

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, September 23, 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 Walter Ramsey; Police Chief Chris Williams; Parks and Recreation Director John Dobosz; 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 September 16, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 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

Personnel Board

Appoint Rachel Emerson, Full-Time Dispatcher (in training), NAGE Grade B, Step 1, \$19.76/hour, effective 9/30/2024

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Rachel Emerson as a Full-Time Dispatcher (in training), NAGE Grade B, Step 1, \$19.76/hour, effective 9/30/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Police Chief request to offer \$10,000 sign-on bonus for certified, full-time police

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the \$10,000 sign-on bonus for the two open certified full-time officer spots in the Police Department. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director

Use of Public Property: Annual Sawmill River 10K Run, Montague Center Village Common & Streets/Roads, Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM, approximately 200 people

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property for the Annual Sawmill River 10K Run, Montague Center Village Common & Streets/Roads, Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM, approximately 200 people. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Public Property: Montague Soap Box Races, First St., Unity Park and Unity Hill, Sunday, June 1, 2025, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, approximately 20-30 participants with 1,000-2,000 spectators

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property for the Montague Soap Box Races, First St., Unity Park and Unity Hill, Sunday, June 1, 2025, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, approximately 20-30 participants with 1,000-2,000 spectators. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Updates on Unity Skatepark Lighting Project and Montague Center Playground

- The Unity Skatepark Lighting Project work is going smoothly. The lights are up. The work should be complete in about a week and a half. We are just waiting for Eversource to do the connection. Dobosz would like to have an illumination ceremony event to make it more official.
- Regarding the Montague Center Playground, things are moving along a lot faster than anticipated. The work started on September 3rd. The playground equipment is scheduled to be delivered on October 4th. The deadline for the entire project is in mid-May.

Maureen Pollock, Town Planner

Request support for FRCOG grant application that would provide an updated Housing Production Plan for the Town

Boutwell makes the motion to support the FRCOG grant application for the updated Housing Production Plan for the Town, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Town Administrator's Business

Review Cannabis Control Commission non-compliance determination for 253 Organic LLC Host-Community Agreement. Adopt updated agreement with minor revision to Section 8 (surety and closure)

Boutwell makes the motion to adopt the updated agreement with the minor revision to Section 8 (surety and closure). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Request additional \$2,456.79 from Community Development Discretionary Account to complete Senior Center Siding Rehabilitation Project

Boutwell makes the motion to allocate from Account 225-5-184-5200 Community Development Unallocated the amount of \$2,456.79 as discussed, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Strathmore Mill demolition project updates

- The project started in earnest last week.
- On Wednesday of last week, engineers from Tighe and Bond met with the Eagle Creek Hydro people to investigate whether the mill can be demolished around the Eagle Creek Hydro Facility versus doing a full demolition and reconstruction of that facility.
- There was a meeting with the designers and FirstLight to work on the logistics.
- The engineers also did their assessment of Building 11.

Veterans Day event planning

Ramsey, Boutwell, and Suzanne LoManto are working on coming up with some plans to host a Veterans Day event on November 11.

Topics Not anticipated in the 48-hour posting

None

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, September 30, 2024 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining relating to the 2024 Pay and Classification Study, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares

The Chair deems that having such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's position.

Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining relating to the 2024 Pay and Classification Study. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye