

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, March 6, 2023 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; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; Airport Manager Bryan Camden; Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter; and Finance Committee members Francia Wisnewski (Chair), Dorinda Bell-Upp, and John Hanold.

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

Moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of Paul Emery on February 13th , a long-serving member of the Board of Assessors and Town Meeting member on February 13.

Approve Selectboard Minutes from February 27, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes from February 27, 2023 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

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

Executive Mass Cultural Council Recovery for Organizations Grant, \$6,850

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Mass Cultural Council Recovery for Organizations Grant, \$6,850; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Alan Atwood, Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference, Road Coordinator

Use of Public Property; Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference April 16, 2023, 7:30 AM - 4:00 pm. Lap will be using 1st, 3rd, and L Street around Unity Park

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property; Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference April 16, 2023, 7:30 AM - 4:00 pm; Lap will be using 1st, 3rd, and L Street around Unity Park; pending insurance and noting that the Police Chief has outlined that there will be some detail officers required. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye Atwood is to contact F.L Roberts (Nouria) regarding the event

Bryan Camden, Airport Manager

Execute the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program joint award for the Montague Airport Commission and Franklin County Technical School totaling \$4,158,000 for the purpose of establishing an Aviation Maintenance Technician Chapter 74 training program

Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the request for the Airport Commission to work in collaboration with the Franklin County Technical School, and endorse the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program award. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Montague Wood Bank

Execute Grant agreement with the Alliance for Green Heat, Inc. in the amount of \$14,231 for the purpose of funding small equipment purchases for the Montague Wood Bank

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Grant agreement with the Alliance for Green Heat, Inc. in the amount of \$14,231 for the purpose of funding small equipment purchases for the Montague Wood Bank. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Personnel Board

Mass in Motion Initiative

○ **Establish Mass in Motion Working Group**

Boutwell makes the motion to establish a Mass in Motion Working Group. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

○ **Appoint Members to MiM Working Group: Eileen Dowd, Eileen Mariani, Roy Rosenblatt, Anne Jemas (tentative), Maureen Pollock (Town Planner), Gina McNeely (Board of Health), Caitlin Kelley (Library Director), and Roberta Potter (COA Director)**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint the following members to the MiM Working Group: Eileen Dowd, Eileen Mariani, Roy Rosenblatt, Maureen Pollock (Town Planner), Gina McNeely (Board of Health), Caitlin Kelley (Library Director), and Roberta Potter (COA Director); term starting immediately and continuing through June 30, 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

○ **Execute Agreement for Facilitation and Consulting Services with Colleen Doherty, \$3,730**

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement for Facilitation and Consulting Services with Colleen Doherty, \$3,730. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Clerk Office Staffing

- Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau has announced her intention to retire at the beginning of the Fiscal Year.
- We could potentially see the need to replace two positions rather than one.
- There may be a role for Deb Bourbeau to support operations as a consultant.
- Ellis has had preliminary discussions with Carolyn Olsen with regard to the budget.
- Ellis suggests that the Board could consider a one-time expense from Free Cash.
- Kuklewicz would like to have a Town Clerk in position when Bourbeau retires.

FY24 Budget Development - Steve Ellis, Francia Wisniewski

Update on Finance Committee Process

Wisniewski reports the following:

- 1) The Selectboard was part of a meeting with the Gill-Montague officers and the school district.
- 2) In the coming weeks, the Finance Committee will have a joint meeting with the CIC.
- 3) That budget piece will be reconciled on March 22.
- 4) There will be an opportunity to balance the reconciliation on March 29.

Review of Budget Calendar - Joint Meetings March 15 and 22

The Budget Calendar is displayed on the screen.

Discuss Selectboard Approach to Budget Reconciliation Meeting

- The Selectboard agree that it isn't necessary to go line by line on the budget.
- Ellis states to Wisniewski that the Board is likely to align with the Finance Committee's recommendations to the extent those recommendations align with the Board's own personnel recommendations.
- Hanold states that any differences between the FC and the Selectboard will come out in the reconciliation process.

Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator

Request to authorize the use of up to \$46,800 from ARPA funds for land survey, landscape architecture, and civil engineering services associated with the Avenue A Streetscape Design Project (Between Third St. and One Avenue A) and to authorize the execution of a professional services agreement with Berkshire Design Group in that amount. Said design funds will leverage a \$975,000 Congressional Directed Spending grant for construction

- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the use of up to \$46,800 from ARPA funds for land survey, landscape architecture, and civil engineering services associated with the Avenue A Streetscape*

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Design Project (Between Third St. and One Avenue A). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the execution of a professional services agreement with Berkshire Design Group in the above amount (said design funds will leverage a \$975,000 Congressional Directed Spending grant for construction); and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Request to submit a congressionally directed spending grant application for Collection System Improvements

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to submit a congressionally directed spending grant application for Collection System Improvements. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator Business

Town Meeting Debrief - Discussion and Follow-Ups

- Ellis states that Town Meeting did see the passage of all Articles as requested, including placement of the Treasurer/Collector and Town Clerk positions from elected to appointed positions.
- We will follow-up next week on the questions related to the opportunity that the USDA grant provides to us and the ARPA strategies.

Legislative Updates: Possible extension of remote meeting accommodations (H57)

Ellis states the House passed a supplemental building forward for consideration by the Senate. Among those is an extension of the existing remote meeting accommodations. Ellis encourages everyone to submit testimony on behalf of H57.

FERC Relicensing Settlement Agreement Updates

Ellis advises the public that we will have something to share out next week, or the process will have disintegrated. If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does not have all of the signed documents in hand by March 31, then there are no agreements to be have.

Fall Festival Updates

There have been conversations between Ellis, Jon Dobosz, and Caitlin Kelley about the Fall Festival not being a Town event per se. We may potentially form a new 5013c or work under the umbrella of an existing 5013c.

General Pierce Bridge Project Completion - Lighting Concerns

The General Pierce Bridge is open. Some households may be affected by the intensity of the lights, especially in the wintertime. DOT is reviewing the issue with their contractors to see if something can be done.

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*

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn regular session at 7:59 PM. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye