

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, November 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Clean Water Facility Superintendent Chelsey Little; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Lieutenant Chris Bonnett; 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 October 24, 2022 and November 1, 2022 (if available)

- *Boutwell makes a motion to approve the minutes of October 24, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- November 2, 2022 minutes not available

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

Complaint against Assessor

- Resident Chris Pindari states that he has made several complaints against the Assessor, and has not received a single reply from the Chair of the Board of Assessors. He explains that he attended a meeting of the Board of Assessors and notes that there is no public participation section on their agenda. He states that the Chair informed him that the Board is not personnel and deals only with abatements, which is in contrast to what members of this Town has been telling him for a year and a half. Pindari asks who is responsible for receiving and acting upon complaints about the Office of Assessors.
- Kuklewicz responds that he would like to refer this for a discussion with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel.
- Ellis clarifies that the Board of Assessors is an elected official and serves as the appointing authority responsible for management of the office, and ultimately makes decisions related to that office. He agrees to follow through with Counsel.

Sewer Commissioners

Chelsey Little, Superintendent, Clean Water Facility

Superintendent's Report

- For the month of October, we have had an 93.8% removal in BOD and 92.6% removal in TSS.
- The chlorinating project went well and we anticipate coming under budget.

Chair to Authorize and Sign NetDMR Storm Water Permit Signatory Authorization for Noah Diamond, Laboratory Manager

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Laboratory Manager Noah Diamond to sign the required Storm Water Permits and to authorize the Chair to sign the authorization form. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize and Sign Wright-Pierce task order for additional scope to PER for Screw Pumps Project

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize and sign the Wright-Pierce task order for additional scope to PER for Screw Pumps Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize and Sign Wright-Pierce task order for Headworks HVAC evaluation

Boutwell makes the motion to Authorize and Sign the Wright-Pierce task order for Headworks HVAC evaluation in the amount of \$5,500. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss Capital Projects and Planning

Little reviews a spreadsheet of a Capital Projects Schedule:

- We have \$420,000 in retained earnings.
- Two projects that she submitted for the February Special Town Meeting are (1) the screw pump replacement and (2) the purchase of a transit van.
- Two projects for the Annual Town Meeting are (1) upgrades to the septage receiving station and (2) the purchase of an RTV (rough terrain vehicle).

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, November 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Execute FY2023 Community One-Stop for Growth Rural and Small Town Grant, Biosolids Composting Facility Feasibility Study, \$150,000

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the FY2023 Community One-Stop for Growth Rural and Small Town Grant, Biosolids Composting Facility Feasibility Study, \$150,000. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Agreement with Weston & Sampson Proposal for Engineering Services for Development of a Local/Regional Biosolids Composting Facility Implementation Action Plan

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Weston & Sampson Proposal for Engineering Services for Development of a Local/Regional Biosolids Composting Facility Implementation Action Plan, and to issue upon receipt of the signed contract for the One-Stop for Growth Award from the State. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss Future Meeting Schedule

The Board decides to meet with Little for 30 minutes once a month (either the 2nd or 3rd week) to discuss the above topics.

Personnel Board

Appoint Eric Cole, DPW Building Maintenance, NAGE Grade C, Step 2, 40 hrs/week, effective 11/2/22

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Eric Cole, DPW Building Maintenance, NAGE Grade C, Step 2, 40 hrs/week, effective 11/2/22. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Request for Lateral Transfer from Boston Police Department to Montague Police Department upon Civil Service Approval

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Lateral Transfer from Boston Police Department to Montague Police Department upon Civil Service. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Christopher Smerz, Patrolman, NEPBA, Grade Patrolman, Step 8, effective December 4, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Christopher Smerz, Patrolman, NEPBA, Grade Patrolman, Step 8, effective December 4, 2022. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, FCRHRA

Execute Contract with H.M. Nunes & Sons Construction for Avenue A Streetscape Project in the amount of \$322,990

Boutwell makes the motion to execute and sign the Contract with H.M. Nunes & Sons Construction for Avenue A Streetscape Project in the amount of \$322,990. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Public Hearing

Downtown Turners Falls Winter Emergency Parking Regulation

- Ramsey reviews the new regulation as well as the map showing which lots are available as emergency parking areas.
- Ramsey notes that on-street parking will continue to be allowed on the odd-numbered side of L Street.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Bergeron states that the Montague Police Department will arrange to tow cars that are not heeding the regulation.
- There will be a public education campaign in order to get the word out about this regulation.
- Bergeron states that signage and lights will be used to help make the public aware that lots are going to be cleared at certain times.
- Ellis encourages the public to sign up for the Town's Code Red Alerts.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, November 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator

Municipal acknowledgement of Project Eligibility Notification: South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement

Ramsey states that at this point, the South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement project is moving along at the State's TIP level. MassDOT has accepted it as a project, has assigned a resident project engineer to it, and has provided notification that this is an eligible project based on the level of design that we have it at right now. Ramsey is asking to hold off on signing the Acknowledgement of Project Eligibility Notification until after he meets with our designer tomorrow.

Montague City Road Emergency Sewer Repair Updates

- Bergeron reports that Davenport dug up the pipe this morning and assessed the damage, and Bergeron reviews the findings.
- The DPW will start cleaning sections of the pipe later this week.
- Davenport will continue to do the replacement work.
- Bergeron states that it will take a couple of weeks to finish this work.
- With regard to cleaning the headworks at the Clean Water Facility, the solids can be brought to Greenfield.

Canal District Master Plan Overview Study Part 1 Part 2

- Ramsey states that the focus of the study was on the municipally owned properties (not so much on the two mills in the center of the district)
- The consultant team is recommending tearing down the Strathmore Mill complex and using the northern section of the island for open space and passive recreational use.
- A cost-effective program is suggested which includes habitat reclamation, limited-maintenance open space for low-intensity use, and an opportunity for public art displays.
- Ramsey shows pictures of what the area would look like after the work is finished.
- Next steps include advancing the demolition funding of Strathmore Mill in preparation for the bridge construction.
- Development of housing at Railroad Salvage cannot start until the bridges are in place.
- As a municipality we are recommended to do some maintenance of the Old Griswold Mill site.
- The last elements are finishing the recommendations and doing some cost estimations for what these elements are going to cost us.

Discussion: Consider offering Selectboard position or sending a delegate for 340 Montague City Road Demolition Delay Bylaw Public Hearing scheduled for 11/16/22

- Kuklewicz would like to see the site developed and put to some sort of public use.
- Boutwell would like to see the site redeveloped.
- Lord states the Historical Commission is considering whether or not they should put in place a demolition delay (up to a year) in the hopes that we can find someone who would preserve the historical features of the site. Lord, however, does not see that happening. He would prefer that there not be a delay.
- Boutwell wonders how the residents will feel about not having a delay.
- Kuklewicz agrees that a delay would serve no useful purpose.
- *Lord makes the motion to recommend to the Historical Commission not to impose a demolition delay at the 340 Montague City Road site in response to the demolition permit request by Trinity. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Lord is willing to attend the public hearing as the delegate.

Consider agreement for temporary Health Department Staffing with City of Greenfield

Ellis informs the Selectboard that we are benefitting from support from the City of Greenfield's Health Department while we don't have a director in place. Greenfield is looking for some assurances relative to boundaries around their obligations. We will be paying them on an hourly basis. The Board of Health will be discussing the issue of an agreement with Greenfield on the 16th.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, November 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Trish Howells, Board of Directors, Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter

Requests Consideration the Selectboard lease or sell parcel 21-0-152 (15.585 acres) or lease or sell 5 - 6 acre section at the back of parcel 21-0-152 (with access from Turnpike Road or Turners Falls Road or Sandy Lane whichever is deemed best) to the non-profit Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, Inc.

Howells explains that the Board of Directors for Friends of Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter would like to know if the Selectboard is open to leasing or selling the parcel, or a piece of the parcel.

- The current location on Sandy Lane was meant to be a temporary location.
- The intention has always been to find another location. The parcel in question has been discussed as a new location since 2015-16.
- Since the shelter is a public service shelter, it would be a good fit to be near the safety complex.

Discussion:

- Lord is more inclined to leasing the parcel rather than selling it.
- Boutwell is in favor of leasing the site.
- Kuklewicz says that the lease doesn't have to be for one year (i.e., it could be for 50 or 100 years). This would prevent the Sheriff's Department from having to buy a piece of land.
- Ellis states that he and Ramsey feel that if a developer were to come to Town, we don't have another ready-to-develop 15-acre parcel that has utilities to point them toward.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ramsey states that it would be possible to carve out a few acres on Sandy Lane to relocate the shelter.
- Ramsey will follow-up with Howells with regard to other possible options.

Town Administrator's Business

Execute FY2023 Engineering Agreement Landfill Monitoring Services Agreement, \$20,700

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the FY2023 Engineering Agreement Landfill Monitoring Services Agreement, \$20,700. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Update regarding Progress with FERC settlement negotiations

Ellis states he has no update regarding the progress with FERC settlement negotiations.

Update on Town Hall Roof Replacement Project

- Our architect has looked at things. There are some loose ends to tie up.
- The project is largely complete.
- We are waiting for final certification with regard to the fire escape.
- The window is on order.

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30a, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property - First Light Power, votes may be taken

- The Chair deems that having this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30a, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property - First Light Power, votes may be taken. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM