

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, June 3, 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 and Administrative Assistant, Angie Amidon

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting May 20, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of May 20, 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 congratulates the TFHS Girls Softball Team for repeating as the Western Mass Champions. Ellis also shares that the FCTS Girls Softball Team lost in the finals to Greenfield in their division for the Western Mass Championship.
- Kuklewicz expresses disappointment at the number of unfilled seats at Election this year. He states that democracy is a participation sport and encourages folks "to consider the value of a little bit of time to help your community."

Reorganization of Selectboard

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Chris Boutwell Clerk, Matt Lord Vice-Chair, and Rich Kuklewicz Chair. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Pole Location Hearing, S. Ferry Road, Montague

Request to relocate P#68/32 forty-three (43) feet easterly just past the current culvert; remove P#68/31 from current location and install new jointly owned pole in front of 29 S. Ferry Road which is approximately seventy-two (72) feet westerly of current location. Pole relocations are needed due to culvert work being done by the Town on S. Ferry Road

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request to relocate P#68/32 forty-three (43) feet easterly just past the current culvert; remove P#68/31 from current location and install new jointly owned pole in front of 29 S. Ferry Road which is approximately seventy-two (72) feet westerly of current location; pole relocations are needed due to culvert work being done by the Town on S. Ferry Road. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

Use of Public Property: Road Closure/Center Street after Union Street for Community Potluck, Saturday, August 3, from 3:00 - 9:00 PM, Rain date August 4

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Road Closure/Center Street after Union Street for Community Potluck, Saturday, August 3, from 3:00 - 9:00 PM, Rain date August 4; and waive any fees. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Public Property: Peskeompskut Park, Saturday, July 6, noon to 7:00 PM for a musical event co-sponsored by RiverCulture

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property: Peskeompskut Park, Saturday, July 6, noon to 7:00 PM for a musical event co-sponsored by RiverCulture. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Assistant Town Administrator and DPW Superintendent Hiring Updates

- Ramsey states that applications are coming in for the DPW Superintendent position. The Hiring Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday to do the initial review of the applications.
- Athena O'Keefe has passed on the opportunity to work with Montague as the Assistant Town Administrator. The other candidate, Chris Nolan, is still interested in the position.

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- *Lord makes a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair, Town Administrator, and Assistant Town Administrator to engage with Chris Nolan regarding the Assistant Town Administration position for the Town of Montague, and to begin said negotiations forthwith. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Establish Town Accountant Hiring Committee and appoint Carolyn Olsen, Walter Ramsey, Eileen Seymour, Karen Tonelli, Brandy Patch, Francia Wisniewski to serve as members

Boutwell makes the motion to establish a Town Accountant Hiring Committee and appoint Carolyn Olsen, Walter Ramsey, Eileen Seymour, Karen Tonelli, Brandy Patch, Francia Wisniewski, and Deb Underhill to serve as members. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Authorize Second Amendment to First Street Parking Lot Purchase and Sale agreement with Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Second Amendment to the First Street Parking Lot Purchase and Sale agreement with Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Chair to Execute all associated grant forms associated with EPA FY24 Brownfields Grant for Strathmore Mill Demolition Project

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to Execute all associated grant forms associated with EPA FY24 Brownfields Grant for Strathmore Mill Demolition Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Avenue A CSO Reduction/Buffer line project updates/alternative proposal to re-line sewer manholes

- Ramsey states that Wright Pierce did a detailed investigation and found that the buffer line is performing largely as it was designed to. They conclude that a large wholesale change is not necessary, but do recommend that we install an orifice plate which would regulate the amount of water that goes into the buffer line. The cost would be approximately \$24,000. This project can be done in-house.
- Ramsey suggests using the remaining grant funds to address all of the Turners Falls priority one manhole relining projects and make a mark on Millers Falls priority one manhole relining projects (up to 51 manholes all together). Wright Pierce has put together a proposal for their engineering services.

Town Administrator's Business

Comcast Licensing Ascertainment Hearing - Discussion of Need for Larger ADA Accessible Meeting and PEG Broadcast Room in Town Hall

- Ellis states that the Comcast Licensing Ascertainment Hearing will be approximately one hour at length and will be the opening foray in a conversation about what this community really needs from Comcast.
- Ellis discusses the need for a larger ADA Accessible Meeting and PEG broadcast Room in Town Hall.

Review of Town Submissions to FERC and MassDEP regarding the FirstLight Relicensing Application

- Ellis submitted formal comments to both FERC and MassDEP regarding the FirstLight Relicensing Application.
- We are in discussions about trying to arrange the logistics for an in-person meeting in the fall.

Update Regarding Closing for Town Acceptance of Farren Property Donation

We are likely to see closing documents for the Farren Property Donation on June 24th.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

- **Turtle Crossing**
Boutwell shares that he received a complaint that turtles were being run over in Montague City. They are requesting a "Turtle Crossing" sign be put up. Ramsey suggests bringing this topic to the Conservation Commission.

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- **Upcoming Meetings**
 - The Comprehensive Plan has two public meetings coming up: (1) Tuesday, June 4 at Great Falls Discovery Center; and (2) Thursday, June 6th via ZOOM.
 - Ramsey and CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little will host a public information session about the biosolids composting study on Wednesday at 5:00 PM via ZOOM.

Executive session in accordance with G.L. c.30a, §21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member of individual

- The Chair deems that holding this discussion in open meeting would be detrimental to the Town's position
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive session in accordance with G.L. c.30a, §21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member of individual. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*