

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, March 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz and Chris Boutwell; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Administrative Assistant Shayna Reardon; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; and Finance Committee Chair Francia Wisniewski.

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

Approve Selectboard Minutes from March 13 and 20, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from March 13 and March 20, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - 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

Liquor License Hearing

Shea Theater, Christopher Belmonte as manager has applied for a transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) from Hubie's Tavern, Inc. dba Hubie's Tavern and Restaurant. The premise is located at 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. This request represents: change of manager: from Joshua N. Goldman to Christopher Belmonte; change of location: from 66 Avenue A to 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA; change of license type: (from Restaurant to General On-Premises) and change of category: (from Wine & Malt to All Alcohol).

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the public hearing notice and declares the meeting open.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to close today's Liquor License Hearing and resume on Monday, April 3 at the next Selectboard Meeting. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Personnel Board

Appoint Annie Levine as Great Falls Farmers Market Manager

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Annie Levine as the Great Falls Farmers Market Manager, with the term expiring on June 30, 2024. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Sign Integrated FY23-25 Collective Bargaining Agreements with the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. Patrol & Detectives Local 183 and Sergeants Local 184

Boutwell makes the motion to sign the FY23-25 Collective Bargaining Agreements with the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. Patrol & Detectives Local 183 and Sergeants Local 184. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Confirm Selectboard Intent Relative to Hiring Process for Town Clerk

- Ellis reiterates that the Board decided to do a qualifications-based appointment which involves an assessment by a combination of staff and volunteers who will then make recommendations to the Selectboard as to whether the Assistant Town Clerk is qualified to be appointed as the Town Clerk.
- Kuklewicz states he would like to have a conversation with the current Assistant Town Clerk, a couple of staff members, and two or three members of the public who have interacted with the Town Clerk's Office. He would also like to hear the Town Clerk's opinion; then have Ellis, Bourbeau, or a representative of that group come back to the Selectboard.
- Ellis will bring a "slate" of individuals who have expressed interest in the process next week for the Board to formally appoint to a hiring committee.

Brian McHugh, Director, FC Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Review of Proposed Change Orders for the FY21 CDBG Avenue A Streetscape Project

Boutwell makes the motion to approve Change Orders A and B for the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project Phase III. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Confirm Meeting Time and Location

- The Annual Town Meeting will be held at the TFHS Auditorium on Turnpike Road at 9:00 a.m.
- A survey will be sent out to Town Meeting Members to seek their input with regard to a hybrid meeting.
- Kuklewicz states he would prefer an in-person meeting.
- Wisniewski suggests a pre-meeting from 8:00 to 8:45 in order to answer questions new members may have.
- Kuklewicz suggests considering which Articles might need the most focus on during the pre-meeting.

Review Draft Warrant and Motions

Kuklewicz quickly goes through the Draft Warrant and Motions.

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- **Make Any Further Recommendations on Warrant Articles and Sources**

In response to a suggestion by Ellis, Kuklewicz states he would like the Board to re-recommend the Warrant Articles next week.

Town Administrator Business

- **Submission of Legislative Earmark Request of \$95,000 on behalf of the Montague Center Water District State for Electrical and Pump Upgrades**

The Board approves the Submission of Legislative Earmark Request of \$95,000 on behalf of the Montague Center Water District State for Electrical and Pump Upgrades.

- **Consider license agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC for Placement of Combined Sewer Overflow Notification Signage**

Ellis states he hopes to bring a license agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC for Placement of Combined Sewer Overflow Notification Signage either next week or the week after.

- **Speaking Appearance at MA Rural Wastewater Associate Conference: Infrastructure Assessment & Rehabilitation**

Ellis shares that he will be making a Speaking Appearance at MA Rural Wastewater Associate Conference: Infrastructure Assessment & Rehabilitation.

- **Request to participate in bids and contracts for FY2024 with FRCOG for #2 Heating Oil, Gasoline, Diesel**

Boutwell makes the motion to participate in bids and contracts for FY2024 with FRCOG for #2 Heating Oil, Gasoline, Diesel. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Topics not anticipated within the 48 hour posting/Grant Application Updates**

Ramsey gives the following updates on some of the grant applications that have been authorized:

- We've submitted a congressionally directed spending Federal Earmark request of \$2 million to advance the long-term CSO projects.
- Last week we were able to submit the USDARD Loan and Grant Application for the screw pump replacement project.
- Earlier today we opened up bids for the generator at the Clean Water Facility.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye