

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; and Airport Manager Bryan Camden.

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

Approve Minutes of January 22 and 29, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of January 22 and 29, 2024 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

Jeff Singleton shares that he has been looking at the Chapter 70 data on the DESE website. Both the City of Somerville and the City of Boston are pretty deep in the hold harmless.. Somerville is not a rural community.

Airport Budget and Capital Planning

Discuss Consolidated Capital Request for the Airport Pioneer Aviation Ramp Project

Boutwell makes the motion to recommend putting the Capital Request for the Airport Pioneer Aviation Ramp Project on the Special Town Meeting scheduled for March. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Mass DOT Aeronautics Grant Assurances for the Airport Pioneer Aviation Ramp Project

- *Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Mass DOT Aeronautics Grant Assurances for the Airport Pioneer Aviation Ramp Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Grant Assurance Agreement with Mass DOT. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Other Budget Planning Updates

The next Airport Commission meeting is on Tuesday, February 13. They will be discussing the budget and what additional expenditure cuts can be made.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Execute Grant Agreement and associated documents with Executive Office of Economic Development for the Avenue A Buffer Line Improvement Project (\$500,000)

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Grant Agreement and associated documents with Executive Office of Economic Development for the Avenue A Buffer Line Improvement Project (\$500,000); and authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to sign them where required. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Task Order with Wright-Pierce for initial technical services/Evaluation Phase for the Avenue A CSO Buffer Line Improvement Project (\$26,035). To be funded from the grant.

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Task Order with Wright-Pierce for initial technical services/Evaluation Phase for the Avenue A CSO Buffer Line Improvement Project (\$26,035), to be funded from the grant; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute MassDEP Permit for the Yard Waste Area at the Transfer Station

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the MassDEP Permit for the Yard Waste Area at the Transfer Station. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Abstain, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

FY25 Budget Updates

- We have the head room to accommodate the likely expenses (i.e., the airport).

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
In-Person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM

- We traded drafts of the I/I costs. There is a formulaic basis for determining I/I costs.
- With regarding to the overage cost of the Millers Falls this year, we have flexibility to look at it in different ways. The source of the overage has been identified; Bergeron will give an update next Monday.

Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Other Deadlines

- The Special Town Meeting Warrant is scheduled for March 14. The article submission deadline is February 7th at 4:00 PM. All background materials should be submitted by February 15th. A draft of the warrant will be reviewed next week. The final warrant will be executed on February 26th.
- The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 4th. The article submission deadline is March 13th.
- Bergeron is making a late special article request for the Annual Town Meeting.

Update on Classification and Compensation Study Progress

- Work on the Classification and Compensation Study Progress is ongoing.
- The consultants have completed all of the staff interviews and are in the process of drafting proposed revised job descriptions and mapping jobs based on the skills to their position rating system.
- Ellis should receive some outreach in the next couple of weeks.
- Ellis and Ramsey will have an opportunity to give feedback on the job descriptions.
- The consultants have been asked to accelerate the drafting and conversion to the new format of the Assistant Town Administrator job description.
- We have requested the Labor Market data from a number of communities. These will include an examination of the health insurance cost share.

Share Submission of Mode Host Community Agreement Public to Comment to CCC on January 31, 2024

Ellis shares the Submission of Mode Host Community Agreement Public to Comment to CCC on January 31, 2024.

Share Submission of Testimony for Montague Asset Management Grant Request to the Clean Water Trust State Revolving Fund on January 31, 2024

Ellis shares the Submission of Testimony for Montague Asset Management Grant Request to the Clean Water Trust State Revolving Fund on January 31, 2024. This is for the Resiliency Study on our Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/White Bridge Closed

The White Bridge will be closed between 6:00 AM and 3:00 PM each day this week until Thursday.

Next Meeting:

- **Gill-Montague Regional School Joint Budget Meeting February 7 at 6:00 PM at Montague Town Hall and via ZOOM**
- **Selectboard, Monday, February 12, 2024 and 6:00 PM via ZOOM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.
Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*