

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, September 25, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; and FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Approve Selectboard Minutes from September 18, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from September 18, 2023 as amended. 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

Sewer Commission with Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

Request for new sewer connection at 6 Randall Wood Drive, Montague

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the new sewer connection at 6 Randall Wood Drive, Montague. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss Process for approving Sewer Connection Permits

- Bergeron informs the Board that a resident applied to the DPW for a new sewer connection.
- Ellis states that for these requests, the sewer regulations indicate that they should go to the Sewer Commission for approval. The Sewer Commission may delegate responsibility for the assessment and approval to the DPW.
- Bergeron states that once a year, the DPW sends a list to DEP of new sewer connections in the Town. He will also send the Board the list.
- Little states that Mass General Law would like oversight from the Sewer Commission. Typically in these situations the department head would look over the paper work, then give a recommendation to the Board.

Personnel Board:

Appoint Ralph Hillock, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade C, Step 2, 40 hrs/week, effective 09/26/2023

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Ralph Hillock as a DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade C, Step 2, 40 hrs/week, effective 09/26/2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Sewer Commission with Chelsey Little, CWF Superintendent

FY24 Sewer Rate Hearing

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the proposed FY24 Sewer Rates as presented by Superintendent Little. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Contract with Collins Electric Co for the DWF Generator Installation Project in the amount of \$282,130.00

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract with Collins Electric Co for the DWF Generator Installation Project in the amount of \$282,130.00; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss Project Management Assistance

Little states that there are currently 11 projects that the CWF is dealing with and she needs help managing them. She suggests hiring Bob Trombley to help her. Ellis and the Board support her decision.

Discussion of permits for Peskeompskut Park and Avenue A for Falls Fest, led by a representative of the Shea Theater, along with Klon Koehler and Janel Nockleby

Falls Fest Event, Various Locations, October 21, 2023, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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Use of Public Property, 38 Avenue A, Spinner Spark and in front of Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property, 38 Avenue A, Spinner Spark and in front of Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Peskeompskut Park, Musical Acts, set up 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Clean up 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park, Musical Acts, set up 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Clean up 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Shea Theater Arts Center, One Day License, Beer & Wine, at Peskeompskut Park

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from the Shea Theater Arts Center for a One Day License, Beer & Wine, at Peskeompskut Park; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

FRTA Updates

- Singleton goes over the items that were discussed at the FRTA meeting.
- Discussion on the Advisory Board By-Laws had to be postponed for several reasons. Singleton will bring them at a future Selectboard meeting to review them with the Board.

October 10, 2023 Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant and Recommendations

Special Town Meeting Warrant - to approve and execute October 10, 2023 draft warrant with amendment to Article 8, attached hereto

- Ramsey reviews the amendment to Article 8.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the items on the October 10, 2023 draft warrant as discussed, with changes noted in Article 8. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Kuklewicz states that a note was received from the NAGE Union regarding Article 1. Kuklewicz suggests reviewing this next week. Boutwell and Lord agree.
- Ellis volunteers to inform the people that are concerned about Article 1 that the Board intends to continue discussions regarding this topic.

Special Town Meeting Motions - To consider any recommendations

- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to recommend Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant as amended. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to accept the Special Town Meeting Motions as reviewed and voted previously. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator

Execute Contract with Davenport Trucking Inc for Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project in the amount of \$325,495.00

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract with Davenport Trucking Inc for Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project in the amount of \$325,495.00; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

Request for authorization to submit a training grant application to the Department of Industrial Accidents Workplace Safety Program

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator or Assistant Town Administrator to submit a training grant application to the Department of Industrial Accidents Workplace Safety Program. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Share STAM Member Input to the Governor's Office Regarding Municipal Needs

- Ellis shares that the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts Group (STAM) has been offered the opportunity to give input to the Lieutenant Governor Driscoll's Office, especially with policy and programmatic initiatives and reforms in the coming years.
- There is a movement afoot related to creating a municipal building assistance authority.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

- **Training.** Ellis will be spending three days attending a training session to acquire CEUs for his role as the Board's representative for the Retirement Board. He may work remotely.
- **Shea Theater Roof.** The HVAC was restored in time for a Shea Theater event this past weekend.
- **Colle Roof.** There will be a revised schedule this Thursday. The project should be done in the first two weeks of October.

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