

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, August 22, 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; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Assistant Town Administrator Hiring Committee Chair Greg Garrison; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; and FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh.

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

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

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

Bergeron shares that Warner Brothers, who is doing our paving this year, is going to try a new product on a test section of Turners Falls Road. The product will consist of recycled plastic.

Joseph Barry, Tyler Finnegan, Amias Callender, Derrick Prather, Republic Services

Check in regarding trash collection problems

- Resident Melissa Sibley thanks Republic for their services. However, she is concerned about trash not being picked up as there is a fox and a groundhog in the neighborhood that gets into the trash.
- Lord states that the eastern portion of Center Street has had some problems with trash pick-up. He asks Amias if he has a quantifiable understanding of how much of the Town is not getting regular pick-ups. Amias responds that he does.
- Amias reports that last week one of his trucks wasn't running on Monday. One of the Tuesday-and-Wednesday trucks failed inspection. They have gotten two brand new trucks that have been field-tested. They have created a hot list for the drivers to understand which areas need special attention.
- Finnegan explains that there is a 9-12 month wait for getting new trucks.
- Kuklewicz asks Republic to put a supervisor out to help patrol a route; he states that the residents are getting so angry that they are posting on social media and threatening to bring their trash to Town Hall or the Selectboard's yards.
- Airport Director Bryan Camden states that trash has been falling out of the back of the trucks and would like the drivers to be more mindful. His workers are constantly having to go out to the street and pick up the trash.
- Bergeron states that several residents have reported that when they call Republic, they wait for long periods of time and then get hung up on. He says the DPW gets upwards of 30 calls a day, which takes a big chunk out of their day.
- Ellis states that Town Hall is getting hundreds of calls over the course of a month, which interferes in the productivity of the staff. He commends Amias's professionalism but agrees with Kuklewicz that there should be an accompanying driver. He strongly emphasizes that this cannot continue and that doing this right should be routine at this point after four months in.

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

- **Execute Agreement with Wright-Pierce for On-Call Engineering Services**
Postponed until next week
- **Execute Amendment to the Agreement with Wright-Pierce for a Wastewater Collection System Study**
- *Lord makes the motion to execute the Amendment to the Agreement with Wright-Pierce for a Wastewater Collection System Study. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Greg Garrison, ATA Hiring Committee Chair

Assistant Town Administrator - Presentation of Hiring Committee report regarding finalists for Assistant Town Administrator position: Kevin Flynn, Walter Ramsey

- Garrison reviews the Hiring Committee's process. Eight candidates responded. Three met the minimum criteria. Two became finalists: Walter Ramsey and Kevin Flynn. Overall, the committee feels that Ramsey was the stronger of the two candidates.

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- Boutwell is comfortable with the committee's decision but would like more time to go through everything (i.e., watching the interviews).
- Lord expresses appreciation for the committee's process. He is hoping to review the scoring sheets.

Brick & Feather Brewery, 78 11th Street, Turners Falls

License for extended use of public property for outdoor retail and dining (COVID-10 Emergency Measures) 9/1/22 to 4/1/23

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Brick & Feather Brewery, 78 11th Street, Turners Falls, License for extended use of public property for outdoor retail and dining (COVID-10 Emergency Measures) 9/1/22 to 4/1/23; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jesse Bay

Use of Peskeompskut Park and Entertainment License on September 24, 2022 (rain date 9/25/22), 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Folk and Klezmer music

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park and Entertainment License on September 24, 2022 (rain date 9/25/22 at 1:00 PM), 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Folk and Klezmer music. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Bryan Camden, Airport Manager

Execute FAA Federal Grant AIP 3-25-0032-026-2022 totaling \$570,635. Phase 2 of the Pioneer Aviation property purchase grant

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the FAA Federal Grant AIP 3-25-0032-026-2022 totaling \$570,635, Phase 2 of the Pioneer Aviation property purchase grant; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jan Ameen, F.C. Solid Waste Management District
SMRP Grant Award for Mattress Container

- Ameen states she is going to implement a program to deal with the DEP's upcoming mattress disposal ban, and explains the logistics for mattress recycling and disposal.
- Her office has received a grant for a 20-foot storage trailer.
- *Lord makes the motion to accept the grant for the mattress container managed by the F.C. Solid Waste District as described, and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract when it arrives. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

- **Downtown Winter Emergency Parking Proposal**
 - Ramsey shares a PowerPoint presentation of the Proposed Regulation for Winter 2022:
 - No overnight parking allowed on downtown streets from 11 PM to 6 AM when snow emergency is in effect
 - Policy Objectives
 - Application of Policy
 - Downtown Snow Emergency Parking Area Map
 - Winter Emergency Parking Areas Map
 - New rule for municipal lot maintenance
 - Benefits
 - Next Steps
 - In response to a question by Lord, Tom Bergeron states that the patch neighborhood is part of the winter parking ban. The whole town is part of the winter parking ban from midnight to 5 AM.
 - Bergeron would be the one to call the emergency.
 - Kuklewicz states we might want to consider that a snow emergency could also be related to ice.
 - In response to a comment by Ariel Elan, Bergeron states that all the municipal lots are plowed so that cars can get in and out throughout the storm.

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Planner to move forward with the Inclement Weather Parking Ban. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye*

- **Execute MOU for participation in Mass DOT Rural Streets Program to receive free road safety signs and speed feedback signs from Mass DOT**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the MOU for participation in Mass DOT Rural Streets Program to receive free road safety signs and speed feedback signs from Mass DOT. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Include First Street municipal lot (Assessors ID 04-0-0031) into Franklin County Regional Brownfields Assessment Program**
Boutwell makes the motion to request including the First Street municipal lot (Assessors ID 04-0-0031) into Franklin County Regional Brownfields Assessment Program as presented and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Consider request from Franklin Regional Transit Authority to amend 8 Sandy Lane Maintenance Facility MOU to remove obligation to install natural gas line on Sandy Lane**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Franklin Regional Transit Authority to amend 8 Sandy Lane Maintenance Facility MOU to remove obligation to install natural gas line on Sandy Lane. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, FCRHRA

- **Authorization to Disburse, Payment #2, to H. M. Nunes & Sons Construction, Inc. for FY20 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Project, \$37,889**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement Payment #2 to H. M. Nunes & Sons Construction, Inc. for FY20 Montague Avenue A Streetscape Project, \$37,889. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Execute Certificate of Final Completion for Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Construction Project**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Certificate of Final Completion for Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Construction Project, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Special Town Meeting

- **Open Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant**
A Fall Special Town Meeting will be scheduled for October 13.
- **Discuss Meeting Logistics**
 - The high school auditorium is available
 - We still have the authority to allow for a remote Town Meeting if necessary
 - Kuklewicz would like to plan for an in-person meeting unless remote is necessary

Ken McCance, Yolon Energy

Consider Electricity and Gas Supply Contract Bids

- The Electricity Supply Contract Bid is deferred until next week.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to move forward on the 24-month proposal for the Gas Supply Contract, and to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator's Business

- **Legal Services Support MOU for proposed FirstLight FERC Settlement**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement for Legal Services Support MOU for proposed FirstLight FERC Settlement. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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- **Review of Cannabis Impact Fee Receipts and Spending**
 - Ellis included a summary of Town spending as well as revenues related to the Cannabis Impact Fees in the Selectboard packages.
 - The Cannabis Impact Fee Legislation was passed. We are waiting to hear from Counsel relative to the implications of those changes.
 - Ellis suggests that for any expense that is not timely, the Town should take a very cautious approach.
- **Consider Community Compact Grant Opportunity**

The Selectboard is in favor of applying for a Community Compact Grant.
- **Update on Town Hall Roof Bid**
 - Bids are due at 2 PM on September 1st.
 - All the information has been properly posted.
 - We are hopeful that the project will begin in late September.
 - The Board will be asked at the next meeting to award the bid.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**

None

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*

OTHER:

The Turners Falls Power Canal service outage will take place Monday, 9/19/2022 through 9/24/2022