

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING with the
CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, June 24, 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; Police Chief Chris Williams; Board of Health Director Ryan Paxton; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; FRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; 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 10 and 17, 2024

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Approval of June 17, 2024 minutes postponed

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

Jen Luciano, Turners Falls Softball

Request Use of Public Property for Turners Falls Softball Helmet Drive on July 3, 2024 at Avenue A 3rd and 7th Street Intersections at the two lights from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Public Property for the Turners Falls Softball Helmet Drive on July 3, 2024 at Avenue A 3rd and 7th Street Intersections at the two lights from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Personnel Status Change Form: James Deery, Staff Sergeant Incentive pay increase to 25% (\$401.21/week) effective 06/02/2024**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the pay increase for James Deery, Staff Sergeant to 25% (\$401.21/week) effective 06/02/2024, with congratulations on his recent accomplishment. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request to make Conditional Offer of Employment to Alexander Griffin as Police Officer pending a positive psychological exam, physical and interview**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request to make a Conditional Offer of Employment to Alexander Griffin as Police Officer pending a positive psychological exam, physical and interview. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Request to issue Town Credit Card to Bill Ketchen, Building Inspector, and Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator for \$5,000**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request to issue Town Credit Cards to Bill Ketchen, Building Inspector, and Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator for \$5,000. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Jackson Erali, FCTS Summer Help, Airport Grounds Maintenance, Grade 1, Step 1 @ \$16.50/hour, 40 hours per week, effective June 25, 2024 for 3 month period**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint as Jackson Erali, FCTS Summer Help, Airport Grounds Maintenance, Grade 1, Step 1 @ \$16.50/hour, 40 hours per week, effective June 25, 2024 for 3 month period. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **To Approve Annual Appointments as set forth in the attached list**
 - *Lord makes the motion to appoint the following for 2024 the 1-year appointments, terms to expire 06/30/25: Alternate Building Inspector - David Jensen; Auction Permit Agents - Wendy Bogusz and Kathern Pierce; Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee - Mark Andrews, Tim Blagg, David Brule, Kit Carpenter, Joe Graveline, Rich Holshuh, Roger Longtoe Sheeh, John Nove, Elizabeth Santana Kiser, and Bettina Washington; Cemetery Commission - Jamie Fuller, Annabel Levine, Judith Lorei, Mary Mattiace, and Jo-Ann Prescott; Chief Procurement Officer - Walter Ramsey; Conservation Commission - Associate*

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Member - Albert Averill; Constables - Wendy Bogusz, Christopher Williams; Council on Aging - Linda Ackerman, Debra Bourbeau, Elsie Gilman, Mary Hildreth, and Barbara Kuklewicz; Council on Aging Director - Roberta Potter; Emergency Manager - John Zellman; Energy Committee - Jason Burbank, David Dempsey, Ariel Elan, Pamela Hanold, Sarah (Sally) Pick, and Timothy Van Egmond; F. C. Solid Waste Management District 2 - Christopher Boutwell, Sr.; Forest Warden - Richard Sawin, Jr.; Forest Warden - Deputy - Kyle Cogswell; Franklin Regional Council of Governments - Richard Kuklewicz; FRCOG Alternate Council Member - Walter Ramsey; FRCOG - Planning Representative - Elizabeth Irving; FRCOG Planning Board - Selectboard Representative - Maureen Pollock; FRTA Advisory Board - Richard Kuklewicz and Jeff Singleton; Gas & Plumbing Inspector - Alternate - Jeffrey Bach; Great Falls Farmers Market Manager - Annabel Levine; Mass in Motion Initiative - Eileen Dowd, Caitlin Kelley, Eileen Mariani, Ryan Paxton, Maureen Pollock, Robert Potter, and Roy Rosenblatt; Planning and Conservation Agent - Maureen Pollock; Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) - John Zellmann; Six Town Regionalization Committee - Dorinda Bell-Upp; Tax Title Custodian - Eileen Seymour; Town Counsel - K-P Law; Tree Advisory Committee - William Codington, David Detmold, Charles Walke Korby, Annabel Levine, Eli Smith, Tom Sullivan, Jeffrey-Pukis, and Angela Wheeler; Veteran's Burial Agent - Christopher Demas; Veteran's Director - Christopher Demars; Wells Trust - Ron Sicard; Wiring Inspector - Wayne Shaw; Wiring Inspector - Alternate - Todd Weed; and Zoning Board of Appeals - Alternate - Peter Lapachinski. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- *Lord makes the motion to appoint the following for 2024 the 3-year appointments, terms to expire 06/30/27: Airport Commission - Joseph Mazeski; Cable Advisory Committee - Jason Burbank, Ryne Hager, and Richard Kuklewicz; Conservation Commission - Justin Fermann and Anthony Reiber; Economic Development and Industrial Corporation - John Furbish and Robert Steinberg; Historical Commission - Suzanne LoManto; Planning Board - George Cooke and Elizabeth Irving; and Registrar of Voters - Wendy Bogusz and Stanley Dobosz. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to appoint Robert Obear to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5-year appointment, term to expire 06/20/29. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Jon Dobosz, Director Park & Recreation

Award Bid to Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. in the amount of \$265,150 for construction portion of the Montague Center Park Project, partially funded by the PARC Grant

Boutwell makes the motion to award the bid to Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. in the amount of \$265,150 for construction portion of the Montague Center Park Project, partially funded by the PARC Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development - HRA

- **Authorization to pay Berkshire Design Group \$2,300 for Construction Administration of the Hillcrest Neighborhood Playground Construction Project**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize to pay Berkshire Design Group \$2,300 for Construction Administration of the Hillcrest Neighborhood Playground Construction Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Authorization to pay Berkshire Design Group \$1,833.80 for engineering of the Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Design Project**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize to pay Berkshire Design Group \$1,833.80 for engineering of the Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Design Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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253 Organic, LLC

Request for Revision or Waiver of Existing Host Community Agreement with the Town of Montague

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Host Community Agreement with the Town of Montague with the changes highlighted in yellow which will be removed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Flower Power Growers, Inc.

• Discussion of Operations and Ongoing Odor Control Measures

- Flower Power CEO Ezra Hagerty discusses equipment on the facility and processes for responding to observations that have been brought forward.
- Paxton shares that they have received several complaints about the odor. He has gone out numerous times and observed that the smell is observable at different times (not every single time). He has gathered data including when complainants are smelling odor.
- JaDuke representative Kim Williams shares instances when the odor was really bad and how it's affecting the school and the children.
- In response to three questions by resident Walter Patenaude, Hagerty explains that (1) the steam that is being observed is actually ECOSORB solution mixed with water, (2) they are actively using their cultivation license, but are not currently manufacturing any products, and (3) there has to be air exhausted from the building due to their primary method of cooling.
- John Stobierski from Flower Power states that if the concentration in the odor neutralizer is too high, that can result smelling of the ECOSORB, which is a botanical substance. The amount of ECOSORB needed differs with humidity and temperature. It is adjusted in response to complaints, but it is a trial-and-error process.
- Ellis states that the Town wants the company to take responsibility for a communication that we could share, because some people may be willing to engage directly and some may not.
- Paxton shares that he had spoken with the Cannabis Control Commission. There are no additional inspection resources available from the State, nor is there an objective measurement of odor that they can point to.
- Kim states JaDuke has been having conversations with Flower Power since September. She asks what the process or policies are for "if it doesn't go away?" What is the end result?
- JaDuke representative, Nick Waynelovich emphasizes that the odor problem is a huge problem and is affecting the hundreds of people that are involved with JaDuke.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz in which he mentions Item 11 in the Host Community Agreement, Stobierski states that Flower Power is still dialing in their equipment and are doing the best they can to mitigate the nuisance odors. He feels that the equipment has been working much better since April, but they are still working on it and trying to improve things.
- Ariel Elan shares her belief that when a responsible business says "there won't be any odor," they should already have worked out all the kinks. "You don't open a facility, and then experiment on the neighbors."
- Kuklewicz states that a better, more traceable reporting system would be helpful.
- Lord states that the document they received was too technical and out of context. He would like an assessment that is more understandable with regard to what the process is, what has been changed, etc. This assessment would help Lord determine whether or not an independent engineer would be necessary and/or helpful.
- Hagerty agrees to work with Paxton to have experts and representatives provide documentation to the Board and community.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Hagerty states that there is a scientific method to actually capture the odors.
- Kuklewicz suggests bringing in somebody who understands how the odor may be affected by winds, the facility location, the river, the trees, etc.

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- **Request for Revision or Waiver of Existing Host Community Agreement with the Town of Montague**
The Board decides to meet next week to make modifications on the existing Host Community Agreement.

FirstLight Power

Request of license to place an object in the public right-of-way: radio equipment on an existing municipal utility pole located at the old bridge abutment at the start of the Canalside Bike Path at Unity Park

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by FirstLight Power to place radio equipment on an existing municipal utility pole located at the old bridge abutment at the start of the Canalside Bike Path at Unity Park. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Sewer Commission

- **Municipal Biosolids Reuse (Composting) Action Plan - Overview of May 2024 Draft Report by Weston and Sampson Engineers**

Jared Stuyvesant from Weston and Sampson goes through a few highlights of the May 2024 Draft Report.

- **Discuss feedback and next steps**

- In response to a question by Lord about a comparison between the energy intensity of the two facilities, Stuyvesant states the dryer takes more energy. He also notes that there will be a net reduction in the carbon footprint.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Stuyvesant states that the drying process will produce the same type of product (Class A biosolids).
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Stuyvesant states that generally the composting process would smell more.
- In response to a question by Lord, Little shares her reservations about adding anything else in the operations building.
- In response to a question by Ramsey, Stuyvesant states that the mechanical dryer does not destroy PFOS. He suggests that the Town take a stance and determine what the limit of PFOS it would accept and try to stay ahead of EPA regulations.
- Ellis feels that if we move forward, there needs to be a legal and regulatory risk assessment done.
- Little states that fortunately the facilities in our region in Western Massachusetts don't have high PFAS.
- The Selectboard/Sewer Commission feel that it is worth moving forward and continuing the discussion.

Executive Assistant Business

- **Execute MOU with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) regarding Hauling and Disposal of Bulky Waste and Hauling and Disposal of Scrap Metal and Appliances**

Lord makes the motion to execute the MOU with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) regarding Hauling and Disposal of Bulky Waste and Hauling and Disposal of Scrap Metal and Appliances. Seconded by Kuklewicz,, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain

- **Execute MOU for Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, Saturday September 21, 2024**

Lord makes the motion to execute the MOU for Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, Saturday September 21, 2024. Seconded by Kuklewicz,, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain

- **Execute MOU regarding Third-Party Inspection of the Town's Municipal Transfer Station**

Lord makes the motion to execute the MOU regarding Third-Party Inspection of the Town's Municipal Transfer Station. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Authorize Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Wright-Pierce for Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$39,100, to be funded by FY24 Rural Development Fund Grant

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Wright-Pierce for Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$39,100, to be funded by FY24 Rural Development Fund Grant; to bring the documents to the next meeting for review; and to authorize the Chair to sign the Task Order document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Town Administrator's Business

- **Execute FY25 Contract with Gleason Johndrow Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$23,690 for Montague Cemetery Mowing and Landscape Services**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the FY25 Contract with Gleason Johndrow Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$23,690 for Montague Cemetery Mowing and Landscape Services. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Farren Property is Now a Possession of the Town of Montague**
All the closing documents were signed on Friday for the Farren Property.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting**
None

Other

- Kuklewicz formally thanks Steve Ellis for his great work as Montague's Town Administrator. Ellis thanks the community for the opportunity.
- Boutwell states we need to take a look at the gold cane award, we haven't looked at that in years.
- Ellis shares that Republic Services had a truck break down today and a dozen streets were not attended to.

OTHER

REMINDER: The look of the tax bills is changing for July 1st and that the due dates remain the same (10/1/24)

Next Meetings:

- Selectboard, Monday, July 1, 2024 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM
- Selectboard, Monday, July 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM

Executive Session under G.L. c.30a §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, 42-44 Canal Road in Turners Falls, if the Chair so declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body

- The Chair deems that having this discussion in open meeting would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session under G.L. c.30a §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, 42-44 Canal Road in Turners Falls. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*