

# MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

## VIA ZOOM

**Monday, June 12, 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; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; Police Chief Chris Williams; and Library Director Caitlin Kelley.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:00 PM.

### **Approve Selectboard Minutes from June 6, 2023**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from June 6, 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

### **Chelsey Little, CWF Superintendent**

- **Permit Monthly Discharge Summary: May 2023**

Little summarizes the Permit Monthly Discharge Summary for May 2023.

- **Abatement Request: FY2023 Second Half Billing Period**

- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 4 K Street, Turners Falls in the amount of \$1,744.82. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 40 Montague Street, Turners Falls in the amount of \$374.11. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 148 L Street Turners Falls in the amount of \$592.90. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 22 Hillside Ave, Turners Falls in the amount of \$152.46. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 36 Third Street, Montague in the amount of \$360.82. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 200 Avenue A in the amount of \$2,845.92. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate the sewer billing for the FY2023 Second Half Billing Period for 183/185 L Street, Turners Falls in the amount of \$220.22. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Franklin County Tech School/Montague Airport Sewer Permit Request: Bryan Camden, Airport Manager**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Bryan Camden for the Franklin County Tech School/Montague Airport Sewer Permit. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Proposed Sewer Commission Strategic Planning Retreat**

- Little feels that due to the fact that there is a lot going on with the new collection requirements, it would make sense to have a Strategic Planning Retreat with the Sewer Commission.
- Ellis adds that the context in terms of the regulatory expectations are changing around us and we need to see some holistic planning. He would like to have the planning session in July.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ellis suggests devoting a half-day to discuss this issue.
- Kuklewicz asks Ellis, Little, and Bergeron to develop an agenda to help keep everyone on task.
- If this is a public meeting, Kuklewicz states it should be just a brain-storming/strategic-planning session.
- Boutwell states that once it is all planned out, then it would have to be brought to a meeting to be approved.
- The Board prefers having a half-day session sometime in July, preferably on a Friday afternoon.

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#### Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

- **Foreign Objects Pad at Transfer Station**

Bergeron explains that now that we are taking more foreign objects (grits) from the headworks for the CWF, it is necessary to use a pad that gets dried, then put into a dumpster and hauled away.

- **Discussion of project need, approach, and timeline**

- Ramsey has discussed this issue with Weston and Sampson. It would cost \$15,000 for the design specs.
- Bergeron discusses using a grinder pump to pump the foreign objects into the sewer. Another possibility is a tight tank. They both have their pros and cons.
- Ramsey shares that if we were to do the construction in-house, it would cost upwards of \$200,000. If we were to bid out the whole project, it would cost about \$500,000.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz about whether there are other uses for a pumping system (i.e., if we end up with a composting facility), Ramsey states that the Town is in the middle of doing a Sludge Composting Facility Feasibility Study. Should the Town move forward with that facility, there would be some overlap or continuity with this project where it could tie in to this pump station. Weston and Sampson Engineers is doing that study.

- **Authorize use of \$15,000 from ARPA funds (wastewater category) for design services for the foreign objects pad**

- **Authorize professional services agreement in the amount of \$15,000 with Weston and Sampson Engineers for design**

*Lord makes the motion to authorize the use of \$15,000 from ARPA funds (wastewater category) for design services for the foreign objects pad; to authorize the professional services agreement in the amount of \$15,000 with Weston and Sampson Engineers for design; and to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### Speeding Concerns, Montague Center, Millers Falls Rd., and Lake Pleasant

- In response to residents' complaints about people speeding, Chief Williams states that there are three electronic speeding signs on Main Street in Montague Center and one on Millers Falls Road going toward downtown Millers. There have also been complaints with regard to Lake Pleasant Road. Officers have been out in their spare time running radar and stopping cars. He states it is hard to keep up with a Town our size with the size of the department that we have.
- Lord states that the roadway engineering makes it very difficult for the drivers to get the right cues.
- Lord hopes that in terms of pedestrian issues, maybe we can look into flashy blinker signs.
- Resident Corey Sutton states that he is aware that the Police Department has other responsibilities, but the residential and commercial speeding problem is getting worse. He feels that if a driver of a commercial vehicle can't stay in his lane, that he should come into Town via the Gill-Montague Bridge.
- Kuklewicz suggests asking local businesses to ask their trucking companies to use specific routes to avoid tight intersections.
- Resident Michael Marcotrigiano suggests speaking to a civil engineer consultant that specializes in traffic calming.
- Ramsey shares that the Town has implemented some traffic-calming measures (i.e., extending curbs and painting narrower travel lanes), but there certainly is more that can be done. Some measures have been identified in the Town's Complete Streets Program Plan, which is becoming due for an update. These concerns should be incorporated in the plan. The Town does have access to funding these types of projects.
- Resident Roy Rosenblatt states that in addition to the speeding issue, nobody pays attention to the crosswalks.
- Bergeron states that the flashing pedestrian lights haven't been getting used by pedestrians.
- Kuklewicz asks Bergeron to look into Lord's suggestion regarding pavement to slow traffic.

#### Chris Williams, Police Chief

#### **Requests support and approval of the Mass. Internet Crimes against Children Task Force Program Agency Application and Agreement**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Police Chief to execute the Agreement with the Mass. Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Nay, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### Caitlin Kelley, Library Director

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

### VIA ZOOM

**Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

#### **Falls Fest Organizing Committee: Request for support of Falls Fest 2023**

- Local businessman, Klon Koehler summarizes the 2023 Falls Festival Proposal.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to support the Falls Fest Organizing Committee with a request for a Falls Fest 2023, and to fund up to \$12,000 of ARPA funds to help support the event. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Mitchell Ryan, Summer Help with Clean Water Facility, 32 hours/week, \$15.00/hour, effective 6/13/2023**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Mitchell Ryan, Summer Help with Clean Water Facility, 32 hours/week, \$15.00/hour, effective 6/13/2023. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Discuss proposed scope and consultants for Town Wage and Classification Study**  
Ellis reports that the Town received a grant for \$35,000 from the Division of Local Services through the Community Compact Grant Program. We will have a comprehensive review of all of the job descriptions of all positions in the Town. We will work with consultant, Libby Corbo and the Collins Center at UMass. An implementation strategy in terms of the Town's Wage Scale will be suggested, which the Selectboard and Finance Committee will be presented with. Ellis hopes to have a contract on the 26th.

Lord has to excuse himself temporarily.

#### **Ann Fisk, Montague Mug Race**

##### **Use of Public Property: Montague Center Common and Montague Streets, August 19, 2023, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Montague Center Common and Montague Streets, August 19, 2023, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Stephen Valeski, Pioneer Valley Brewery**

##### **One Day Entertainment Application to hold Christmas in July on July 29, 2023 from 5:00-10:00 PM at 151 3rd Street, Turners Falls**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the One Day Entertainment Application to hold Christmas in July on July 29, 2023 from 5:00-10:00 PM at 151 3rd Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the One Day Beer and Wine License for the Christmas in July event on July 29, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Peter Wackernagel, Youth Climate Action of Franklin Country**

##### **FirstLight Sustains 2023 Grant Application Request permission and support for proposal enhance existing pollinator habitat at Town Hall and Unity Park with \$5,000 grant**

*Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the request to apply for the FY23 Grant for the Youth Climate Action through FirstLight as described. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Brian McHugh**

- **Avenue A Streetscape Improvements Phase III**  
McHugh discusses installing a meter pedestal and replacing the brick work in the tree belt in front of the Shady Glen Restaurant.
- **Contract extension between HM Nunes & Sons Construction and the Town of Montague for the Avenue Streetscape Improvements Project**
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Change Order as shown in the packet on page 35, item D in the amount of \$7,048. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
  - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve Addendum #1 with HM Nunes & Sons Construction and the Town of Montague for the Avenue Streetscape Improvements Project and extend the contract until September 30, 2023; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

### VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM

**Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator**

- **Discuss implementation timing of ARPA capital projects and other capital projects**  
Ramsey summarizes the implementation timing of the following ARPA projects: (1) Town Hall Solar, (2) Town Hall slate roof repair, (3) Town Hall window replacement, and (4) Unity State Park Lighting Project.
- **Review of grant funded projects being closed out as of June 30, 2023**
  - The Town was funded a small Mass Office of Disabilities grant to make accessibility improvements to the new retirement office. That project is being closed out as of June 30.
  - The MassWorks Canal District Gateway Project is in the process of being closed out.
  - Ellis adds that the CWF generator grant and the Municipal Roof Grant are also in the process of being closed out.

#### **Town Administrator's Business**

- **Consider MOU between Montague and the FRCOG for Age Friendly Planning (Mass in Motion) FY24 Grant in the amount of \$4,230**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to enter into the MOU between Montague and the FRCOG for Age Friendly Planning (Mass in Motion) FY24 Grant in the amount of \$4,230, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Execute Contract for \$205,000 for the Shea-Colle Roof Project with Triumph Roofing Inc. of Baldwinville, MA**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract for \$205,000 for the Shea-Colle Roof Project with Triumph Roofing Inc. of Baldwinville, MA; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Update on work with Economic Development Planning Council**
  - Ellis has been working closely with FRCOG member Linda Dunlavy, who is a key member of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission.
  - Last Friday there was a Rural Policy Advisory Commission meeting where the audience was expanded to involve members of the Small Town Administrators legislative subcommittee.
  - Outreach is being done through Franklin County's Chamber of Commerce.
  - Ellis will be in Boston on July 12, where he will be able to present some of the key priorities that are emerging.

**Executive Session in accordance with G. L. C.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares**

- The Chair declares that holding this discussion in open session would be detrimental
- *Boutwell makes the motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with G. L. C.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **OTHER:**

**Next Meeting:** Selectboard, Monday, June 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM