

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025 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; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; and Cemetery Commission Member Judith Lorei.

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

**Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting February 3, 2025 if available**  
Postponed for now

**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

**Chelsey Little, Sewer Commissioners**

- **Rich Earth Institute Urine Recycling Program collaboration**
  - Little explains what the Rich Earth Institute Urine Recycling Program is.
  - They are currently working on a feasibility study.
  - The institute would like to partner with us potentially.
- **Millers Falls average flow update**  
Little reviews the Millers Falls Flow Data.
- **Monthly Summary for January 2025**  
Little displays the Monthly Summary for January 2025. Everything looks good.

**FY26 Budget Recommendations**

- Ramsey reviews the FY26 Budget Recommendations.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to move the FY26 Budget Recommendations forward to the Finance Committee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Personnel Board**

- **Accept Letter of Resignation from Jo-Anne Prescott from Cemetery Commission effective January 31, 2025**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Letter of Resignation from Jo-Anne Prescott from Cemetery Commission effective January 31, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Appoint James Simpson to Cemetery Commission effective February 11, 2025, for a 1-year term ending June 30, 2025**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint James Simpson to the Cemetery Commission effective February 11, 2025, for a 1-year term ending June 30, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Treasurer/Collector Position: transition from elected to appointed office**
  - Ramsey states that Eileen Seymour would like to continue her service to the Town and has requested an employment contract as part of her transition to an appointed official.
  - Ramsey asks the Board to designate one of the members to work with him to negotiate the terms of a three-year employment contract.
  - Lord agrees to work with Ramsey.
- **Other (not on agenda)**
  - Town Clerk Beanie Pierce has given a Letter of Resignation. She is planning to work through Tuesday, February 18, then take accumulated paid time off.
  - Assessor Karen Tonelli is planning to retire. Her last day of service is February 28.

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**Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

- **Authorize Contract with Voltrek, LLC for Electric Vehicle Charging Station network and maintenance services. Contract value is \$7,400.00 to be funded by FY25 appropriation for Charging Station electricity and network service fees**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract with Voltrek, LLC for Electric Vehicle Charging Station network and maintenance services; and authorize the Chair to sign it; contract value is \$7,400.00 to be funded by FY25 appropriation for Charging Station electricity and network service fees. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge and Demo project updates**
  - FirstLight is going to be procuring the services for engineering, demolition, and disposal of the Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge.
  - The Town is responsible for the water and sewer lines contained on the bridge. There are asbestos-containing materials on the utility lines. The Town therefore is required to assist Firstlight with the abatement of the asbestos, as well as the capping of the utilities once the bridge is demolished.
  - There is a \$250,000 settlement between the Town and FirstLight regarding the footbridge from years ago.
  - The engineer's estimate to demolish around Building 9 (which is owned by Eagle Creek), came back substantially higher than anticipated. We are currently re-evaluating how to move the project forward.

**Town Administrator's Business**

- **Authorize Town Administrator to submit comments to MassDEP on draft 401 Water Quality Certificate**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to submit comments to MassDEP on draft 401 Water Quality Certificate. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **FY24 Financial Audit Governance Letter**  
Ramsey shares that we passed our audit with no findings other than a small error relating to how we reported the capital assets of the airport hanger project.
- **Analysis of HERO Act optional exemption clauses**  
Ramsey will ask Karen Tonelli to come in and explain the HERO Act optional exemption clauses.

**Next Meeting**

- **Special Town Meeting, Wednesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM at the Turners Falls High School auditorium**
- **Selectboard, Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*