

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, October 28, 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 October 21, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting minutes for October 21, 2024. 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

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Close out two projects (*not on agenda*)

Nolan-Zeller states that through an accounting reconciliation, we were able to identify that based on projects that have been closed up already, we have about \$6,000 that hadn't been accounted for. He requests that the Board close out two projects in order to free up some leftover funds.

- *Boutwell makes the motion to close the Town Hall Window Project funded by ARPA and reallocate the \$610 balance back to the ARPA Account. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to reallocate the balance of the funds appropriated for the airport mower of \$16 back to the ARPA fund. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Authorize Contract of Services with Clayton D. Davenport Trucking, Inc. for 11th Street Bridge Rehabilitation. Contract value is \$142,000.00 to be funded by existing capital appropriation, ARPA allocation, and Project Overrun Account

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract of Services with Clayton D. Davenport Trucking, Inc. for 11th Street Bridge Rehabilitation; contract value is \$142,000.00 to be funded by existing capital appropriation, ARPA allocation, and Project Overrun Account. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant Agreement with Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for building decarbonization studies. Award amount is \$27,000

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant Agreement with Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for building decarbonization studies as discussed; award amount is \$27,000. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Turners Falls Manhole Repair and Relining Project Status and Bidding Plan

- This project will be put out to bid in mid-November for a bid opening date of December 10.
- This is Phase I of the project which is being funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Rural Small Town Development Fund.
- Phase II is going to be a later phase that consists of all the remaining Priority 1 and 2 work in both Turners and Millers Falls. That is being put through the Capital Planning process.

Carnegie Library Basement Project Status

- GCS has finished demolishing the interior walls in the basement site and have identified several areas of substandard framing.
- Nolan-Zeller displays two alternates proposed by GCS.
- The Library Building Committee, the Library Director, the Building Commissioner, and the contractor prefer Alternate 1, which is what is needed to bring the building up to code. The grand total for this is \$12,280.

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- Alternate 2 will cost approximately the same.
- In response to a question by resident Betty Tegel, Kelley states that the main floor of the Carnegie Library is serviced by an ERV. The current project will include installing an HRV.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the use of \$5,280 in ARPA funds to effectuate Change Order No. 1. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Hall Parking Lot Project

- Both of the buildings are down and the foundations have been removed and filled.
- The DPW is planning on rolling on the fill so that it is no longer a hazard, which will hold us over until the spring.
- The exposed window has been boarded up. We will need a long-term plan with regard to the window.
- Tegel pointed out that the handicapped spaces need to be more legible.
- Tegel also asks that the entrances to the back of the Town Hall and to the annex be checked and made safe for handicapped individuals.

Other projects updates

- Capital requests are due this week.
- We are working on an expression of interest for the FY26 MVP Action Grant round. We are aiming to complete a study of stormwater drainage on the hill section of town.

Town Administrator's Business

Authorize Execution of \$50,000 grant award from Executive Office of Administration and Finance for Senior Center facility upgrades (State earmark secured with assistance from Representative Blais)

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the \$50,000 grant award from Executive Office of Administration and Finance for Senior Center facility upgrades (State earmark secured with assistance from Representative Blais). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Authorize Execution of grant award from USDA Community Facilities for \$33,000 toward the purchase of a police cruiser

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the grant award from USDA Community Facilities for \$33,000 toward the purchase of a police cruiser; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

First Street Housing Development - Status Update

- The project slowed down when an environmental assessment found fill on the site that contains some hazardous material. A supplemental round of testing was done, and we are now working through the Franklin Regional Brownfields Program to determine a mediation strategy.
- Habitat for Humanity had been awarded a grant from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to help fund the construction. Due to the slow-down, the grant has been withdrawn. Habitat for Humanity is encouraged to re-apply after the soil situation has been addressed.
- Our partners are Mass Development are aware of what is going on. All the State agencies that can help are willing to.

Fifth Street Bridge Weight Limit Posting

- The Fifth Street Bridge is open again to two-way traffic.
- The hope is that the intervention will allow the bridge to remain open until the next inspection cycle next September.
- There will be a weight limit posted on the bridge (17 tons for a two-axle truck).
- The bridge is slated for replacement in 2027-2028.
- Kuklewicz asks Ramsey to send a letter of thanks to the District 2 folks for responding so quickly.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting

- There are three more days of Early Voting.

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- The Board of Health is holding a hearing this Wednesday a 5:00 PM regarding tobacco regulations and the sale of nicotine pouches.
- Next week we will be discussing the preliminary revenues for the budget and considering Excess Levy Capacity options that we have.

Pole Location Hearing

Eversource is requesting permission to install three (3) jointly owned poles in the area of 151 Meadow Road to mitigate long span lengths and low wires

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the installation of three (3) jointly owned poles in the area of 151 Meadow Road to mitigate long span lengths and low wires. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Next Meeting:

- Selectboard, Monday, November 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:20 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye