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Bidding and Construction Administration, \$1,970**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement #8 to Berkshire Design Group for FY20 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Bidding and Construction Administration, \$1,970. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Authorization to Disburse, Payment #1, to Berkshire Design Group for FY21 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Continuation Bidding & Construction Administration, \$2,640**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement #1 to Berkshire Design Group for FY21 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Continuation Bidding & Construction Administration, \$2,640. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

- **Execute FY23, 24 MVP Action Agreement for Comprehensive Plan Phase II (\$80,000)**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to execute FY23, 24 MVP Action Agreement for Comprehensive Plan Phase II (\$80,000); and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Green Communities FY22 Grant Progress Update**
  - Projects completed are LED lights in the Second Street Parking Lot, lighting upgrades at the Millers Falls Library, and lighting upgrades at the Clean Water Facility.
  - Two projects that have been stalled out are heat pumps (mini-splits) at the Millers Falls Library and at the Clean Water Facility. Eversource had changed their incentive structure, which is less favorable to the Town. In addition, the cost of the mini-splits have gone up.
  - The Directors of both the library and the Clean Water Facility really want the heat pumps and are willing to find funds within their respective budgets.
  - Lord would like to move forward with the library, but feels we should have more discussion with Chelsey Little to see what the overall heating picture is at the Clean Water Facility.
  - Ramsey states he has \$7,000 in leftover contingency grant funds to help reduce the cost.
- **Announce Mass DOT Small Bridge Program grant to design rehabilitation or replacement of the Swamp Road Bridge over Goddard Brook**

The Town has received a Small Bridge Grant from Mass DOT to do some design work on the Swamp Road Bridge. This work will look at rehab and replacement.
- **Brownfields Program Updates (11 Power Street, First Street, 20 Canal Road)**
  - Ramsey met with our EPA Region 1 Brownfields Representative. They are willing to fund a Phase II environmental assessment of the property through their Brownfields Remediation Program. The EPA will be handling the contractor and the contracts.
  - Ramsey had also shown them the First Street Municipal Parking Lot across the street from Town Hall. They agreed to do a Phase I and Phase II environmental assessment for that property.
  - We are doing the Canal District Master Plan. The second session was held a couple of weeks ago and was very well-attended. Our third and final session will be on October 27 at 6:30 PM at the Great Falls Discovery Center.
- **5th Street Project Updates**
  - The granite curb is done.
  - Sidewalks are being replaced up to Third Street.
  - Prepping is being done for the final pavement coat.
  - The bridge is prepared to be delivered.
  - We have a potential use for the mast arm and rapid-flashing beacon that was part of the project.

**Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative**

**FRTA Weekend Fixed Route Discussion**

Ellis states that there is some potential for a reduction in total route availability within the FRTA's existing route schedule. There is conversation about the possibility of eliminating the Route 23 weekend service.

**CD Development Discretionary: Authorization to transfer \$2,000 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Shea Theater Maintenance (225-5-184-5240)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the transfer of \$2,000 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Shea Theater Maintenance (225-5-184-5240), and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Business**

- **Execute Agreement with Wright Pierce for On-Call Engineering Services**

Postponed for now
- **Legislative Update:**
  - **Montague FY23 Budget Earmarks Approved (H 5050)**

The following Montague FY23 Earmarks have been approved: (1) \$100,000 towards the generator at the WPCF, and (2) \$50,000 for repair of roof projects.
  - **Other (not on the agenda)**

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- There is no agreement on the Economic Development Bill at this time. Senator Comerford was able to nest \$1 million for additional Streetscape improvements into that bill
- The Transportation Bond Bill that was passed did include \$2 million primarily for design work related to repair or replacement of the Center Street Bridge in Montague Center or for a collaborative allocation for Power House Bridge in Millers Falls
- We continue to advocate and submit testimony relative to the bills that are currently under consideration relative to cannabis equity and host community agreement reforms.
- We provided a letter of support of the Safe Bill to create better equity among small rural communities and other larger communities relative to the resources available to support public health.
- **ARPA Update and Next Step for Spending Plan**
  - A bulletin has come out indicating that the procurement process for communities that took the revenue replacement approach has been normalized to now reflect the State requirements.
  - The Board of Health has been asked to prepare a proposal for increasing nursing hours.
  - Ellis would like to get back to investments in the downtown business community and suggests revisiting current expenditures in mid-to-late September.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**
  - **Double Poles.** Boutwell will send a note to Bogusz to ask for an update on the double poles.
  - **Town Hall Roof.** The contract will be put out to bid on August 17. Final design decisions need to be made. Discussion ensued about the fire escape, which is no longer code-compliant. The architect proposes filling the doorway toward the fire escape with a tempered glass window. The Board feels that work should be done that is "more in style with the building."

**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 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*

**OTHER:**

**Next Meeting:** Selectboard, Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM