

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, Matt Lord (joined at 6:10 PM); Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; and FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh.

Selectboard Chair opens the Selectboard meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Minutes of December 11 and 18, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 11 and 18, 2023. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - 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

Tom Bergeron, Superintendent, Montague Highway Department

Authorize and Execute FY25 FRCOG Collective Highway Bid Process

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize and execute the FY25 FRCOG Collective Highway Bid Process. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Montague Transfer Station, DEP 3rd Party Inspection Report and Corrective Action Form

Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Montague Transfer Station DEP 3rd Party Inspection Report as discussed. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Clean-up of Lots (*not on agenda*)

Bergeron gives an update with regard to "No Parking" signs when the parking lots need to be cleaned.

St. Kazimierz Society, 197 A, Turners Falls

Request Change of Manager on Club All Alcohol, Section 12 Liquor License; Brenda Ozdarski

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Change of Manager on Club All Alcohol, Section 12 Liquor License at St. Kazimierz Society, 197 A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Entertainment License Requests

Annierose Klingbeil, Musica Franklin at Unity Park, May 11, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request made by Annierose Klingbeil for an Entertainment License for Musica Franklin at Unity Park, May 11, 2024; and waive the fee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Lawrence George, Brick and Feather Brewery, 78 11th Street, Turners Falls, Yearly license request

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request made by Lawrence George for a Yearly Entertainment License for Brick and Feather Brewery, 78 11th Street, Turners Falls. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Rescind vote of 12/18/2023 to change wage rate for on call reserve officers pending Special Town Meeting consideration of this revision to Schedule II, Appointed Officials

Boutwell makes the motion to rescind the motion of 12/18/2023 to change the wage rate for on call reserve officers - Boutwell made the motion, Lord seconded, and the vote was unanimously approved - and move it forward to Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Consider adoption of Approved Business Meals Reimbursement Schedule as proposed by the Town Administrator

Lord makes the motion to approve the Approved Business Meals Reimbursement Schedule as proposed by the Town Administrator. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye

Appoint David Dempsey to the Energy Committee, 6 month term, term expires 6/30/2024

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint David Demspey to the Energy Committee, 6 month term, term expires 6/30/2024. . Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Kristi Bodin, Cable Advisory Committee, 2 year, 6 month term, term expires 6/30/26

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Kristi Bodin, Cable Advisory Committee, 2 year, 6 month term, term expires 6/30/26. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Update on Montague Exit from Police Civil Service (Steve)

Boutwell makes the motion to move forward with adding a motion to the March 15 Special Town Meeting regarding Montague's Exit from Police Civil Service. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Informational Meeting for FY24 CDBG Application

- McHugh reviews the CDBG Program: Eligible Activities (Housing assistance, Public facilities, Infrastructure, Public Social Services, and Planning Projects) and Process.
- The Selectboard decides to see what they get for requests before making decisions on how much to fund each agency.
- Kuklewicz brings up the inadequate size of our meeting space. Ramsey had some preliminary concepts looked at. An engineering design may be eligible for this grant.
- Ramsey mentions that a Lake Pleasant resident commented that the Parks Department has an interest in advancing Rutter's Park Phase II (half of a basketball court and a community garden). We have bid-ready plans specked out.

Brian McHugh, Director, FCRHRA

To Approve Final Quarterly Report for the FY21 Town of Montague Community Development Block Grant Program Activities

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Final Quarterly Report for the FY21 Town of Montague Community Development Block Grant Program Activities; and authorize the Chair to sign the necessary documents. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

To Authorize Payment #2 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$935.00 for the FY22-23 Montague Hillcrest Park Construction Project

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #2 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$935.00 for the FY22-23 Montague Hillcrest Park Construction Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

**Executive Assistant Business
Special and Annual Town Meeting**

Article submission deadline for March 14, 2024 Special Town Meeting; suggested date Wednesday, February 7th at 4:00 PM (changed from previous meeting which was February 8th at 4:00 PM)

Boutwell makes the motion to set the deadline for submission of articles for the March 14 Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, February 7th at 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Article submission deadline for May 4, 2024 Annual and Special Town Meeting: suggested date, Wednesday, March 13th at 4:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to set the deadline for submission of articles for the May 4, 2024 Annual Town Meeting and potential Special prior to Annual Town Meeting for Wednesday, March 13 at 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Review of slate of FY25 Capital Requests

- Ramsey reviews the updated slate of FY25 Capital and Non-Capital Requests.
- The CIC met last week and approved the slate. They are meeting with the Finance Committee to go over the slate in more detail.
- In response to a question by Lord, Ellis and Ramsey state that the \$575,000 from the sale of real estate can be a source of funds for some of the projects.

Consider expediting two requests to March 14, Special Town Meeting: DPW Skid Steer and DPW and Ferry Road Culvert Replacement

- *Boutwell makes the motion to move forward the discussion of the Skid Steer to be placed on the Special Town Meeting in March. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to move forward the discussion of the South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement to be placed on the Special Town Meeting in March. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Completion of Burn Dump Cap Repair

The Burn Dump Cap Repair was completed over the holiday break. Ramsey provides images of what the retention basin looks like.

Overview of Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Design (Affecting sidewalks in front of 1, 2, 38, 52, 60, 64, and 76 Avenue A)

Ramsey gives a broad overview of the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Design. The items he discusses include ramps for ADA access, bike racks, benches, planters, signal overheads, street lamps, and a gathering space in front of Town Hall.

Town Administrator's Business

FY25 Budget Updates

- **Review Budget Calendar and Set SB Schedule for Review and Recommendations**
- **Set Agenda and Special Topics for January 16 Budget and Personnel Hearing**
- Lord mentions that according to CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little, the new regulatory requirements are going to be a challenge.
- Discussion ensues about Airport Manager Bryan Camden's concern regarding the status of the solar contract.
- Ellis states he would like to make sure we continue with vendor services for IT.
- Ellis discusses the Public Buildings Utility Budget.
- Other items Ellis touches on include the Collections System/Lead Operator position, the contract with Casella, the charging stations, and the health insurance inflationary figure.
- Ellis states that overall, the total Town Budget reflects a 3.6% increase (without the additional Collections System/Lead Operator position).

Town Request for \$75,000 for a Wastewater Asset Vulnerability Inventory included in MassDEP 2024 Draft Intended Use Plan for Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs

Ellis states that we submitted a grant request to DEP to the Clean Water Trust Funds and they have included us on their intended use draft plan. They would give \$75,000 for a study that was quoted by Wright Pierce at \$125,000. We would need to appropriate the full \$125,000 study cost at the March 14 Special Town Meeting, knowing that we would be responsible for \$50,000.

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Approve Steven Ellis as NetDMR Signatory for EPA Reporting

Postponed until next week.

Changes to State Regulations Governing Opioid Settlement Payments

The State has now taken the steps required to establish a special reserve fund account. This would allow us to remove funds from the stabilization account and place them into a special revenue account.

Update on FERC Relicensing Process and Recent FirstLight Filings

Ellis gives an update on the FERC Relicensing Process and Recent FirstLight Filings. Firstlight will be responsible for maintaining all of the recreational facilities.

Developing Conversation re: Ambulance Service in Montague

Turners Falls Fire District and the Montague Fire District would like to have a conversation regarding ambulance service in Montague. Kuklewicz volunteers to be part of this conversation.

Updates re: "White Bridge" Repairs and Closure

- Chief Williams has met with DOT officials to make sure we have a clearer sense of what is going on with regard to the White Bridge repairs.
- Repairs will be variable based on weather and the nature of the work they are doing on a given day.
- We anticipate that there will be alternating single lane traffic on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/MMA Voting Delegate

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Montague Town Administrator to serve as Voting Delegate to the MMA 2024 Annual Meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(1)(3) to discuss strategy with respect in collective bargaining with the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Union, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares

The Chair deems that having this discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the Town's position.

Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(1)(3) to discuss strategy with respect in collective bargaining with the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Union. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye