

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, March 25, 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 DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron.

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

Approve Minutes:

- **Selectboard Meeting March 18, 2024**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Finance Committee, Selectboard, and Capital Improvements Committee March 6, 2024**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2024 with the Finance Committee as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Finance Committee and Selectboard, March 20, 2024**

Postponed until next week.

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

Liquor License Hearing

Dreamhouse Foods, Inc dba Dreamhouse, Jillian Fishman as manager has applied for an All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant). The premises is located at 37 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request of Jillian Fishman, Manager of Dreamhouse Foods, Inc dba Dreamhouse for the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License, and forward it to ABCC. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

- **Findings from 3/1/24 lateral sewer camera inspections on Federal Street and Veterans Way in Millers Falls**

- Bergeron reports on findings from 3/1/24 lateral sewer camera inspections on Federal Street and Veterans Way in Millers Falls which include sand, pebbles, and large stones.
- The property has been sold and the new owners have given us permission to resolve the issue.
- Another camera inspection on the other side of the sewer revealed a lot of sand and grit, bigger stones, and broken pipe. Bergeron states that we may have to dig a new line and put it into the drainage system.

- **Execute Agreement with Tighe & Bond, Inc. for Semi-Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring and Semi-Annual Landfill Gas Monitoring, \$24,400.00**

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Tighe & Bond, Inc. for Semi-Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring and Semi-Annual Landfill Gas Monitoring, \$24,400.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board:

- **Appoint Cameron Velez, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer in Training, UE Grade B, Step, effective 3/26/2024**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Cameron Velez as a DPW Truck Driver/Laborer in Training, UE Grade B, Step, effective 3/26/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Tom Bergeron to Assistant Town Administrator Selection Committee, effective 3/25/2024**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Tom Bergeron to the Assistant Town Administrator Selection Committee, effective 3/25/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Status Change Notice: Angela Amidon, Administrative Assistant, Grade B, Step 4**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Status Change for Angela Amidon, Administrative Assistant to Grade B, Step 4. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Jacob Goldman, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr. effective 3/26/24**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jacob Goldman as a Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr. effective 3/26/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Marcel LaFlamme, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr./ effective 3/26/24**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Marcel LaFlamme as a Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr./ effective 3/26/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM

- **Appoint Steven McGuirl, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr effective 3/26/24**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Steven McGuirl as a Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr effective 3/26/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Anne Levine, Great Falls Farmers Market Manager

Use of Public Property: Peskeompskut Park for Great Falls Farmers Market May 4th - October 26th, every Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Set-up starts @ 8:00 AM and Clean-Up is 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Peskeompskut Park for Great Falls Farmers Market May 4th - October 26th, every Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM; Set-up starts @ 8:00 AM and Clean-Up is 1:00 - 2:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Recommendation

May 4, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Recommendation

- **To review draft warrant, attached hereto**
- **To review votes and recommendations made on March 20, 2024**
- **To review non-financial articles and make any additional recommendations**
- **To vote to place proposed articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant**
- Kuklewicz reviews the Articles on the synopsis page.
- Ramsey recommends holding off on the Article regarding Sandy Lane until a Special Town Meeting.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend that the Town authorize the Selectboard or other departments with the approval of the Selectboard to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other source to expend for the same purposes received without further appropriation or pass any other votes or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to endorse Article 3 to see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend Article 4 to the Annual Town Meeting to see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to send the draft warrant to Counsel for review and comment. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Signing and Submission of Montague's Motion to Intervene and Comment Relative to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Final License Application for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889-085) and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485-071)**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Signing and Submission of Montague's Motion to Intervene and Comment Relative to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Final License Application for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889-085) and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485-071). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize the Town Administrator to Sign and Submit a Declaration of Standing Relative to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Final License Application for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889-085) and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485-071)**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to Sign and Submit a Declaration of Standing Relative to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Final License Application for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889-085) and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485-071). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Update on Collection System Annual Reporting Progress**
 - Ellis reports that everything is going to plan.
 - We've been working in close collaboration with the DPW Team, ARCAP, and Wright-Pierce. We should have all reports finalized and ready for submission later this week.
 - Ellis is working with Rebecca Novak from ARCAP in building out a comprehensive map.
 - We are also working on a date for Bergeron's team and Chelsey Little's team to work with the Community Engineering Corps, which is a volunteer group that has some highly trained people who are connected to the National Waterworks Association.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM

- **Update Regarding White Bridge Repair Project**
Painting is being done on the underside of the bridge. We should see a discontinuance of minor traffic inconvenience as the project is finished.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**
 - **Republic Services**
Republic was unable to complete their route collection today.
 - **Firstlight**
Firstlight is making some repairs to the spillway pier. The Power Canal may be down by as much as three feet.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, April 1, 2024 at 6:30 PM, In-Person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye