

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, August 5, 2024

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; Town Clerk Kathern Pierce; and Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting July 22, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 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

- Resident Lenore Alanz discusses:
 - 1) the Town's use of gas-powered lawn mowers and other landscaping equipment (she would like Montague to either reduce the use of such equipment or switch to non-gas-powered equipment)
 - 2) spraying glyphosate (she would like ordinances that are more sensitive towards our environment)
 - 3) a plot of land close to a battery-charging station (she would like it to be converted to an outdoor classroom)
- Kuklewicz asks Ramsey or Boutwell to look into the glyphosate issue.
- Kuklewicz suggests talking with the Energy Committee regarding changing to non-combustion-engine equipment.
- Lord asks Lenore to forward the Lincoln Municipal Bylaw's regarding their issue with gas-powered machines.

Kathern "Beanie" Pierce, Town Clerk

Discussion regarding changing Annual Town Meeting day from Saturday to a weeknight

- Pierce discusses the possibility of switching having the Annual Town Meeting from Saturday to a weeknight (or two).
- Kuklewicz suggests doing a survey poll of Town Meeting Members.

Execute Warrant for September 3, 2024 State Primary

- Lord reads the Warrant for September 3, 2024 State Primary into the record.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Warrant for September 3, 2024 State Primary. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Chelsey Little, Clean Water Superintendent

FY25 Sewer Rate Hearing (continued from 7/22/2024)

Postponed until September 9.

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

Use of Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, September 14, 2024 for a music event co-sponsored by RiverCulture. Rain Date is Sunday, September 15, 2024, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, September 14, 2024 for a music event co-sponsored by RiverCulture; Rain Date is Sunday, September 15, 2024, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Public Property and street closure for the Northeast Unity Car Show, Sunday, September 22, 2024, co-sponsored by RiverCulture, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property and street closure for the Northeast Unity Car Show, Sunday, September 22, 2024, co-sponsored by RiverCulture, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Ann Cenzano, First Congregational Church of Montague

Use of Montague Center Town Common Church Grounds for Fall Festival, October 12, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Set-up @ 9:00 AM and Clean-up @ 3:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Montague Center Town Common Church Grounds for Fall Festival, October 12, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM; Set-up @ 9:00 AM and Clean-up @ 3:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Execute Employment Agreement with Angelica Desroches, Town Accountant, starting at Grade G Step 10 (\$82,394), plus \$4,040 Retirement Board annual stipend. Agreement effective August 19, 2024 - June 30, 2027

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Employment Agreement with Angelica Desroches, Town Accountant, starting at Grade G Step 10 (\$82,394), plus \$4,040 Retirement Board annual stipend; agreement effective August 19, 2024 - June 30, 2027. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Cell Phone Stipend, Samuel Urkiel, Highway Superintendent, \$5.77/week

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Cell Phone Stipend, Samuel Urkiel, Highway Superintendent, \$5.77/week. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Town Planner

Request ARPA Expenditure for \$20,000.00 to assist the Town in identifying projects that could be considered for Mass DOT'S Complete Streets Tier III or other funding such as Safe Routes to School, and will develop sketches for two (2) projects for a Tier III submission

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the ARPA Expenditure for \$20,000.00 to assist the Town in identifying projects that could be considered for Mass DOT'S Complete Streets Tier III or other funding such as Safe Routes to School, and will develop sketches for two (2) projects for a Tier III submission. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Contract of Services with VHB for the Montague Village Center Complete Streets Design Project. Contract value is \$20,000.00 to be funded from an existing ARPA appropriation

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract of Services with VHB for the Montague Village Center Complete Streets Design Project; contract value is \$20,000.00 to be funded from an existing ARPA appropriation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Discuss remaining ARPA Funds, status of ARPA-funded projects

Nolan-Zeller displays and reviews the spreadsheet of the remaining ARPA balances for the various projects that funds have been allocated towards.

Authorize Change Order #2 with Clayton Davenport Trucking for Closeout of Montague City Road Roadway Flooding Project (\$11,160.88)

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Change Order #2 with Clayton Davenport Trucking for Closeout of Montague City Road Roadway Flooding Project (\$11,160.88). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Consider License Agreement with Clayton Davenport Trucking for staging area on portion of 330-340 Montague City Road Lawn

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the License Agreement with Clayton Davenport Trucking for staging area on portion of 330-340 Montague City Road Lawn and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Hall Decarbonization Study - Authorization to apply for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant - Municipal Sub Grant

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to apply for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant - Municipal Sub Grant for a Town Hall Decarbonization Study. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Other Project Updates

- Nolan-Zeller is advertising the Butler Building and Red Shed demolition. Quotes are due the first week of September.
- The Montague Center Library Window Trim Paint repair quotes are due next week.
- Nolan-Zeller is working with EDIC to set up a public meeting with different board and committee members to discuss the Farren site and the priorities and opportunities that it poses.
- South Ferry Road will be closing soon for the culvert update.
- The Cannabis Social Equity Policy is put on hold pending further guidance with Counsel.

Town Administrator's Business

Adopt Amended Host Community Agreement with Flower Power Growers, Inc. to address non-compliant terms identified by the Cannabis Control Commission

Boutwell makes the motion to adopt the Amended Host Community Agreement with Flower Power Growers, Inc. to address non-compliant terms identified by the Cannabis Control Commission. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Strathmore Demolition Design Agreement with Tighe and Bond for \$197,700, to be funded by Site Readiness Grant and State Earmark

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Strathmore Demolition Design Agreement with Tighe and Bond for \$197,700, to be funded by Site Readiness Grant and State Earmark; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize the 2nd payment to Clayton Davenport Trucking for the Hillcrest Neighborhood Playground Project \$104,144.00

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the 2nd payment to Clayton Davenport Trucking for the Hillcrest Neighborhood Playground Project \$104,144.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Announce FY24 CDBG Grant Award \$938,328

The Town received another block grant for this coming year in the amount of \$938,328. This is going to fund four social services program, a housing rehab program, and the reconstruction of two downtown parking lots.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting

None

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM, In-Person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and via ZOOM

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