

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 7, 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; and FRCOG Representative Jay DiPucchio.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting March 31, 2025 if available
Postponed

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

Pole Location Hearing, 37 Fosters Road, Montague, MA

Eversource requests permission to erect a new pole to provide service for a new house and grant permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the erection of a new pole to provide service for a new house and to grant permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes.

Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Linda Dunlavy, Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Discuss proposed charter changes to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments

- Dunlavy gives a brief history of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.
- Dunlavy describes the process used to update the FRCOG charter document.
- In response to a concern expressed by Lord, Dunlavy states that FRCOG would like to change the two-thirds vote to a simple majority vote in two-thirds of member towns.

Consider revote of Selectboard recommendation for Warrant Article to Town Meeting

Boutwell makes the motion to place Article 31 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Appoint Ellen Lamoureux, Building Department Administrative Assistant, NAGE, Grade B, Step 2, \$20.24/hour, effective April 8, 2025

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Ellen Lamoureux as the Building Department Administrative Assistant, NAGE, Grade B, Step 2, \$20.24/hour, effective April 8, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Peskeompskut Park

Montague Community Band, every Monday starting May 5, 2025 to July 28, 2025 (rain date 8-4-2025), 6:30 PM to 9:15 PM (includes set-up and clean-up)

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Peskeompskut Park for the Montague Community Band, every Monday starting May 5, 2025 to July 28, 2025 (rain date 8-4-2025), 6:30 PM to 9:15 PM (includes set-up and clean-up). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Great Falls Farmers Market, May 3 to October 25, every Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Set-up starts @ 8:00 AM and clean-up is 1:00 to 2:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Peskeompskut Park for the Great Falls Farmers Market, May 3 to October 25, every Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM; set-up starts @ 8:00 AM and clean-up is 1:00 to 2:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Annual Town Meeting, May 7, 2025

Town Meeting Warrant - To Approve and Execute draft of the May 7, 2025 Warrant as attached hereto

- Lord reads aloud the Town Meeting Warrant draft with the exception of Article 3, which Kuklewicz reads.
- *Lord makes the motion to accept as the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the Town of Montague, Commonwealth of Massachusetts the following as presented: Articles 1 and 2. Seconded by Boutwell - Aye, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept Article 3 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Abstain*
- *Lord makes the motion to accept Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 31. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend Warrant Article 31 - the change to the FRCOG Charter. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

Review of FY26 Grant Strategy

Nolan-Zeller displays and summarizes the Montague FY26 Grant Strategy.

Update from Library Building Steering Committee: Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Selection Process

- Nolan-Zeller, Ramsey, and Library Director Caitlin Kelley are planning to negotiate a fair price with the preferred firm and bring a finalized contract to the Selectboard for execution at a future meeting.
- Due to the time-sensitive nature of the push to on-board an OPM, Nolan-Zeller asks if a quick Selectboard meeting can be held in two weeks.

Avenue A Construction Update: Status of street trees

- The trees on the northern stretch of Avenue A are being treated for Emerald ash borer. It is unclear at this time how effective the treatment has been. We will have a better idea when the trees start to blossom this spring.
- The project's general contractor has made us a unique offer to replace all 14 of those trees with like adult trees which would be considered less susceptible to disease.
- Nolan-Zeller will be meeting this week with representatives from the Tree Committee as well as our interim Tree Warden.
- **Other project updates**
None

Town Administrator's Business

FY25 Community Compact IT Grant Awarded \$30,000 to implement new financial management software.

Authorize Grant Agreement documents.

Ramsey announces that the Town was awarded the FY25 Community Compact IT Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to implement new financial management software.

Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements

None

Next Meetings:

Selectboard, Monday April 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM

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