

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:30 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; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; Town Meeting Moderator Ray Godin; 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 April 3, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from April 3, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Abstain

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

Jon Dobosz, Parks and Recreation Director

Execute Massachusetts Cultural Council Contract, Festivals and Projects Grant, \$2,500

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Massachusetts Cultural Council Contract, Festivals and Projects Grant, \$2,500 as described by Jon Dobosz; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Caitlin Kelley, Director of Montague Public Libraries

Request to transfer \$2,750 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Outdoor Library Facilities (225-5-184-5287)

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Caitlin Kelley to transfer \$2,750 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Outdoor Library Facilities (225-5-184-5287); and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

License for extended Use of Public Property for Outdoor Retail and Dining

Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls, for the extended Use of Public Property for Outdoor Retail and Dining, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

License for extended Use of Public Property for Outdoor Retail and Dining and closure of alley between building and Unity Park

Pioneer Valley Brewery, 151 Third Street, Turners Falls

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Public Property for Outdoor Retail and Dining and closure of alley between building and Unity Park, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Appoint Eli Smith to the Montague Tree Advisory Committee through 6/30/24

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Eli Smith to the Montague Tree Advisory Committee through 6/30/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant

Summer Meeting Schedule

Kuklewicz reads aloud the proposed Summer Meeting Schedule. The Board is in agreement with the schedule

Town Meeting

- **Hear Moderator's Report any Agreement to a "Hybrid" Annual Town Meeting**

Godin states that during a testing period, the technology failed. Therefore, the Annual Town Meeting will not be a "Hybrid." He recommends exploring other options for doing a hybrid meeting.

- **Town Meeting Warrant - To Approve and Execute May 6, 2023 draft warrant, attached hereto**
 - Lord reads aloud the beginning, the greeting, and the last section of the Town Meeting Warrant.

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- Boutwell makes the motion to approve and execute the May 6, 2023 draft warrant, attached hereto. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Town Meeting Motions - To consider any recommendations, attached hereto**

Boutwell makes the motion to recommend Articles 1 through 32 as presented for the Annual Town Meeting, May 6, 2023.

Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator

- **Authorize Grant Agreement with Housing and Urban Development FY23 Community Project Funding Program for Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project (\$975,000)**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Grant Agreement with Housing and Urban Development FY23 Community Project Funding Program for Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project (\$975,000); and authorize the Chair to sign it.

Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Update on Capital Plan Review and Development**

- Ramsey lists the reasons why it is good for Montague to do a Capital Plan.
- Ramsey reviews the sections of the Capital Plan (Financial Summary of the Community, Actively Funded Projects, Six-Year Project Schedule, Major Building Projects, Montague Future Debt Capacity, and Capital Planning Cycle).
- The next steps for the Capital Plan include: (1) continuing to vet the draft with the Capital Improvements Committee in April, (2) coming back to the Board in May as well as going to the Finance Committee with a presentation of the Plan, then (3) having a public comment period in June. Realistically, this should be wrapped up by July.

Clean Water Facility Superintendent, Chelsey Little

Monthly Permit Discharge Summary March 2023

- Little summarizes the March Discharge Summary, stating we made permit in all of our parameters.
- We started our chlorination season (April 1 through October 31). Little states we are 99% complete with the chlorination project that was funded a couple of years ago.

Steve Ellis, Town Administrator

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

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the License Agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC for

Placement of Combined Sewer Overflow as described. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Updates relative to potential FERC Settlement Agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC**

Ellis shares that we have received some engagement from FirstLight and we are moving towards analyzing exactly what they have to offer.

- **Topics not anticipated within the 48 hour posting/BOH Director position**

The Board of Health will be interviewing Ryan Paxton for the BOH Director position on Wednesday.

Executive Sessions:

- **Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2) to conduct contract renewal negotiations with Clean Water Facility Superintendent, Chelsey Little; votes may be taken**
- **Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2) to conduct contract renewal negotiations with Police Lieutenant, Chris Bonnett; votes may be taken**
- The Chair deems that holding these discussions in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

OTHER:

Next Meetings:

- Selectboard: Monday, April 24, 2023, via Zoom
- Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, May 6, 2023, 9:00 AM Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Rd., Montague
- Pre-Town Meeting Cider and Donuts Information Session, May 6, 2023, 8:00 AM, Turners Falls High School Cafeteria