

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 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; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; and FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:30 AM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Selectboard Minutes from March 6 and 13, 2023

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from March 6, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Approval of March 13 minutes postponed.

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

Brian McHugh

Authorize an Extension Request to DHCD for the CDF-I-G-2020-Montague-0896 grant to 06-30-23 to allow time to complete the housing rehabilitation projects currently under contract

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Extension Request to DHCD for the CDF-I-G-2020-Montague-0896 grant to 06-30-23 to allow time to complete the housing rehabilitation projects currently under contract and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Great Falls Farmers Market, Annie Levine

Request for payment related to coordination of Farmers Market in 2022

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve allocation to Annie Levine of \$2,844.40 from Community Development Unallocated to cover last year's management of the Great Falls Farmers Market. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to rescind our funding source from our last motion of \$2,844.40 from the CD Unallocated account. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to fund the Great Falls Farmers Market Manager balance of \$2,844.40 from an existing grant, the REDO Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator Business

Governor Healey Announcement End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in MA effective May 11, 2023

Ellis shares that the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that Massachusetts will end the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Status in Massachusetts on May 11.

Testimony Provided Regarding Permanent Remote and Hybrid Meeting Legislation

Ellis shares his testimony regarding Permanent Remote and Hybrid Meeting Legislation during a meeting with a group of legislators who are considering sponsoring legislation related to the open meeting law and remote meetings:

- The Town feels the current decision to continue remote meeting accommodations in their current form was excellent.
- We hope the delay period will be used to engage municipalities such as Montague with the legislators as they move forward with their thinking in the design of their bills.
- Communities cannot be subjected to another unfunded mandate.

Other/Trash Collection

Kuklewicz shares that there was a laps in some of the trash collections last week. We have been having discussions with our vendor. Ellis has communicated with the company that this contract will be going out for bid. Ellis, Bergeron, and Brandy are working with Jan Ameen on the development of that bid.

Executive Session under G.L. c.30A §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining (New England Police Benevolent Association), Votes may be taken

- The Chair deems that holding such discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to enter into Executive Session under G.L. c.30A §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining (New England Police Benevolent Association), Votes may be taken. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, March 27 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM