

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, January 6, 2025 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; Administrative Assistant Angie Amidon; and Airport Director Bryan Camden.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting December 9 and December 16, 2024

- December 9 Meeting Minutes pending.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of December 16 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

Presentation of the official Town of Montague flag to be displayed in the Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House

- Ramsey and Nolan-Zeller present the Town of Montague flag.
- Representative Blais' office will get it hung at the Hall of Flags.
- Amidon was thanked for spearheading the project.

Personnel Board

- **Status Change Notice for Cameron Valez from Truck Driver/Laborer in Training to Truck Driver/Laborer, Grace C, Step 2 @ \$21.89, effective 12/23/2024. His CDS was earned 12/20/2024**
Boutwell makes the motion to change the status of Cameron Valez from DPW Truck Driver/Laborer in Training to Truck Driver/Laborer, Grace C, Step 2 @ \$21.89, effective 12/23/2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Sage Winter to the Planning Board as an Alternate Member effective 1/7/2025 for the term ending 6/30/2025**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Sage Winter to the Planning Board as an Alternate Member effective 1/7/2025 for the term ending 6/30/2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Town Administrator's recommendations about Tree Warden posting vacancy**
 - Ramsey reviews the Tree Warden's responsibilities.
 - Ramsey lists the challenges we would have if we select an individual outside the DPW.
 - The posting for the position has been up since November.
 - Ramsey feels that in order to attract a qualified candidate, we may need to rethink how the position is restructured.
 - There is currently a candidate in DPW, a non-resident, who is willing to take on the position temporarily. The Selectboard agree to have him do so in the interim.
 - The Selectboard feel that the Tree Warden position should be changed from elected to appointed; this topic will be put on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Contract Amendment with Wright-Pierce for Professional Engineering Services for Turners Falls Manhole Rehabilitation. Contract amendment value is \$114,900.00 to be funded by Rural/Small Town Development Grant**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract Amendment with Wright-Pierce for Professional Engineering Services for the Turners Falls Manhole Rehabilitation in the amount of \$114,900.00, funded by Rural/Small Town Development Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Contract with National Water Main Cleaning Company for Turners Falls Manhole Rehabilitation - Base Bid plus Alternate A. Contract value is \$194,850.00 to be funded by Rural/Small Town Development Grant**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Contract with National Water Main Cleaning Company for the Turners Falls Manhole Rehabilitation - Base Bid plus Alternate A in the amount of \$194,850.00; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Purchase and Installation of custom cut vinyl graphics for Montague Town Hall and two window graphs for Town Hall Annex Meeting Room from Hale Custom Signs, Inc. Contract value is \$827.00 to be funded by Community Development Discretionary Funds**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Purchase and Installation of custom cut vinyl graphics for Montague Town Hall and two window graphs for Town Hall Annex Meeting Room from Hale Custom Signs, Inc. in the amount of \$827.00; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to transfer \$827.00 from the CD Discretionary Unallocated Account No. 225-5-184-5200 to the CD Town Hall Signage funding, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Execution of Milestone Forms 0-1 for Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Milestone Forms 0-1 for Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**
 - The Carnegie Library Basement Renovation is now complete. Nolan-Zeller shares some before and after pictures.
 - At the next meeting Nolan-Zeller will bring forward a proposal from FRCOG for managing the procurement of the Third and Fourth Street Parking Lot Repaving, which has been approved through a CDBG Grant.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Review draft of 2/12/25 Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles**
Ramsey reviews and summarizes the Articles in the draft of 2/12/25 Special Town Meeting Warrant.
- **Execute Order of Layout of Sandy Lane**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Order of Layout of Sandy Lane. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **FY26 Budget Updates**
 - **Review Budget Calendar and Set SB Schedule for Review and Recommendations**
Ramsey goes over the Budget Calendar and recommendations for the SB Schedule.
 - **Set Agenda and Special Topics for January 13 Budget and Personnel Hearing**
The Board would like to hear more about the Council on Aging, Library, and Airport topics. The Board invites Camden and Library Director Caitlin Kelley to discuss their issues at the January 13 meeting.
- **Announce Annual Town Meeting Date May 7, 2025**
Ramsey announces that the Annual Town Meeting will take place at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.
- **Execute Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant Awards from MassDEP**
Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant Awards from MassDEP. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel to be signatory for FY26 Collective Highway Bids with FRCOG**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel to be the signatory for FY26 Collective Highway Bids with FRCOG. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Town Administrator to vote on behalf of Town at MMA Annual Business meeting**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to vote on behalf of Town at MMA Annual Business meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting/Water Quality certificate**
 - Ramsey shares that MassDEP has announced that a draft of the 401 Water Quality certificate is being issued to FirstLight.
 - A draft of the certificate is going to be available on January 24.
 - There will be a 30-day public comment period once the draft is released.
 - There will be a public hearing the week of February 17.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM, via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye