

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, October 7, 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; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; and Library Director Caitlin Kelley.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting September 30, 2024

Postponed until next week

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

- A moment of silence was taken to remember Chris Sawyer-Laucanno, who passed away last week.
- Our police canine, Arty, also passed away. Kuklewicz thanks Officer Ruddock for all of his years of working with Arty.

Caitlin Kelley, Library Director

Proposed changes to Library staffing structure

Kelley presents two proposals: (1) to reclassify the Library Assistant and the Library Technician, and (2) split the Library Technician position into two positions.

Execute Contract for Library Website Services with Clearpeak Interactive, Inc., \$19,000 to be funded by Libraries Transforming Communities Grant, Libraries Operating Budget

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract for Library Website Services with Clearpeak Interactive, Inc., \$19,000 to be funded by Libraries Transforming Communities Grant, Libraries Operating Budget. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute November 5, 2024 Warrant for 2024 State Election

- Lord reads aloud the November 5, 2024 Warrant for 2024 State Election.
- *Lord makes the motion to execute the November 5, 2024 Warrant for 2024 State Election. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Review of ARPA expenditures, unallocated funds

- Nolan-Zeller states that according to the U.S. Dept of Treasury, the December 31st, 2024 deadline is no longer being enforced. We now have until December 31st, 2026 to obligate and spend the money.
- We still have \$61,588 unobligated ARPA funds.
- The CIC would like to assemble a prioritized list of what they would recommend for the Selectboard to consider funding.

Authorization to Execute Contract of Services with Associated Construction Co. for the CWF Primary Effluent Screw Pump Station Upgrade Project. Contract value is \$2,397.461 to be funded by existing Town Meeting authorization, grant from USDA Rural Development, and existing ARPA allocation

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Contract of Services with Associated Construction Co. for the CWF Primary Effluent Screw Pump Station Upgrade Project; contract value is \$2,397.461 to be funded by existing Town Meeting authorization, grant from USDA Rural Development, and existing ARPA allocation; and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Review bid results for 11th Street Bridge Repair Project. Consider potential funding sources

We only received two bids, and they were both over the project budget. Ramsey and Nolan-Zeller would like to schedule a follow-up meeting with the Weston and Sampson engineer to see what he suggests. Nolan-Zeller will give an update next week.

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

Other project updates

- We received a demolition permit for the metal building and the wooden shed. We are hoping to have this done within the next few weeks.
- The window trim painting for the Montague Center Library wrapped up today. We will be inspecting on-site tomorrow.
- Last week Nolan-Zeller attended the EPA Grants Orientation for instructions on administration of our Brownfields Grant for the Strathmore Mill.
- The FY 2026 Capital Planning Cycle has begun. Nolan-Zeller has asked the Department Heads to submit their capital requests to him by the end of the month.

Town Administrator's Business

Follow-up from 09/16/2024 meeting: Proposal from Tech Environmental for a third-party review of odor-controlling practices at Flower Power Growers 180 Industrial Boulevard

- Ramsey reports that Tech Environmental will do a third-party review of odor-controlling practices at Flower Power Growers. They will do a site visit and provide written comments and feedback on the ventilation and infiltration plan.
- Kim Williams from Ja'Duke is concerned that (1) they need someone to assess the odor around their building, and (2) the study should be done over a "lengthy time" as the major odor is not continuous. She does not feel that this proposal addresses the following questions: "What is the odor?" "Where is it?" "Why are they smelling it?"
- Nick Waynelovich from Ja'Duke shares that the theater doors had to be closed to keep the marijuana smell from entering.
- Waynelovich states that he does not understand how we can have a scientific study when we test any of the areas that have the smell. He feels there need to be sensors at Ja'Duke and sensors at the camp. He states that Flower Powers' comment that "It doesn't smell" is insulting.
- Waynelovich states that the Board of Health had health concerns about the air quality on his property, and he feels that this study doesn't address that.
- Lord states that the Selectboard is not beholden to the Board of Health's request. Flower Power is willing to fund the initial peer review, but nothing beyond that.
- Kuklewicz suggests that we need to coordinate with Flower Power to make sure that the study is done during a harvest.
- Williams states it is important to know what amount of the odor (an actual level) is harmful to children.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize a third-party review of odor-controlling practices at Flower Power Growers 180 Industrial Boulevard by Tech Environmental. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

SAPHE 2.0 (Public Health Excellence Grant) Request for a statement support from FRCOG

Boutwell makes the motion to support the SAPHE 2.0 Public Health Excellence Grant, and authorize the Town Administrator to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Correspondence from Franklin County Tech School regarding commencement of negotiations with the Franklin County Technical Teachers Association

The Tech School is inviting the Town to be involved in the negotiations with the FCT Teachers Association.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting

Canal Drawdown Phase

The canal is going to be under an extended drawdown phase through October 20 so that work can be done. Mass DOT will also use this time to make improvements on the Fifth Street Bridge. The Fifth Street will be closed from October 8th through October 18.

Election Lawn Signs

Ramsey advises that any lawn signs regarding the election that are placed in the public right of way will be removed by DPW.

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

OTHER:

Announcement: Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project Public Information Session on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 at the Great Falls Discovery Center

Next Meeting:

- Selectboard Meeting, Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM, via ZOOM

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