

# MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

## VIA ZOOM

Monday, July 22, 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; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Airport Manager Bryan Camden; and Town Planner Maureen Pollock.

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

### **Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting July 1 and 8, 2024**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of July 1 and 8, 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**

None

### **Chelsey Little, Clean Water Superintendent FY25 Sewer Rate Hearing**

- Little reviews proposed Sewer Rates.
- In response to a question by Lord about how we are covering the difference in cost between the fiscal years, Little explains that we took in excess revenue.
- In response to a question by Lord, Little explains that she plugged in the same numbers for anticipated revenue.
- Kuklewicz would like to have more discussion at the next meeting before setting sewer rates.
- In response to a question by Lord, Little states that the I+I increased almost \$100,000 which helps offset for revenue.

### **Award Septage Receiving Contract to Flowpoint Environmental Systems, Inc. for \$221,379.77 from ARPA funds**

- In response to a question by Ramsey, Little states that there are additional costs for site work (doing some electrical work, doing some demo, installing a concrete ramp, and replacing the transfer pump), which will be done in-house.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to award the Septage Receiving Contract to Flowpoint Environmental Systems, Inc. for \$221,379.77 from ARPA funds. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Monthly Discharge Summary for June 2024**

- There was a high chlorine residual at 1.06 mg/L. This reading was a result of a clogged pump.
- Everything else was normal.

### **Personnel Board**

#### **Town Accountant Hiring Committee Recommendation of finalist candidate for Town Accountant position: Angelica Desroches**

- Ramsey summarizes the process that the Hiring Committee went through to come up with the finalist candidate, Angelica Desroches, for the Town Accountant position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Accountant Hiring Committee, to begin negotiations and setting a contract with Angelica Desroches, and to authorize the Town Administrator and the Chair to work with Desroches to come to an agreement. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Appoint Zaharia Nichita to Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternate Member, 1 year, until 6/30/25, effective 7/23/24**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Zaharia Nichita to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member, 1 year, until 6/30/25, effective 7/23/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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### **Request to issue Town Credit Card to Angelia Amidon, Administrative Assistant for \$2,500.00**

*Boutwell makes the motion to issue a Town Credit Card to Angelia Amidon, Administrative Assistant for \$2,500.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Bryan Camden, Airport Manager**

#### **Request for Town support to purchase a replacement mower (approximately \$16,059) ARPA as possible funding source**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the purchase of a replacement mower for the airport (approximately \$16,059), funded through ARPA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture**

#### **Pocumtuck Homeland Festival, August 3 and 4, 2024**

- **Request to close First Street from top of hill (by Maple St.) and at the corner of L Street as well as Unity Park Hill; please see map attached in meeting material**
- **Entertainment Permit**
- **Execute Agreement with Northfield Mountain LLC/FirstLight MA Hydro for use of property along the river for Pocumtuck Homeland Festival, August 2 - 4, 2024**
- *Boutwell makes the motion to close First Street from top of hill (by Maple St.) and at the corner of L Street as well as Unity Park Hill; to authorize the Entertainment Permit; and to execute the Agreement with Northfield Mountain LLC/FirstLight MA Hydro for use of property along the river for Pocumtuck Homeland Festival, August 2 - 4, 2024, as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

### **Maureen Pollock, Town Planner**

#### **Proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan Update - Authorization to apply for FY2025 Land Use Planning Assistant Grant**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Planner to apply for the FY2025 Land Use Planning Assistant Grant as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

### **Shea Mural Project Update**

- A community input session was held at the Shea on June 13, followed by an online survey.
- The input was given the muralist, Darion Fleming, who will create the design and submit a color concept sketch to the Steering Group.
- The Steering Group will review the proposed design and provide feedback and approval.
- The actual painting project will begin at the end of August.
- The input session and notes can be found on the project website.

### **Complete Streets Project Planning**

- Pollock states that Mass DOT has a Complete Streets Implementation Grant.
- The Planning Department would like to submit an application this fall for the grant, but would like to hear input from residents and Town departments.
- Pollock reviews a proposed scope of services from VHB from their Transportation Design and Planning Department.
- The cost estimate is \$20,200.
- The formal request is to request funds from ARPA money.
- Ramsey states that Montague Center is a priority for this grant, and that this would be a strategic investment for the Town.
- There are a lot of areas that need traffic-calming and complete-streets-related work. We could talk about expanding the scope if the Board is interested, particularly around the schools (which could potentially unlock a different funding source).
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz regarding safe-routes-to-school work, Ramsey states that some work was done but the project ran over budget. We may be able to include that as an element in the next grant application.

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- Boutwell and Lord agree that Montague Center needs more traffic-calming.
- Discussion regarding this issue will continue at the next meeting.

### Assistant Town Administrator's Business

#### Consider Statement of Support for Paint Stewardship Legislation to House Committee on Ways and Means

*Boutwell makes the motion to support the Paint Stewardship Legislation to House Committee on Ways and Means by signing on to the Letter regarding House Bill H.823. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Update

- Nolan-Zeller, Ramsey, Pollock, and representatives from the Department of Public Works met with Stantec a few weeks ago.
- The abutters were notified last week.
- Nolan-Zeller displays a photograph and reviews the project.
- Work will start in early- to mid-August and will last six weeks to two months.
- Part of the project involves asbestos pipe removal by Compass Restoration Services.
- The construction project will include weekly updates to the Conservation Commission.

### Montague City Road Flooding Project

#### Closeout grant with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

The grant will be completely closed out this week pending one final signature from our consultants.

#### Final Amendment #3 with Wright-Pierce for Construction Engineering Services (\$9,169.00) for final stages of project sitework and closeout; to be paid from a capital article appropriation

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Final Amendment #3 with Wright-Pierce for Construction Engineering Services (\$9,169.00) for final stages of project sitework and closeout, to be paid from a capital article appropriation; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### Other Project Updates

- The Avenue A Streetscape Phase IV project is delayed because of some lead times (45-60 days for the electrical cabinet fixtures, and 14-16 weeks for the granite planters). Construction will carry over into the spring.
- There has been a lot of back-and-forth between the Cannabis Control Commission and the municipal legal community. Nolan-Zeller will put this topic on hold until we have a more definitive answer from our counsel.
- With regard to the Comcast license renewal, a survey was sent out to 13 households in Town that were not serviceable by Comcast to gauge interest to Comcast cable connections.
- The South Street Bridge is now closed and is expected to be so until June 2025 as Mass DOT oversees the process of replacing it.

### Town Administrator's Business

#### Casella Trash Collection Updates

- Last week there was a communication misunderstanding. The Town wants Casella to enforce the sticker regulations. The communication didn't get through to the driver, who didn't take a lot of trash based on the misunderstanding. Casella has actively corrected this.
- Kuklewicz discusses the possibility of more access to barrel stickers. Ramsey will look into this.

### Strathmore Demolition Project next steps

- The grant announcement event took place last week and went well.
- We have a \$132,000 grant from Mass Development Site Readiness Fund to advance the design engineering.
- Ramsey will bring a proposed engineering contract from Tighe and Bond at the next meeting.
- There have been preliminary discussions with Tighe and Bond regarding Building 9. There are currently two alternatives: (1) diminish the mill around the hydro plant, or (2) demolish the building and reconstruct a new one.

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

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**Avenue A Ramp Design proposal (\$4,200) at 102-108 Ave A**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the work from Berkshire Design for an additional design for ramps at 102-108 Avenue A and fund it from Unanticipated Engineering. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Planning for Town Employee Appreciation Cookout August 22, 2024**

There will be a Town Employee Appreciation Cookout on August 22, 2024 at the Pioneer Valley Hanger.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Sept 21**

We received notice from the Solid Waste Management District that the Annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be on Sept 21 at GCC as well as the Orange Transfer Station. Residents must pre-register by September 13.

**Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting/MCPPO Designation**

Ramsey announces that he has received MCPPO (Mass Certified Public Purchasing Official) designation. This is effective for the next three years until July 19, 2027.

**Next Meeting:**

**Selectboard, Monday, August 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*