

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING with the
CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, July 1, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Matt Lord, and Chris Boutwell; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting June 17, 2024

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Abstain, 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

Flower Power Growers Inc., Execute revised Host Community Agreement with Flower Power Growers Inc.

- Lord reviewed the requested revisions discussed at the 6/24/24 meeting and they were included in the HCA Agreement presented tonight. He also stated the revisions to the indemnification clause that were highlighted from the CCC are as presented.
- Ramsey stated the odor control community hearing concerns in section #7 and #11 (now in section #4) were retained from the original Host Community Agreement. The draft agreement was shared with Ezra Hagerty, Flower Power for their review and they had very minor editorial changes.

Boutwell makes the motion to accept and execute the HCA agreement with Flower Power Growers, Inc. located on Industrial Blvd in Turners Falls effective July 1, 2024. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Ramsey notes that the odor control concerns will be discussed at the July 8th Selectboard meeting.

Personnel Board

Department of Public Works Superintendent Hiring Committee Updates. Recommendation of finalist candidates, Samuel Urkiel and Hannah Tustin

- The Superintendent Hiring Committee convened 7 times since May to solicit and screen candidates. 10 applications were received and 6 interviews were held. The committee is pleased to recommend 2 qualified finalists for consideration: Sam Urkiel and Hannah Tustin
- Both have associates, degrees, and experience in upper-level management in a public works department similar in scale to Montague. They both are local and have demonstrated that they have various skills to manage a modern DPW.
- Given their similar skill sets and experience, the committee deliberated at length and ultimately decided to unanimously recommend Sam Urkiel as the top candidate and the hiring committee is confident Sam would be an excellent superintendent for the town.
- Sam is a Deerfield resident. He currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works for the city of Greenfield and oversees daily operation of about 60 plus employees across 9 divisions. He's helped modernize services in Greenfield and has a firm background in engineering and public works. He also has valuable work experience in the private sector as a foreman for a large public works contract, is versed in environmental regulation compliance and has helped manage grant funded projects. He has the necessary administrative leadership skills coupled with being in the field among the crew. Montague is an opportunity for him to grow his career while staying local.
- Hannah Tustin was also an excellent candidate. She has experience as a superintendent of a community similar in size in Hartford, Vermont and as a field Superintendent in Brattleboro, she is a resident of Guilford, Vermont.
- Brandy Patch stated they are really excited to have Sam join them.
- Urkiel stated it was great to meet everyone and the interview process was great. He looks forward to taking on projects in Montague.

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- Lord: It's a pleasure to virtually meet you, and I'm pleased to be at the other end of another search project where we have good candidates and I feel confident with the work the committee has done and the town will do well as well.

Boutwell makes the motion to allow the Chair and Town Administrator to enter into contract discussions with Sam Urkiel and bring back a contract next week. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

- Kuklewicz congratulates Walter on his official first day as Town Administrator, Chris started his first day last Wednesday (6/26/24) and he thanks Steve for sticking with us and helping us.
- Today was the first day with our new trash contractor Casella. There was a flyer sent out and there is a QR code that you can download an app. If residents have not received the flyer they can reach out to the DPW or Selectboards office and we will make sure they receive one. Everyone is encouraged to download the App.
- HOLD THE DATE: There will be an award ceremony on July 18th at 10:00 AM at the Discovery Center for the EPA funded grant for the Strathmore mill project, \$5 million from the EPA and \$5 million from the State; this will probably be a joint ceremony and is being organized by the EPA.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Lord – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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*