

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, September 11, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; and Airport Director Bryan Camden.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Approve Selectboard Minutes from August 28, 2023

Postponed until next week

Kuklewicz asks us to take a moment to remember those that perished during the 9/11 attacks.

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 & Recreation Director

Soap Box Races being held on Sunday, September 17, 2023

The Soap Box Races event will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

- Dobosz explains the route.
- The deadline for racers is this Wednesday. More racers are needed.
- Check-in is between 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Nova Motorcycles.
- Volunteers are welcome.
- Information is available on the Town and the Parks and Rec Facebook sites, as well as the Montague Soap Box Races site.

Chelsey Little, Clean Water Superintendent

Monthly Permit Report Summary, August 2023

Little displays and reviews the monthly Permit Report Summary. Everything looks good for August.

Generator Bid Results and Budget

Request \$209,000 ARPA funding to enable award pending STM request

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the use of \$209,000 of ARPA funds to enable the award of the generator installation project in the Clean Water Facility, pending Special Town Meeting request for approval. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Award bid to Collins Electric in the sum of \$282,130

Boutwell makes the motion to award the bid for the generator installation as discussed to Collins Electric in the sum of \$282,130. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute task order with Wright-Pierce for Ops Building HVAC engineering for \$7,500

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the task order with Wright-Pierce for Ops Building HVAC engineering for \$7,500. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute DEP GAP III Grant Contract and Agreement

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the DEP GAP III Grant Contract and Agreement. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

DPW Updates - Tom Bergeron

Collection System Updates

- Kyle Bessette has been keeping constant records with the overflows after all the storms we've had.
- We've been doing a lot of investigation on our systems and are finding a lot of things that we did not know anything about. We are doing a lot of dye testing in response.
- There has been no damage (i.e., collapsed pipes).

Wendell Road and other Paving Updates

- Wendell Road was paved last week. We will be doing some backfilling on the edges.

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- We will be paving Ellis Road ourselves as Chapter 90 won't cover it as it is not a Town road.
- We are still waiting for the money that we're getting from the State (Chapter 90 funding).
- There are paving projects that DPW will have to take on that the Town will have to fund (alleyways, parking lots)
- Ramsey shares that the FRCOG is in the process of developing a pavement management program.

11th Street Bridge Repair Updates

- Engineers have looked at the 11th Street Bridge.
- There is some work that the DPW can do (i.e., replacing nuts and bolts that have fallen out of the railing and working on the sidewalk).
- **Other (not on agenda)**
The DPW did some repair work in the cemetery on Millers Falls Road. They took out some roots, did some repaving, and smoothed the area out.

Notice of Airport Grant Award from the Federal Aviation Administration in the Amount for Esign of Apron and Taxi Way (\$75,420)

Camden gives the notice of the Airport Grant Award from the Federal Aviation Administration in the Amount for Esign of Apron and Taxi Way (\$75,420).

Personnel Board:

Accept Max Pellerin Resignation from the Airport Commission

Boutwell makes the motion to accept with regret Max Pellerin's Resignation from the Airport Commission. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Josh Lively, Airport Commission, to fill Max Pellerin unexpired term (6/30/26), effective September 12, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Josh Lively, Airport Commission, to fill Max Pellerin's unexpired term (6/30/26), effective September 12, 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Jasper Adams, Cultural Council, 3 year term until 6/30/2026, effective September 12, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jasper Adams, Cultural Council, 3 year term until 6/30/2026, effective September 12, 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Angela Amidon, Selectboard Administrative Assistant, Grade B, Step 1, Effective September 20, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Angela Amidon, Selectboard Administrative Assistant, Grade B, Step 1, Effective September 20, 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, FCRH&RA

To review, approve and execute the Response to the FY22-23 Montague CDBG Response to Additional Special Conditions

Boutwell makes the motion to approve and execute the Response to the FY22-23 Montague CDBG Response to Additional Special Conditions, and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Review October 10, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Discuss Proposed Articles, Scope and Sequence of Warrant

Synopses of each Article is given.

Consider citizen petition to exclude Turnpike Road zoning article

- Extensive discussion ensues with regard to Article 17.
- The Board decides to take the Article off the warrant for now.

Assistant Town Administrator Business

Execute contract with JJS Universal Construction Inc. of Dudley, MA for the Montague Center Library Masonry Repointing Project for a lump sum fee of \$70,000 and a total contract value not to exceed \$85,000 for unit costs over the baseline price that are to be approved in advance by the Assistant Town Administrator

Boutwell makes the motion to sign and award the contract to JJS Universal Construction Inc. of Dudley, MA for the Montague Center Library Masonry Repointing Project for a lump sum fee of \$70,000 and a total contract value not to exceed \$85,000 for

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unit costs over the baseline price that are to be approved in advance by the Assistant Town Administrator. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Contract Larochelle Construction, Inc. of South Hadley, MA for the Montague Center Library Slate Roof Repair Project for a lump sum fee of \$35,000 and a total contract value not to exceed \$45,000 for unit costs over the baseline price that are to be approved in advance by the Assistant Town Administrator

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the contract with Larochelle Construction, Inc. of South Hadley, MA for the Montague Center Library Slate Roof Repair Project for a lump sum fee of \$35,000 and a total contract value not to exceed \$45,000 for unit costs over the baseline price that are to be approved in advance by the Assistant Town Administrator. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Other (not on agenda)

The demolition of 38 Avenue A will begin tomorrow morning.

Town Administrator Business

Authorize Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, to sign Mass Cultural Council Festival Grant contract for receipt of \$2,500 in grant funds to support Falls Fest 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, to sign Mass Cultural Council Festival Grant contract for receipt of \$2,500 in grant funds to support Falls Fest 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Update on Colle-Shea Theater Roof Project

- The spec has changed. Ellis approved a \$4,700 change order, which brings the cost to \$209,700.
- Ellis has been working intensively with the contractor.
- The project will hopefully be completed by the middle of next week.

Discussion of Public Communication During Emergency Incidents

- The Northwest District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts State Police held an investigation, the result of which indicates that our ability to communicate is subordinate.
- With regard to the closure and reopening of the patch neighborhood, Ellis believes we can and intend to give more information in the event of a future incident, but we will need to do so within the rules that apply to that specific incident. There will be some persisting limitations.
- Lord states he feels communication was poor. He feels that unnecessary fear was created amongst the Town residents and relevant details were not provided.
- Kuklewicz would like to have a discussion with Chief Williams, maybe in an Executive Session, to determine the chain of command and how to better communicate with residents.
- Residents shared their feelings about the event and express that they too would like better communication.

Review Rural Sector Input to Economic Development Planning Council

- The plan is going to be finalized by December 31st.
- There is concern about equity; an aging population and population loss; and the limits of municipal capacity to plan, fund, and advance economic development plans.
- The conversation is centered on how to make a better commonwealth where people want to live and see real economic opportunity.
- Ellis will be attending the next four or five meetings before the work is wrapped up.
- One of the issues Ellis is pursuing is the advancement of mill projects.
- Discussion ensues with regard to the definition of "rural."

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye