

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, February 6, 2023

Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Police Chief Chris Williams; KP Law Attorney Gregg Corbo; and Animal Control Officer Calin Giurgiu.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:00 PM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Selectboard Minutes from January 30, 2023

- Postponed until next week

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

Public Hearing, Nicholas Pratt, 20 N. Street, Turners Falls
Violation of Dangerous Dog as terms are defined in said statute

- Kuklewicz summarizes the Notice of Hearing: Violation of Dangerous Dog Order
- According to Attorney Corbo:
 - 1) An order was given to Nicholas Pratt, which listed eight conditions that he was required to meet.
 - 2) Pratt entered into an agreement with the Town in which he agreed that his fence would be repaired by June 2, 2022; that the dog would only be in the back yard on the dog yard; that the dog would not be outside alone, with no other dogs out of the house; that the dog would be vaccinated against rabies no later than June 6; that he would provide copies of insurance and licensing to the police department); and that he would maintain prompt and honest communication with the Town.
 - 3) The Animal Control Officer suggests there has not been compliance with either the Board's order or the agreement with the Police Chief.
- All individuals intending to testify are sworn in.(C. Giurgiu, C. Williams, N. Pratt, C. Brown)
- Giurgiu states he tried to work with Pratt, who had the whole summer to repair the fence. The dog was running in the streets and had bitten several people. Giurgiu went to the owner's house four or five times and could see the dog indoors acting aggressively, but the owners would not answer the door and refused to talk with Giurgiu. The fence is in worse shape than it was in the beginning.
- In response to a request by Lord, Giurgiu gives physical descriptions of the owner's dogs.
- Pratt's next-door neighbor, Christopher Brown discusses a picture he had taken last summer which shows the dog was not muzzled or on the run. He states he has never seen the dog with a muzzle or on the run.
- Pratt states the run was broken and got repaired, that the brown dog belongs to his mother, and that the dangerous dog in question has never been off his property. He apologizes to everyone who has been affected by his dog's behavior. He states that his dog has gotten more aggressive, and he plans on putting it down. He asks for two weeks to get the money to put the dog down.
- Kuklewicz states that the Town is willing to take care of the euthanization. The Animal Control Officer will impound the dog and hold it until it can be euthanized. Pratt states he will give his agreement via email.
- Giurgiu states he would advise having the dog euthanized sooner rather than later to keep the workers at the animal shelter safe.
- *Lord makes the motion that the Board finds that Nicholas Pratt failed to comply with the terms of the Board's May 16, 2022 order to restrain the dog known as Jax, and as a result of that finding, the Board orders that the dog shall be surrendered to the Animal Control Officer for euthanization within*

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24 hours of this order. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz

- Kuklewicz closes the public hearing.

Silas Koyama, Eagle Scout Project

Install Kiosk at corner of Montague City Road and Masonic Avenue

Boutwell makes the motion to approve and endorse the project that Silas Koyama has proposed - to install a kiosk at the corner of Montague City Road and Masonic Avenue. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Montague Tree Committee, Walker Korby

Alliance for Green Heat Grant Wood Bank Grant Application (\$15,000) for equipment and storage

- Ramsey describes the grant that the Montague Tree Committee and Walker Korby are applying for, for the wood bank. Part of the project includes putting up a shed at the transfer station, which has been cleared with Bergeron.
- Kuklewicz expresses some concern about the security of the shed.
- Ellis suggests to Walker that they meet to review and update liability waivers.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Grant Application for the Green Heat Wood Bank Grant in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz*

Wendy Bogusz, Execute Assistant

Review fee schedule for sealer of weights and measure services

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the fee increase as proposed (attached to meeting packet) retroactively effective January 1, 2023. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz

Special Town Meeting Warrant - To Review draft 3/2/23 warrant; attached hereto, and to make recommendations on any or all items in warrant; votes may be taken

- Kuklewicz reads aloud each Article.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to endorse Article 1 and place it on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to endorse Article 2 and place it on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion that the Board recommend passage of Article 2 as well. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 3 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 4 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 5 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 6 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 7 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 8 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 9 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 10 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 11 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 12 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 13 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 14 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 15 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 16 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 17 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 18 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend and place Article 19 on the Winter Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 2. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Articles 20 and 21 will be discussed further next week.
- Ellis clarifies that Articles 20 and 21 are part of the Town's long-term strategy and not about present personnel.

Town Administrator Report

Update on Congressionally Directed Spending Grant for Avenue A Streetscape

- This project is going to be administered by Housing and Urban Development.
- It will be subject to a lot of conditions that are very similar to those from our CDBG Grant Program.
- We expect to see the notice and the application, etc., within the next 30 days.

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- We may be looking to the Board to contribute some ARPA funds for a revision and refinement of the design plans.

Request authorization to conduct trash and recycling bid for term beginning July 1, 2024

- Ellis explains that we would like to begin the process of conducting the trash and recycling bidding this spring. The Board gives its consensus.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ellis states that if we choose to award the contract to a different vendor, we would award the bid 12-15 months earlier.
- Ellis states that there is some confusion relative to whether people can still use the blue trash bag sticker inside their trash barrels. The answer is yes. Anyone who bought but would like to return a barrel stacker can contact the Selectboard Office.

Execute Contracts for Supplemental CSO monitoring/reporting contract with ADS Environmental Services

Boutwell makes the motion to execute Contracts for Supplemental CSO monitoring/reporting contract with ADS Environmental Services, Ref: Montague.Aqua.MA23 for the price of \$6,250. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Update pertaining to FirstLight FERC Negotiation Timelines

Ellis states that FERC and FirstLight are saying the REA process is going to be triggered on May 31st and so they require that all agreements be completed by March 31st.

Other

- The Winter Special Town Meeting is scheduled for March 2 at the TFHS auditorium at 6:30 PM.
- There is a free event this weekend around the Crossroads: Change in Rural America at the Shea.

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 - FirstLight Power, 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 in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property - FirstLight Power, votes may be taken. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM