

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord (*joined remotely at 6:35*); Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; and CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little.

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 27, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from March 27 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

Bergeron states that weather-providing, the DPW will post "No Parking" signs downtown on Avenue A and Third Street for sidewalk cleaning and street-sweeping from Thursday into Friday.

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 Liquor License Hearing Notice
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Change of Liquor License as noted from Hubie's Tavern to Shea Theater Arts on 71 Avenue A. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Nay*

Lord leaves the meeting.

Personnel Board, DPW Superintendent, Tom Bergeron

- **Appoint Richard Bernier, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade C, Step 2, effective 4/10/2023**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Richard Bernier, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade C, Step 2, effective 4/10/2023. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Chris Vecchio, DPW Mechanic, Smith Vocational Work Study, effective 4/10/2023**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Chris Vecchio, DPW Mechanic, Smith Vocational Work Study, effective 4/10/2023. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request for cell phone stipend for Roy Dennis, \$5.77/week, effective April 10, 2023**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the cell phone stipend for Roy Dennis, \$5.77/week, effective April 10, 2023. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maggie Martin, The Brickhouse Community Resource Center, LLC

5K Fun Run and Walk, June 17th, 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Rail Trail, Unity Park and through "the Patch"

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Registration for Public Assembly as requested by Maggie Martin, The Brickhouse Community Resource Center, LLC; 5K Fun Run and Walk, June 17th, 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Rail Trail, Unity Park and through "the Patch"; and to waive the fee. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Newt-Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Parade, Kyle Cogswell

Use of Public Property: Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Parade, Sunday April 23, 2023, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, beginning at TFHS, taking a right on Montague Street, and ending at the baseball fields near Sheffield School; approximately 140 people in attendance

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Newt Guilbault Baseball League Opening Day Parade, Sunday April 23, 2023, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, beginning at TFHS, taking a right on Montague Street, and ending at the baseball fields near Sheffield School; approximately 140 people in attendance. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian Westbrook, RPM Festival

Requesting permission for a September 1-3, 2023, RPM Festival at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, with music Friday 5-10 PM, Saturday 12-10 PM, and Sunday 12-8 PM, two to four food vendors with R&G Club selling alcohol; roughly 1000 people in attendance

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the September 1-3, 2023 RPM Festival at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, with music Friday 5-10 PM, Saturday 12-10 PM, and Sunday 12-8 PM, two to four food vendors with R&G Club selling alcohol; roughly 1000 people in attendance. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute May 16, 2003 Town Election Warrant, attached hereto

- Kuklewicz reads the Town Election Warrant into the record.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the May 16, 2003 Town Election Warrant. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Personnel Board:

- **Update on Health Director Hiring Process**
 - **Candaicy David H1B Lottery Request Unsuccessful**
Ellis shares that we were not successful for getting a right through the lottery to submit an application for Candaicy David. There is a slight chance that the lottery will be reopened in August.
 - **Next Steps**
We have one strong candidate for the Health Director position. The Health Director hiring committee intends to meet this Thursday to talk about its process moving forward, to proceed and to interview if appropriate.
- **Town Nurse Resignation, effective April 24**
 - The Town Nurse has given her one-month notice of resignation, effective April 24.
 - The Board of Health will begin their process of identifying a new public health nurse to support the Town.
- **Appoint Qualifications Review Panel and Confirm Charge for the Town Clerk Vacancy: Steven Ellis, Raymond Godin, Deb Bourbeau, Mark Fairbrother, Carolyn Olsen, Elizabeth Irving, Eileen Seymour**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint the Qualifications Review Panel and Confirm Charge for the Town Clerk Vacancy: Steven Ellis, Raymond Godin, Deb Bourbeau, Mark Fairbrother, Carolyn Olsen, Elizabeth Irving, Eileen Seymour. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Transportation Planning Organization Regional/State Priority Projects

- **State TIP Priorities Updates**
 - The Montague-Bridge Replacement South Street over the Sawmill River is to be advertised in FY24. It is a \$4.2 million project.
 - The North Leverett Road Bridge over the Sawmill River is a \$6.4 million budget commitment and is to be advertised in FY25.
 - In FY26 the State expects to advertise the Canal District Megaproject for bridge replacement. It is currently forecast as a \$60,534,282 project.

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- **Regional TIP Priorities: Rt 63/No. Leverett Road Intersection Improvements (FY28 \$3,516,540)**
On the draft TIP for the region, we have included the intersection improvements at Route 63 and North Leverett Road. DOT has advanced the design, and the draft shows a pathway for the funding.
- **Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Under Consideration Pending Design Commitment**
 - Ramsey states we got a quote of \$313,000 from our engineers to bring the design up to Mass DOT TIP standards.
 - Under our existing contract, Stantec can provide us with bid-ready plans and specs; or they can develop plans and a guide book for us to follow in-house construction.
 - DPW has the ability, interest, and willingness to take on the project. They can do it under the guidance of the engineers' specifications and permitting process.
 - We would still need an appropriation for the material costs.
 - The next step would be to get a revised scope proposal from the engineers.

Town Meeting

- **Hear possible request from Town Moderator regarding Hybrid Town Meeting**
 - Bogusz shares the results of the survey regarding interest in a Hybrid Town Meeting: 50 people responded that they would show up in-person, 11 said via ZOOM, and 2 people said not at all.
 - Kuklewicz asks Ellis to bring the Town Moderator's recommendation next week.
- **Discuss survey data related to Town Meeting logistics**
 - Bogusz shares the results of the survey regarding the pre-meeting at 9:00: 26 people said yes, 15 said no, and 23 said maybe.
 - Kuklewicz suggests asking individuals who are planning to attend via ZOOM to sign in by 8:30/8:45 to make sure their technology is in sync with us.
- **Discuss finalizing Annual Town Meeting warrant on April 10, 2023**
The Annual Town Meeting Warrant will be reviewed next week.

Executive Assistant Report

- **Discuss upcoming Selectboard Zoom/Hybrid Meeting Schedule**
Kuklewicz and Boutwell are in favor of continuing the current schedule (the first Monday of the month is hybrid, and the rest are via ZOOM). The only exception would be holding a hybrid meeting next week as there are two staff contracts to review.
- **ABCC Extension of Patio Service and Takeaway/Delivery of Alcohol by On-Premises Licensees**
ABCC has extended the Patio Service and Takeaway/Delivery of Alcohol by On-Premises Licensees to April 1, 2024.
- **Discuss request for continuation of Patio/Outdoor Expansions**
Two establishments would like to continue their outdoor service. The Board would like them to re-submit the same paper work and have discussions with them in public.

Chelsey Little, Clean Water Facility Superintendent

- **Used Generator Bid Requests: Award contract to purchase 2019 MTU DS5450 unit from Power Gen Technologies for \$89,000. Next Steps**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to award the bid for the new generator for the Clean Water Facility to Power Gen Technologies in the amount of \$89,000. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - Next steps would be to have engineering redesign for the generator, which would cost approximately \$15,000.
- **Discuss/Review Draft 2023 Massachusetts Permit to Discharge Pollutants to Surface Waters**
 - Little summarizes the Draft 2023 Massachusetts Permit to Discharge Pollutants to Surface Waters.
 - There is a 30-day public comment period.

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- **Suction Lift Pump Station Bid Requests: Consider award to lowest responsive and qualifying bidder. (Bids due 4/3, 4 PM).**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the bid from Smith and Loveless in the amount of \$103,181 for the Suction Lift Station Pump System for the Industrial Park Pump Station. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - Next steps would be preparing the site for bypass and install over the summer and doing a procurement for the wet well rehab piece.
- **Authorization to apply to MassEVIP Fleets Incentives Grant for planned EV van purchase**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request of authorization to apply for the MassEVIP Fleets Incentives Grant for planned EV van purchase. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator Report

- **FirstLight Settlement Updates**
 - On March 24 we received word that FirstLight intends to submit a revised flow and fish passage agreement.
 - The intent right now is to see if FirstLight and the municipalities in relation to the recreational agreement and potential erosion agreement, as well as the representative of Indigenous Peoples might see our way forward toward signing agreements.
 - Ellis anticipates that there will be discussion among the settlement stakeholders and utility.
 - There is no guarantee that FERC will accept any further settlement agreements that are submitted.
- **Update on Colle-Shea Roof Bid Schedule**
The bid specs will be released for the Colle-Shea Roof on April 5. We are asking bidders to get their bids in by April 20.
- **Update on Trash and Recycling Bid Schedule**
We are intending to put the bid out for a contract that would be awarded effective July 1, 2024. The RFP will be released this spring.
- **Testimony to be Provided on New Cannabis Control Commission Business Regulations**
Ellis shares that he has accepted the opportunity at the invitation of the Mass Municipal Association to discuss the future of cannabis and municipalities.
- **Topics not anticipated within the 48 hour posting**
None

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye