

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, November 25, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Director of Assessing Karen Tonelli; Board of Assessors Members Ann Cenzano, Rebecca Sabelawski, Ann Fisk; Farmers Market Coordinator Annie Levine; Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter;

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

Board of Assessors Chair opens the meeting.

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting November 18, 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

None

Karen Tonelli, Director of Assessing and Board of Assessors

FY25 Tax Classification Hearing

- *Board of Assessors Chair makes the motion to open the Board of Assessors Meeting.. Cenzano - Aye, Sabelawski - Aye, Fisk - Aye*
- *Tonelli gives the FY26 Tax Classification presentation.*
- *Boutwell makes the motion (with a friendly amendment) to set the residential factor at .8466, with the Residential Real Estate coming in at approximately \$15.21 per thousand and the Commercial/Industrial/Personal coming in at approximately \$24.26 per thousand. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to adopt the Open Space Discount, Residential Exemptions, and Small Commercial Exemptions. Seconded by Lord, unanimously unapproved. Boutwell - Nay, Lord - Nay, Kuklewicz - Nay*
- *Tonelli states that the Excess Capacity is \$1,445,369.22.*
- *Board of Assessors Chair makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Assessors Meeting. . Cenzano - Aye, Sabelawski - Aye, Fisk - Aye*

Personnel Board of Chris Williams, Chief of Police

Request to offer Conditional Offer of Employment for Patrol Officer to Tim Momaney pending completion of academy physical, psychological test, Cooper Standard PAT, and any prerequisite procedure for the full-time academy and meet all POSTC requirements

Boutwell makes the motion to offer a Conditional Offer of Employment for Patrol Officer to Tim Momaney pending completion of academy physical, psychological test, Cooper Standard PAT, and any prerequisite procedure for the full-time academy and meet all POSTC requirements. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board - Proposed FY26 Personnel/Budget Expansions

Roberta Potter, Council on Aging Director

Request for Council on Aging Assistant (Part-time)

- *Potter makes a request for a Part-Time Council on Aging Assistant and summarizes the reasons behind the request.*
- *The Board agrees to support the position and will discuss it with the Finance Committee.*

Annie Levine, Farmers Market Coordinator

Request for Assistant Farmers Market Coordinator (stipend)

Boutwell makes the motion to recommend that for FY26 we lower the Farmers Market Manager's stipend to \$3750 and add a \$750 stipend for a Farmers Market Assistant Manager. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Authorize Contract of Materials with Environmental Dynamics International, Inc. for Clean Water Facility Aeration System Fine Bubble Diffusers. Contract value is \$55,550 to be funded by a Gap III Energy Grant
Postponed for now.

Review Draft Community Involvement Plan for Strathmore Mill Clean-Up Project

- Nolan-Zeller reviews the Draft Community Involvement Plan for Strathmore Mill Clean-Up Project.
- There is going to be at least one public meeting needed.
- We will be ironing out some upcoming scheduling details with Tighe and Bond within the next week.
- We are moving forward towards a spring bidding for the demolition.

Other Project Updates

- With regard to the Building Decarbonization Plan, Nolan-Zeller has a kick-off meeting with Power Options next week. He will be helping them compile data about our utility usage, and then they can begin the process of creating roadmaps for clean energy project planning, incentives, and recommended timing.
- We will have our regular monthly check-in about ARPA at the December 2nd meeting. By December 31st any of the funds that are not under contract are going to need to be committed in some way in writing to a specific purpose via an agreement. Nolan-Zeller has been working with Angelica Desroches over the past week towards what the agreement would look like.

Town Administrator's Business

Notice of intention to begin negotiations with Police Chief for contract renewal

We will meet next week to begin negotiations with the Police Chief on his contract renewal.

MIIA Insurance renewal letter

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the continuation portion of the renewal letter from MIIA Insurance as described. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Tree Warden search updates

With regard to the Tree Warden search, Ramsey asks the Board for more time. The Tree Committee is looking at potential candidates. Ramsey is also looking at a couple of interested individuals.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting/Community Health Care of Franklin County

Ramsey shares that he went to a grand opening event for the Community Health Care of Franklin County. He encourages folks to take a look at them as a resource.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye