

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Matt Lord, and Chris Boutwell; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Administrative Assistant Angie Amadon; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; and FCRHRA 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: Selectboard Meeting April 29, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of April 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

None

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer

Reserve Fund Transfer Request: \$2,937.00 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund Account for short-term debt interest for a RAN that was issued in the amount of \$2,500,000

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize \$2,937.00 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund Account for short-term debt interest for a RAN that was issued in the amount of \$2,500,000. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

Award Contract for purchase of South Ferry Road Box Culvert from Concrete Systems Inc. in the amount of \$51,554.00, to be funded from 3/14/24 Special Article #12

Boutwell makes the motion to award the contract for the purchase of South Ferry Road Box Culvert from Concrete Systems Inc. in the amount of \$51,554.00, to be funded from 3/14/24 Special Article #12. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Additional Engineering services from Stantec during construction for South Ferry Box Culvert Installation in the amount of \$35,477, to be funded from 3/14/24 Special Article #12

Boutwell makes the motion to award additional Engineering services from Stantec during construction for South Ferry Box Culvert Installation in the amount of \$35,477, to be funded from 3/14/24 Special Article #12. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Appoint Steve Ellis to Montague Retirement Board for a 3-year term starting May 21, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Steve Ellis to the Montague Retirement Board for a 3-year term starting May 21, 2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Arianna Terounzo, DPW Custodian, Grade A, Step 9, \$19.73/hr., effective May 13, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Arianna Terounzo as the DPW Custodian, Grade A, Step 9, \$19.73/hr., effective May 13, 2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Erin McLean

Request use of grant funding to install a ramp at 102 - 112 Avenue A

- McLean and other residents are requesting that the Town allocate a portion of ARPA to install a ramp at 102 - 112 Avenue A.
- Ramsey states that our designer can do a design process for about \$3,000-\$5,000 that would provide an ADA ramp to all four storefronts. The project could cost upwards of \$100,000.
- Ramsey suggests we can apply for a cultural destinations grant.
- Ramsey also suggests tying this project into the design phase of the Streetscape right across the street, which is funded by the block grant.
- Kuklewicz suggests we also look at other creative funding sources.

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Brian McHugh, FCRHRA Director of Community Development

Authorize Payment #6 to The Berkshire Design Group, Inc. for Hillcrest Playground in the amount of \$2,127.50

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #6 to The Berkshire Design Group, Inc. for Hillcrest Playground in the amount of \$2,127.50. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Payment #2 to The Berkshire Design Group, Inc. for Avenue A Streetscape Design - Phase IV in the amount of \$7,470.00

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #2 to The Berkshire Design Group, Inc. for Avenue A Streetscape Design - Phase IV in the amount of \$7,470.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Ann Fisk, 1st Congregational Church of Montague

Request Use of Public Property: Montague Center Common and Montague Streets, August 17, 2024, 6:30 AM to 12:00 PM for Montague Mug Race

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property: Montague Center Common and Montague Streets, August 17, 2024, 6:30 AM to 12:00 PM for Montague Mug Race. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Matt Lord, Six Town Regionalization Planning Board

- The Planning Board was formed in order to draft an agreement for the Towns to consider the creation of a Six-Town Regional school system.
- There are still some potential members who have been suggested by their Selectboards that the Planning Board still need to vote on. At present there are 11-13 active members.
- There have been two meetings thus far, including one with consultants from MARS. Two issues were discussed: (1) whether or not the new regional school district would include Pre-K, and (2) governance issues in terms of how that would translate with regard to representation on the School Board.
- Lord states that his personal goal is to not let Montague be in a lose/lose situation. He wants to make sure that we do not end up with disproportionate representation and disproportionate assessment more than representing what our population would be.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Avenue A Streetscape Phase IV Continuation Project

Consider appropriating \$232,778 from ARPA funds for the purpose of funding the project as bid

Boutwell makes the motion to appropriate \$232,778 from ARPA funds for the purpose of funding the project as bid. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Consider awarding the base-bid contract to Mountainview Landscapes for \$1,097,980.00, to be funded by \$975,000 CFP grant and ARPA funds

Boutwell makes the motion to award the base-bid contract to Mountainview Landscapes for \$1,097,980.00, to be funded by \$975,000 CFP grant and ARPA funds. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

Review of Town Meeting Outcomes and Follow-Up Business

- Ellis feels that conversations about long-term borrowing strategies need follow-up.
- Town Meeting has funded the Hillcrest Repaving Project as it is. Ellis wonders if the Board would like the business manager of Gill-Montague Regional School District to debrief us.
- According to Ramsey, there were two competing proposals. The CIC's recommendation was to go with the lower amount.
- Kuklewicz states that one of the challenges was attendance at Town Meeting. We need 64 people to hold a meeting.
- Discussion ensues about how to increase the number of active Town Meeting Members.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting

None

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