

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord (*joined at 6:35 pm*); Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Clean Water Superintendent Chelsey Little; Parks & Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; and Police Chief Chris Williams.

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

Approve Minutes of August 29, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of August 29, 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

Sewer Commission: Sewer Rate Hearing (Chelsey Little)

Sewer Rates FY 2023 Rates I through IV reflect a proposed 11.54% increase.

I. Gill, Industrial Customers **Current Rate: \$15.68/1000 gallons**; Previous Rate: \$14.06/1000 gallons

II. T. Falls, Mont. Center, Mont. City, **Current Rate: \$16.94/1000 gallons**; Lake Pleasant Previous Rate: \$15.19/1000 gallons

III. 12-month Flat Rate **Current Rate: \$937.44/FY**; Previous Rate: \$840.45/FY

IV. Millers Falls **Current Rate: \$16.94/1000 gallons**; Previous Rate: \$15.19/1000 gallons

Septage: In Town & Town of Gill: = \$80/1,000 gallons; Out of Town: = \$110/1,000 gallons

Trucked-in Sludge = Price to be negotiated between Town & FCSWMD

Other: Interest Rate – 14% per Annum; Demand Charge - \$5.00 ; Minimum Bill-\$142.77/FY

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2023 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Community Events

- **Use of Montague Center Common and North Street for 1st Congregational Church Fall Festival for music, car show, vendors, and games. October 8, 2022 from 8 am - 5 pm**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the use of Montague Center Common and North Street for the 1st Congregational Church Fall Festival for music, car show, vendors, and games. October 8, 2022 from 8 am - 5 pm. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Rescheduling of previously approved Sawmill River 10k Run from October 8 to December 31, 7 am - 2 pm. Parks & Recreation Department use of Montague Center Common and surrounding streets**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property for the Sawmill River 10k Run on December 31, 7 am - 2 pm. Parks & Recreation Department use of Montague Center Common and surrounding streets. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Montague Soapbox Derby Recap**

Dobosz reports on the Soapbox Derby. It went very well. There were 24 racers, a few hundred patrons, and a lot of volunteers involved.

Unity Skate Park Safety Repairs (Jon Dobosz)

Execute contract in the amount of \$1,800 with Tailblock Coping Company of Brattleboro VT

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the contract in the amount of \$1,800 with Tailblock Coping Company of Brattleboro VT for repair to the Unity Skate Park as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

RiverCulture Updates (Suzanne LoManto)

- **Request Authority to Submit Mass Cultural Council Grant Application**

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Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request made by Suzanne LoManto to submit the Mass Cultural Council Grant Application, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Provide Update on Peskeompskut Park Improvements**
 - The electrical work on the band shell is done.
 - The band shell is going to be power-washed tomorrow.
 - Landscaping will be done, which will involve blocking some of the traffic of 7th Street.
 - Awnings will be put on the side of the band shell.
 - A new notice board will be put in the park.
 - LoManto is going to see if there is money in the budget to fix the fountain.
 - Senior landscaping students from the tech school will be coming to the Selectboard with a landscaping plan.

Community Development Block Grant (Brian McHugh)

FY20 Grant Extension Request

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the FY20 Grant Extension Request. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Anna Morin, Dispatcher in Training, NAGE (Grade B, Step 2, 37.69 hrs/week, effective 10/2/2022)**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Anna Morin, Dispatcher in Training, NAGE (Grade B, Step 2, 37.69 hrs/week, effective 10/2/2022; and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Resignation of Daniel Wasiuk, Health Director, effective October 6, 2022**
 - Ellis shares that Daniel Wasiuk is resigning as our Health Director. He is taking a new position as the Health Director in Southbridge, Massachusetts.
 - Discussion ensues about the process of appointing a new Health Director.
- **Consider Assistant Town Administrator Contract**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Contract for the Assistant Town Administrator position, effective October 3, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Provide Any Available Bargaining Updates**

We have reached a Memorandum of Agreement with both the New England Police Benevolent Association and the United Electrical Workers. Each of these MOUs have been executed by the Board and the union representatives. The primary feature of them is that it will include larger cost-of-living adjustments than in the past years.
- **Other/Administrative Assistant Position (*not on agenda*)**
 - Bogusz and Ellis have initiated the internal postings for the Administrative Assistant and the Town Planner. An invitation was extended to Erin McLean to join the Town Planner Hiring Committee.

Fall Special Town Meeting, October 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the TFHS Auditorium

Read Draft Warrant

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the Draft Warrant of the Fall Special Town Meeting for October 13, 2022.
- The official agenda will be read next week.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Farren Care Center Updates**
 - Ellis had a conversation with Trinity Health New England, who indicated that they continue to work on the project and intend to file a demolition plan in the coming months.
 - They reaffirmed their commitment to provide us \$100,000 to support a site reuse study.
 - Most of the items in the chapel will be going to other Catholic organizations.
 - A commitment was made to reconnect with them if there are any other artifacts of interest.
 - They have indicated that they may be open to providing the property on 356 Montague City Road as a gift to the Town. Ramsey and Ellis intend to inspect the building, which at present is in the scope of the demolition.

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- With regard to the demolition, Trinity Health New England has indicated that they are willing to keep the stone pillars at the entranceway to the building in place.
- **Executive Agreement for \$137,250 with K&G Remodeling, Inc of North Grosvenordale, CT for replacement of the Montague Town Hall Roof, Authorize Notice to Proceed**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement for \$137,250 with K&G Remodeling, Inc of North Grosvenordale, CT for replacement of the Montague Town Hall Roof; and to authorize a Notice to Proceed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request Authorization to Submit Office of Public Safety Workplace Safety Grant for OSH and Other Safety Training**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to submit an application for the Office of Public Safety Workplace Safety Grant for OSH and Other Safety Training. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request Authorization to Submit USDA Community Facilities Grant (Would Provide Matching Funds Toward DPW Dump Truck, and Expected FY24 Capital Request)**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to submit an application for the USDA Community Facilities Grant (Would Provide Matching Funds Toward DPW Dump Truck, and Expected FY24 Capital Request) as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**
None

OTHER:

- Reminder: The Turners Falls Power Canal service outage will take place Monday, September 19, 2022
- Reminder: FCSWMD Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Saturday, September 24, 2022

Next Selectboard Meeting: Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM