

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**Monday, August 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

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; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; and ATA Hiring Committee Chair Greg Garrison.

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

**Approve Minutes of August 3, 8, and 22, 2022 (if available)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of August 3, 8, and 22, 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

**Daughters of the American Revolution (Nancy Kay Maleno)**

**Request for Constitution Week Proclamation**

- Lord reads the Constitution Week Proclamation into the record.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to declare the Constitution Week Proclamation as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Marcy Gregoire, Nice Snack Parlor, 147 Second Street, Turners Falls**

- **Use of Public Property: Car Show, 9/11/22, 3:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Block 2nd Street from Unity Park Parking Lot through 141 Second Street**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Marcy Gregoire, Nice Snack Parlor, 147 Second Street, Turners Falls*

*Use of Public Property: Car Show, 9/11/22, 3:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Block 2nd Street from Unity Park Parking Lot through 141 Second Street. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Entertainment License, DJ on 9/11/22, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM 5:00**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for an Entertainment License, DJ on 9/11/22, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM 5:00 as presented; along with the application, the insurance in the amount of \$2 million has to be presented before the event; the permit fee is \$50. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Electricity and Gas Supply Contract Options/Bids (Ken McCance, Yolon Energy)**

McCance reviews the Electricity and Gas Supply Contract Options

- **Consider Natural Gas Bids**
  - Kuklewicz suggests watching the rates.
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to rescind the approval of the fixed price for gas as presented the week of August 22 for a two-year contract. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize either the Town Administrator or the Selectboard Chair to sign a 12-month contract if the pricing falls below .650 per term; otherwise, purchase discussion will continue at the September 12 meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Consider Electricity Bids**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize either the Selectboard Chair or Town Administrator to sign the 36-month Electric Contract with the lowest bidder on Tuesday, August 30, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Later in the meeting, Ellis shares that he received a message from McCance stating that we can use the pricing from Friday, which is substantially better by over a half a cent. The Board agrees to jump on the opportunity.

**FY20 CDBG Budget and Program Revision Request (Brian McHugh, FCRHRA)**

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**Monday, August 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

**Transfer \$2,820 in uncommitted Hillcrest playground design fees to housing rehabilitation construction activity**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the FY20 CDBG Budget and Program Revision Request by Brian McHugh for the Transfer \$2,820 in uncommitted Hillcrest playground design fees to housing rehabilitation construction activity; and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Assistant Town Administrator Hiring (Greg Garrison)**

- **Consider recommended finalists, Kevin Flynn and Walter Ramsey**
  - Boutwell, Lord, and Kuklewicz state that they have reviewed the vimeo interviews as well as the scores for the interview questions and are comfortable with the committee's recommendation.
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to offer the Assistant Town Administrator's position to Walter Ramsey. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - Kuklewicz thanks the ATA Hiring Committee for all their work.
  - Ellis will send a thank you letter to Kevin Flynn for his participation in the interview process.
- **Discuss next steps**
  - The Selectboard Chair will work with the Town Administrator on defining the next steps, which will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.
  - Ellis will put together a suggested list of individuals for the screening committee for the soon-to-be vacated Town Planner position.

**Community Planning for Solar Initiative (Sally Pick and Chris Mason)**

- Pick and Mason review the Community Planning for Solar Initiative.
- *Boutwell makes the motion for the Selectboard to support the participation in the planning process for the UMass Solar Planning opportunity as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the forming of a Solar Planning Committee with five members with two alternates. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Update on EDIC's 38 Avenue A Development Efforts (Walter Ramsey)**

- The assessed value of the property is \$40,000.
- The EDIC has elected to work for a few months with Bill Martin of Greenfield Group Real Estate.
- With substantial community planning efforts, the EDIC made specific conditions of sale:
  - No drive-through
  - No formula-based retail business with a standardized façade
  - No driveway curb cut onto Avenue A
  - No parking area facing Avenue A or 2nd St
  - The buyer would need to remove the existing structure
  - The sale would be subject to a land development agreement
  - The buyer would have to obtain all the land-use permits
  - DCR would have to do a sign-off
  - The buyer would have to follow through with our zoning requirements
- We have not had any offers yet.
- In response to a question by Peter Chilton, an individual who is interested in the property, Ramsey states the EDIC gets the final say on whom the property will be sold to. They will not make any decisions without consulting the Selectboard through public meetings.

**Consider FirstLight request for extension of FERC settlement talks (Steve Ellis)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to approve the request extension from FirstLight until December 31, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Consider freeze on Cannabis Impact Free-related spending (Steve Ellis)**

- 253 Pharmacy has given funding in the amount of \$631,000 to the Town up to this point in time.

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**  
**Monday, August 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

- The Town has spent a portion of that and has other appropriations pending (licensed alcohol and drug counselors, engineering and sidewalk design, an after-school program focused on STEM, and police training in identification of cannabis intoxication).
- Ellis has consulted with Counsel. Given the changes in the Cannabis Host Community Agreement Law, there is a lot of uncertainty as we consider expenditures of these funds. We are proceeding at risk if we make any further expenditures.
- Ellis has suggested to the parties responsible for implementing use of funds that have been appropriated but not spent, to hold off on further expenditures.
- One ongoing set of expenses for the Strengthening Families Program is 98% done. Ellis states he does not propose to upset the closing events of that program.
- Kuklewicz asks Ellis to loop Lord into any discussions and to keep the Board posted.

**Executive Assistant's Business**

**Review logistics for September 12 Selectboard Meeting**

- **In-Person or remote**  
The Selectboard meeting on September 12 will be remote. The first in-person meeting will take place on September 19.
- **6 pm Executive Session**
- The September 12 Executive Session will be postponed until the following week as Bogusz will not be present on the 12th.

**Town Administrator's Business**

- **Execute Agreement with Wright-Pierce for On-Call Engineering Services**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Wright-Pierce for On-Call Engineering Services and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Grant Town Administrator authority to award bid for Town Hall roof**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to grant the Town Administrator authority to award bid for Town Hall roof. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting period/Paving**  
The paving work that was scheduled for tomorrow is delayed until Wednesday, August 31, on L street and 7th Street. No parking is allowed between 6 am and 5 pm. On Thursday, September 1, 3rd Street and Canal Street will be closed.

**Executive Session under G.L. c.30a(A)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining (NAGE, UE), Votes may be taken**

Postponed until next week

**OTHER:**

- The Turners Falls Power Canal service outage will take place Monday, September 19, 2022 through September 24, 2022
- FCSWMD Hazardous Waste Collection Day is on Saturday, the 24th. The information is on the Town website. On-line pre-registration is required.

**Next Meeting:** Selectboard, Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM

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