

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, October 23, 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; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; Town Planner Maureen Pollock; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen.

Approve Selectboard Minutes from October 2 and 16, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from October 2 and 16, 2023. 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

Maureen Pollock, Town Planner

Execute Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Grant Agreement to complete the MVP 2.0 Pilot Process, \$29,000

Boutwell makes the motion to approve and execute the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Grant Agreement to complete the MVP 2.0 Pilot Process, \$29,000. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Collector

Request for special article to allow payment of FY23 out of grade pay due to Charlene Langenback

Seymour requests a special article to allow payment of FY23 out of grade pay due to Charlene Langenback. The Board agrees to put this item onto the Special Town Meeting warrant in February.

Tom Bergeron, DWP Superintendent

Request to Appoint Aiden Bailey, Student Intern for the 2023/2024 School Year, \$16.00/hr, 0 - 40 hrs/wk

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Aiden Bailey, Student Intern for the 2023/2024 School Year, \$16.00/hr, 0 - 40 hrs/wk. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Steve Ellis, Town Administrator

Discussion of pending UEW MOA

Ellis reviews pending UEW MOAs that he, Bergeron, and the Union have come up with.

- **Truck Driver/Laborer in Training**
The change in the CDL training requirements in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have affected Bergeron's ability to hire people into the entry level Truck Driver/Laborer position. Seeking to develop a credentialing program would be challenging for our community. Creating a Truck Driver/Laborer in Training position beginning in Grade B would allow Bergeron the time to assess an individual.
- **Lead Heavy Equipment Operator**
The position of Lead Heavy Equipment Operator would be modified in that the individual would take on extra responsibility when they are actively preparing for and managing an in-the-field job site, which would provide clarity and supervision at the job site. This would provide them out-of-grade pay and in the process negate the Town's obligation to have an individual filling that role at all times.
- **Custodian Services**
We have had a vacancy for a Custodian for a while, but we are not generating candidates. In the short term, we are looking to an outside vendor as an option, but we would need to include an out clause in the contract.
- **Uniform Allowance**
Bergeron's Mechanic Team would like the same accommodation given to the staff of the Clean Water Facility, which involves shifting to a uniform service that would focus the bulk of their stipend on steel-toed boots. Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Town Administrator Steve Ellis to endorse and sign the intended UEW MOA subject to review of the final MOA prepared by counsel. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Al Cummings, Trustees of the War Memorial Committee

Annual Rag Shag Parade, October 31, 2023, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, from Aubuchon Parking Lot, down Avenue A to the Discovery Center Parking Lot

Lord makes the motion to approve the request of the Trustees of the War Memorial Committee to have the Annual Rag Shag Parade, October 31, 2023, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, from Aubuchon Parking Lot, down Avenue A to the Discovery Center Parking Lot. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain

FY25 Budget

Review Preliminary Revenue Projections and Consider Excess Levy Capacity Options

Ellis reviews the Preliminary Revenue Projections and Excess Levy Capacity Options

- One of the variables is the setting of the Excess Capacity. Ellis consulted with Joanne Blier, the School District Business Manager. Our affordable assessment figure is the first reality-based number that clicks in.
- Ellis displays and goes over the Revenue Estimates for FY2025 and introduces three different scenarios.
- In response to a question by Lord, Olsen identifies the \$2,180,701 figure as Free Cash for FY2024.
- The Board Members are leaning toward Scenario #1.
- In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Olsen shares that the school district will be receiving a preliminary draft by November 1st.

Town Administrator's Business

Execute Contract with Johnson Asphalt Paving, LLC of Northfield for Crack Sealing and Line Striping at the Unity Park Parking Lot and Walkway, \$5,850.00

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract with Johnson Asphalt Paving, LLC of Northfield for Crack Sealing and Line Striping at the Unity Park Parking Lot and Walkway, \$5,850.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss FY25 IT Procurement

Ellis reviews our current IT situation, which is very successful. Continuity with Suzor IT would be very valuable. With the approval of the Board, Ellis states that we will proceed to work with the OSD Contract.

Falls Fest 2024 Plans

The Falls Fest was postponed due to inclement weather. Planning has begun for next year. The Board agrees to provide the same allotment through ARPA funding.

Topics not anticipated within the 48-hour posting

None

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.

Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye