

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM  
Monday, March 3, 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; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; and Town Planner Maureen Pollock.**

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

**Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting February 24, 2025 if available**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes of February 24, 2025. 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**

Diane Sumrall expresses her wish for the Town to put the clauses 22I and 22J of the HERO Act up for Town Meeting, which would support our disabled veterans. The Selectboard had previously agreed that this discussion would be put on a future agenda.

**Zak's Auto, 221 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA**

**Request to add 5 cars (10 in total) to Class II License**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for Zak's Auto to increase from 5 to 10 cars on a Class II License, with a note that this will be effect until no later than January 1st, 2026. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Brick House Community Resource Center, LLC**

**Request Use of Public Property for 5K Fun Run and Walk on May 17, 2024, from Bike Path through the Patch from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Public Property by the Brick House Community Resource Center, LLC for 5K Fun Run and Walk on May 17, 2024, from Bike Path through the Patch from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Personnel Board**

**Assessor Office Transition Plan**

Ramsey announces that the Board of Assessors plans to appoint Oliver Beane, the current Assessing Technician, to the position of Director of Assessing in the interim. Ramsey will approach the Selectboard next week regarding the salary.

**Director of Assessing Hiring Committee**

**Establish Director of Assessing Hiring Committee and appoint Ann Cenzano, Board of Assessors; Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator; Matt Lord, Selectboard Representative; Eileen Seymour, Town Treasurer; Angelica Desroches, Town Accountant; and Ella Ingraham, Town Resident Representative**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint the following individuals to the Director of Assessing Hiring Committee: Ann Cenzano, Board of Assessors; Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator; Matt Lord, Selectboard Representative; Eileen Seymour, Town Treasurer; Angelica Desroches, Town Accountant; and Ella Ingraham, Town Resident Representative. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Clerk Hiring Committee**

**Establish Town Clerk Hiring Committee and appoint Tina Sulda, Interim Town Clerk; Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator; Chris Boutwell, Selectboard Representative; Deb Bourbeau, Former Town Clerk; and Ariel Elan, Town Resident Representative**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint the following individuals to the Town Clerk Hiring Committee: Tina Sulda, Interim Town Clerk; Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator; Chris Boutwell, Selectboard Representative; Deb Bourbeau, Former Town Clerk; and Ariel Elan, Town Resident Representative. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Aye*

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**Appoint Elena Pepe-Salutric to Cataloger/Library Technician, Grade B, Step 8 @ \$23.27/hr., effective 3/19/2025**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Elena Pepe-Salutric as Cataloger/Library Technician, Grade B, Step 8 @ \$23.27/hr., effective 3/19/2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Maureen Pollock, Planning Director**

**Request Authorization to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); Total Project Cost: \$32,300**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Planner to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); Total Project Cost: \$32,300. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Request Authorization to allocate required local cash match (15% of total project cost = \$4,845) and in-kind services made up of Planning Department staff time (10% of total project cost = \$3,230)  
(No motion was made)**

**Natalie Blais, State Representative and Jo Comerford, State Senator**

**Discussion of Town Legislative Priorities**

The Selectboard discusses the Town Legislative Priorities with Representative Blais and Senator Comerford. Issues discussed include:

- Options for regionalization
- Reimbursement for school transportation costs
- Electric bills
- The Municipal Empowerment Act
- Remote meetings
- The Town's strategic economic development priorities, and health care costs.

**Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

**Execute Certification for Closeout of Mitigation Grant PDMC 19-03 from MEMA**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Certification for Closeout of Mitigation Grant PDMC 19-03 from MEMA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Other project updates/Annex Solar Project**

The Annex Solar Project is going to be underway soon.

**Town Administrator's Business**

**FY26 Budget Updates**

We received our Chapter 90 figures this week. It's going up 6% from last year.

**Topics not anticipated within the 48-hour posting**

None

**Other**

Boutwell shares that he received six complaints from the residents of the community about the way the tax bills were mailed out.

**Executive Sessions with Board of Assessors**

**Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation with FirstLight Power, Inc. if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares.**

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**Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, 16 and 20 Canal Road in Turners Falls, if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.**

**Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation , character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual, if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.**

The Chair deems that holding these discussions in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.

*Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*