

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 20, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; FCHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; ATA Administrator Hiring Committee member Dorinda Bell-Upp; Town Planner Maureen Pollock; and Airport Director Bryan Camden.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting May 13, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of May 13, 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

Ellis shares that he and Ramsey received the news that the Town has received \$5 million to demolish and restore the riverfront area at the Strathmore Mill.

Liquor License Hearing

Sow Loud LLC dba Avenue A Market, William McKerchie as manager has applied for an Annual § 15 Off-Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License. The premises is located at 106 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA consisting of a 1,276 sq. ft. single floor storefront, single room customer-facing with two storage areas in back. There are two entrances and two exists

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the notice.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Sow Loud LLC dba Avenue A Market for an Annual § 15 Off-Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License as discussed, and to forward the appropriate paper work to ABCC. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

William McKerchie, The Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Request to place 4 tables with chairs in front of 112 Avenue A, The Upper Bend

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request to place 4 tables with chairs in front of 112 Avenue A, The Upper Bend, 112 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Assistant Town Administrator Hiring Committee finalist candidate recommendations: Athena O'Keefe and Christopher Nolan**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair, the Town Administrator, and the Assistant Town Administrator to negotiate a contract with Athena O'Keefe and offer her the position of Assistant Town Administrator, and report back the findings at a future meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Steven Gochinski to DPW Department as Truck Driver/Laborer, Grade C, Step 1 at \$20.84/hr., effective 5/21/2024**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Steven Gochinski to the DPW Department as Truck Driver/Laborer, Grade C, Step 1 at \$20.84/hr., effective 5/21/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development - HRA

- **To authorize Payment #7 in the amount of \$1,288.00 to Berkshire Design Group for Construction Administration of the FY22.23 MONT Hillcrest Neighborhood Park Construction Project**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #7 in the amount of \$1,288.00 to Berkshire Design Group for Construction Administration of the FY22.23 MONT Hillcrest Neighborhood Park Construction Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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- **To authorize Payment #3 for the Avenue A Streetscape Design Project in the amount of \$8,740.00, payable to Berkshire Design Group**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #3 for the Avenue A Streetscape Design Project in the amount of \$8,740.00, payable to Berkshire Design Group. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jon Dobosz, Parks Director

Recommend award of Unity Skate Park Lighting Project to Central MA Signal LLC in the amount of \$95,998. To be funded by ARPA allocation

Boutwell makes the motion to award the contract for the Unity Skate Park Lighting Project to Central MA Signal LLC in the amount of \$95,998. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Town Planner

Authorization to apply for Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program Grant - Proposed creation of a new town municipal website that meets all accessibility standards

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Planner to apply for Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program Grant and sign any appropriate paper work for that grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Airport Business, Bryan Camden

Accept Year-End Grants from Mass DOT Aeronautics (No Match Required)

- **\$90,800 for Purchase Vegetation Management Equipment (Skid Steer Reimbursement)**
Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Year-End Grant in the amount of \$90,000 from Mass DOT Aeronautics to purchase of Vegetation Management Equipment (Skid Steer Reimbursement), and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **\$148,000 to Install Hangar Door on Pioneer Aviation Hangar Building**
Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Year-End Grant in the amount of \$148,000 from Mass DOT Aeronautics for the installation of a Hangar Door on the Pioneer Aviation Hangar Building, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **\$21,000 to Install Security Cameras on Pioneer Property**
Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Year-End Grant in the amount of \$21,000 from Mass DOT Aeronautics for the installation of Security Cameras on Pioneer Property, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Executive Assistant Business

Summer Meeting Schedule

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Summer Schedule as reviewed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Adopt Inoperable and Unregistered Vehicle Permit Application Process in accordance with Town Bylaws**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the draft of the Unregistered Vehicle Permit Application with the modification of the permit fee as \$50 and photographs to be provided as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Invite Mass DOT officials to discuss design progress and alternatives for Mass DOT project 612799 to replace 3 bridges in Turners Falls (Turners Falls Rd. over CT River, 5th St. over Canal, and 6th St. over Canal)**
 - Ramsey and Ellis feel that it would be advisable for Mass DOT to come to the Selectboard and present their design alternatives to get some feedback. The main issue is location.
 - Ramsey suggests either June 3 or June 10.
 - There will be design public hearings later in the process.
 - In response to a question by resident Janel Nockleby, Ramsey states that historical impacts will be part of the decision-making process. Ramsey suggests inviting the Historic Commission to the meeting.

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Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Town Administrator to file any comments on behalf of the Town with State and Federal agencies with respect to the relicensing of FirstLight Powers' FERC Relicensing Application**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to file any comments on behalf of the Town with State and Federal agencies with respect to the relicensing of FirstLight Powers' FERC Relicensing Application. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Request to transfer \$3,000 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Shea Theater (225-5-184-5240)**

Boutwell makes the motion to transfer \$3,000 from CD Discretionary Unallocated (225-5-184-5200) to CD Shea Theater (225-5-184-5240), and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**

None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.

Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye