

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord (*joined later*); Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton; and CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting June 3, 2024

Postpone 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

Mass DOT Presentation, Project 612799

- Rob Antico from Mass DOT Major Projects explains preferred alternatives with regard to Project 612799.
- Ellis explains that the intention is to frame some of the design options that have been presented to the Town by Mass DOT and Stantec relative to the replacement of the bridges at 5th St. and 6th St. in Turners Falls.
- Stantec Project Manager Dennis Reip reviews presentation:
 - Mass DOT/Stantec Attendees
 - Project Overview
 - Site Characteristics and Constraints
 - Preliminary Roadway and Bridge Considerations
 - Alternative Alignments
 - Recent Activity and Next Steps
- In response to a question by Lord, Ellis explains that we asked for Alternative 3 because we were hoping there was a pathway to mitigate the impacts of Alternative 2.
- In response to a question by Ellis, Reip states that constructing access from Power Street around the building could be feasible, but it would impact another portion of property owned by FirstLight.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Mass DOT ROW Compliance Administrator Pamela Marquis explains that because the bridges are owned by the municipality, the municipality would be responsible for right-of-way acquisition costs.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Reip states that part of the grading issue is that Power Street is going downhill, so raising the grade at the crossing of the island would require retaining walls and further reconstruction of Power Street. Also, this would impact access to an existing building.
- In response to a resident (Janel) with regard to historic preservation, Mass DOT Project Manager Courtney Sulerad states that Mass DOT is looking at it from a number of different perspectives. Antico states that Alternative 2 is the best alternative. He states that there is a way to salvage the historic portion of the building, but it would be the Town's building at that point.
- In response to a question by Ellis, Antico states that Mass DOT believes that, no, there is really no place between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 that could get us to where we need to be and mitigate the impacts.
- Beth Giannini from FRCOG mentions that they have received a lot of comments from the public with regard to speeds on Turners Falls Road.
- The current owner of 42 Canal Street (Kurt), comments on possible access to the mill and access to Fifth Street.
- Antico states that we need to come to a conclusion as soon as possible because of the condition of the bridges.
- Kuklewicz would like to discuss with Ellis and Ramsey what the best options are for an upcoming agenda.

Casella Waste Management

Introduction to leader team

- Strategic Account Manager Brandon White and Casella Market Area Manager Kyle Orr introduce themselves.
- Orr gives some background on Casella Waste Management.

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Review of transition and start-up plan

- White discusses marketing materials (i.e., mailers and promotional video) that will be sent out.
- Discussion ensues about the Casella app.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Ellis states that the rates will remain the same for FY25. He explains that what the Town is trying to do is ensure accountability relative to the sticker and permit system.
- A second flier will be sent out regarding A and B weeks (plastics-and-bottles pick-up versus paper-and-cardboard pick-up).
- Brandon states he has discussed the recycling images with Jan Ameen.
- In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Orr states that the trash goes to the Holyoke Transfer Station.

Jon Dobosz, Parks and Rec Director

Execute contract for Unity Skate Park Lighting Project to Central Mass Signal, LLC in the amount of \$95,998.00, to be funded from existing ARPA allocation

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract for the Unity Skate Park Lighting Project to Central Mass Signal, LLC in the amount of \$95,998.00, to be funded from existing ARPA allocation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

FRTA Updates, Jeff Singleton

- Singleton shares agenda of most recent FRTA meeting.
- The weekend service has proved to be a challenge. FRTA has had difficulty hiring bus drivers, the routes are extremely limited, and FRTA has received mixed messages from the DOT regarding funding.
- At the meeting FRTA voted on a \$5.4 million budget, most of which is Federal- and State-assisted.

Personnel Board

Consider and Execute Contract with Christopher Nolan-Zeller to serve as Montague Assistant Town Administrator

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract with Christopher Nolan-Zeller to serve as Montague Assistant Town Administrator. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Christopher Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, Grade I, Step 1, Salary \$91,770, effective June 26, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Christopher Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, Grade I, Step 1, Salary \$91,770, effective June 26, 2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Ellen Williams, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hour, effective June 11, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Ellen Williams as a Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hour, effective June 11, 2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appoint Jackson Pendleton, CWF Summer help/Franklin County Tech School Co-Op, \$15.00/hour, 20-40 hours per week, effective July 17, 2024; estimated length of service is to June 6, 2025

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Jackson Pendleton as CWF Summer help/Franklin County Tech School Co-Op, \$15.00/hour, 20-40 hours per week, effective July 17, 2024; estimated length of service is to June 6, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

Montague to receive a One-Time \$30,932 FRCOG Member Assessment Refund for FY24

Ellis shares that Montague will receive a One-Time \$30,932 FRCOG Member Assessment Refund for FY24. This will appear next year as Free Cash.

Pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1), Certify the Maximum Useful Life of a Ten Wheel Dump Truck to be Purchased with a \$365,000 Appropriation of the May 4, 2024 Annual Town Meeting for the Purpose of the Future Financing/Bond Issuance

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Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize Selectboard Clerk Chris Boutwell to sign the attached document stating that the maximum useful life of the Ten Wheel Dump Truck to be financed with the proceeds with a \$365,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed May 4, 2024 (Article 20) is hereby determined pursuant to G.I. c.44, §7(1) to be up to 10 years. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye

Designate Authority to Sign Agreements and File Documents Related to a MA Clean Water Trust AMP Grant for a Wastewater Asset Vulnerability Inventory

- Due to discomfort expressed by Matt Lord, the decision was made to give authority to the Assistant Town Administrator for now, then make amendments for accuracy when necessary.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to appoint the Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey as the Designated Authority to Sign Agreements and File Documents Related to a MA Clean Water Trust AMP Grant for a Wastewater Asset Vulnerability Inventory, and to authorize the Selectboard Clerk to sign any necessary documentation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Execute Agreement and Related Documents with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation in the Amount of \$5,000,000 for abatement, demolition and restoration of the Strathmore Mill Property

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement and Related Documents with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation in the Amount of \$5,000,000 for abatement, demolition and restoration of the Strathmore Mill Property. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Notification of Finance Committee Review of Affordable Assessment

Ellis notifies the Board of the Finance Committee Review of Affordable Assessment. They are looking at how it might evolve over time.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

None

Next Meeting:

- **Selectboard, Monday, June 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM. Cable Relicensing Ascertainment Hearing to commence @ 6:00 PM**

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