

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, November 18, 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; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; and Montague City Fire Department EMT Ann Fisk.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting November 4, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting minutes for November 4, 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

- Resident Julie Morse expresses concern regarding the drastic sewer rate increase. Little summarizes reason for the increase. Kuklewicz states that this will be discussed at a future meeting.
- In response to a question by resident David Harmon regarding the Tree Warden position, Ramsey states that we are still at an open call for inquiries.

Chelsey Little, CWF Sewer Commissioners

Sewer Bill Abatement Requests: 1st Half FY25

- *Lord makes the motion to abate \$150 for the 1st half of the FY25 billing period for 15 Avenue C, Turners Falls sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 35 Davis Street, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion that for 35 Davis Street, Turners Falls 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 7,000 gallons. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 16 Sherman Dr., Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to that for 16 Sherman Drive, Turners Falls 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 28,000 gallons. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 274 A-B-C Montague City Road, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion that for 274 A-B-C Montague City Road, Turners Falls 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 45,000 gallons. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 76 Oakman Street, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 21 Center Street, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion that for 21 Center Street, Turners Falls, 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 25,000 gallons for the 2nd half. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate \$1,908 for 52 J Street, Turners Falls for the 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill; then use 25,000 gallons for the 2nd half. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 3 Park Street, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Lord makes the motion that for 3 Park Street, Turners Falls 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 67,000 gallons. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Lord makes the motion to abate 8 13th Street, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*

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- Lord makes the motion to abate \$156 for 11 Union Street, Montague for the 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill; then use 5,000 gallons for the 2nd half. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate 32 Hatchery Road, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay
- Lord makes the motion to abate \$1,116.00 for 7 G Street, Turners Falls for the 1st half of the FY25 billing period sewer bill; and use 0 gallons for the 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate 150 3rd Street, Turners Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay
- Lord makes the motion to that for 150 3rd Street, Turners Falls 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 47,000 gallons. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate \$8,908.00 for the 1st half of the FY25 billing period for 180 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls sewer bill; and for the 2nd half of FY25 remove from residential billing as this is an industrial location and should be billed as such moving forward. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate 16 West Main Street, Millers Falls 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously unapproved. Lord - Nay, Boutwell - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay
- Lord makes the motion that for 16 West Main Street, Millers Falls 2nd half of the FY25 sewer bill, we use 21,000 gallons. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- Lord makes the motion to abate \$162 for 3 Greenfield, Turners Falls for the 1st half of the FY25 sewer bill; then use 20,000 gallons for the 2nd half. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discuss CWF Operations Building water bill for \$105,883

- With regard to the CWF Operations Building water bill, it was discovered that the old meter in the operations building was inaccurate in its readings. The new bill shows a surprisingly large number in water usage for chlorine feed.
- Kuklewicz states that if we really are using this amount of water, we should investigate the cost of drilling a well.
- Lord asks if we can check how many gallons a day we are pumping out for all of Turners. He states we need to find some better data points to set the figure against.
- Kuklewicz makes the suggestion that we ask for another meter.
- Ramsey and Little will meet with the superintendent at the water department to get some more information.
- **Review capital request: break room/meeting room conversations totaling approximately \$48,500**
Little goes over the capital request for changes to the facility.
- **Monthly Permit Summary for October 2024**
Little reviews the Permit Summary for October 2024. Aside from one violation where a little bit of chlorine went into the river briefly, we had a fantastic chlorination season.

Personnel Board

Promote Anthony Montivirdi, CWF Laborer/Operator, Grade B Step 5, \$21.91/hour, to CWF Wastewater Technician, Grade D Step 2, \$23.87/hour, effective 11/18/2024

Boutwell makes the motion to promote Anthony Montivirdi, CWF Laborer/Operator, Grade B Step 5, \$21.91/hour, to CWF Wastewater Technician, Grade D Step 2, \$23.87/hour, effective 11/18/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

FY2022/FY2023 CDBG Program Updates Public Hearing

Includes 7 units of Housing Rehabilitation, Hillcrest Neighborhood Park Construction Project, 5 Social Service Agency Programs and the Avenue A Streetscape Design - Phase IV

McHugh reads aloud the legal notice for the public hearing, then reviews the program updates.

Brian McHugh, FCRHRA Director

Sign contracts with Social Service Agencies for FY24 Grant

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Boutwell makes the motion to execute the four contracts for the Social Service Agencies as discussed, and authorize the Chair to sign them. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Collector

Disclosure under G.L. c 268A S 20(b) as municipal employee who intends to also serve as the Treasurer of the Turners Falls Fire District

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize and accept the disclosure as discussed from Eileen Seymour, the Treasurer/Collector; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

- **Use of Public Property: Spinner Park and sidewalks for "It's a Wonderful Night" in Turners Falls, Friday, December 13, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property: Spinner Park and sidewalks for "It's a Wonderful Night" in Turners Falls, Friday, December 13, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Use of Public Property: Santa Parade (via fire truck) co-sponsored by the Montague Center Fire Department Association, Saturday, December 21, 2024 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property: Santa Parade (via fire truck) co-sponsored by the Montague Center Fire Department Association, Saturday, December 21, 2024 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Seth Rutherford, CEO, 253 Organic LLC

Request consideration to submit an HCA Waiver or Model Host Community Agreement based on the fourth adverse determination received this year from the Cannabis Control Commission

Lord makes the motion to approve a revised Host Community Agreement between the Town of Montague and 253 Organic LLC as presented excepting under Numeral 8 (Surety/Closure and Clean-Up), removing "the entirety of the content" and replacing it with the words "remove per the request of the Cannabis Control Commission," and the same in regards to Numeral 12 (Indemnification). Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Request for authorization of \$2,884.54 from Community Development Discretionary funds for Millers Falls Library renovation project**

- *Boutwell makes the motion to rescind the motion from the May 7th meeting to fund the library renovations from the Overrun Account. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the transfer of \$2,884.54 from Community Development Discretionary Unallocated Account (225-5-284-5200) to the Community Development Discretionary Millers Falls Library Account (225-5-184-5294); and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Authorize contract of services with PowerOptions, Inc. for decarbonization planning services at nine (9) municipally-owned buildings. Contract value is \$27,000 to be funded by Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract of Services with PowerOptions, Inc. for decarbonization planning services at nine (9) municipally-owned buildings; contract value is \$27,000 to be funded by Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Authorize Chair to sign FY24 Green Communities Annual Report**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the FY24 Green Communities Annual Report. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Other Project Updates**

- **Town Hall Annex Roof Solar Project**

The design has been cleared by Eversource. The timeline is mid- to late-December for installation.

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- **Town Hall Parking Lot Rehabilitation**
Ramsey and Nolan-Zeller will be meeting with the DPW Superintendent and the Town Planner this Thursday to debrief and coordinate some of the logistics.
- **Gill-Montague Regional School District Capital Items**
Nolan-Zeller met with members of GMRSD last week to develop a plan for implementing some of their outstanding capital items (i.e., parking lot, driveway, and sidewalk repairs; façade improvements; office renovations; and card-access security door). The aim is to get those projects implemented this summer.
- **CWF Aeration Diffuser**
Bids are opening for the CWF Aeration Diffuser. This will be an in-house project.
- **Capital Improvements Committee Schedule**
The CIC schedule has started to take shape for this fiscal year. There will be two meetings in December and one in January.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Sewer Connection Permit Request from Z and K Estate, 221 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA**
Boutwell makes the motion to sign the Sewer Connection Permit Request from Z and K Estate, 221 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Execute Agreement with State for Sealer of Weights and Measurers Services, \$6,022.00**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with State for Sealer of Weights and Measurers Services, \$6,022.00; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Execute Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility contract extension FY26-30**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility contract extension FY26-30. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Lessee Community Action Head Start to install a playground shade structure on municipal property at 34 Central Street**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Lessee Community Action Head Start to install a playground shade structure on municipal property at 34 Central Street. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Student transportation to Smith Vocational High School**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to renegotiate and try to deliver the best price for student transportation for the balance of the year.. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting**
 - **Departmental Budgets**
We're expecting departmental budgets to be due on December 9th. We will be hearing some presentations and proposals from various departments and committees during the next two meetings.
 - **Town Hall Hours during Thanksgiving**
Next week Town Hall will be closed at 4:00 on Wednesday and all day Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Next Meeting:

- Selectboard, Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm VIA ZOOM

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