

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 AVENUE A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 5, 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; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; and FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings, April 28, 2025

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of April 29, 2025 as amended.

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

Execute May 20, 2025 Town Election Warrant, attached hereto

- Lord reads aloud the May 20, 2025 Town Election Warrant.
- *Lord makes the motion to execute the May 20, 2025 Town Election Warrant. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer

Recommendation to transition from "6 month" to "12 month" trash barrel stickers. No change in fee proposed. To go into effect for calendar year 2026

Boutwell makes the motion to transition to a 12-month trash barrel sticker, effective January 1, 2026. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Request an extension to the FY22.23 MONT CDBG Program Housing Rehabilitation Activity

Boutwell makes the motion to extend the FY22.23 MONT CDBG Program Housing Rehabilitation Activity, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator

First Reading of draft Commercial Truck Parking Regulation to be added to the Town of Montague Traffic Rules and Regulations

- Ramsey states that DPW is planning on putting up a "No Parking from Here to Corner" sign at the corner of Prospect and L Street. The sign is currently on order.
- Ramsey reviews the draft to the Commercial Truck Parking Regulation to be added to the Town of Montague Traffic Rules and Regulations.
- Ramsey displays pictures of vehicles that would be considered violations.
- Resident Mary Feeney expresses her concerns regarding the sight lines remaining clear.
- Feeney asks the following questions:
 - 1) How can the Town make this new information available to the drivers in advance?
 - 2) Because the active drive time is between 6:00 am to late evening, what are the ways to ensure that there won't be any parking in that area given the absence of strong enforcement?
- Kuklewicz suggests possibly making the 6:00 PM time (evening deadline) earlier.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to move this issue forward to a public hearing at a future date. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Review and authorize Change Order #2 with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. for removal and replacement of two shade trees in front of 56 Avenue A. Value is \$4,020.39, to be funded by contingency under ARPA allocation**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Change Order #2 with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. for removal and replacement of two shade trees in front of 56 Avenue A. pending approval of the tree hearing;

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- **Updates from Library Building Steering Committee (LBSC)**
 - The Steering Committee is in the process of hiring an architect. The RFQ will be released this week.
 - Once the architect is hired (mid-June), we will move forward with the schematic design and site selection.
 - All deliverables are going to be due to the Mass Board Library of Commissioners by December 31, 2025. At that point, MBLC will announce the construction grants in February 2026.
 - We are on the hook for a match to those construction funds, which would need to be approved by a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting in spring 2026, followed by a debt exclusion vote at the Annual Town Election next year.
 - If the vote passes, there would be another year of developing final construction documents for bidding, with the final design ready by around summer of 2027. Then we would go out to bid and the construction would begin either in the fall of 2027 or spring of 2028.
 - In response to a question by Lord regarding moving the Carnegie Library to 38 Avenue A and constructing an addition, Nolan-Zeller states we have not received an official notice, but the Library Director has received a verbal notification from Mass Historic that they are not going to look favorably on that.
 - In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Nolan-Zeller states that we are intending to have a site selection done by July of this year. There is going to be a public input process between now and then.
 - Boutwell shares that residents have expressed that if we have to build a new library, they would like to have a combination of a library/senior center.
- **Other Project Updates/Five-Year Capital Plan**

Nolan-Zeller states that once Town Meeting is wrapped up, he is going to be meeting with CIC to start charting a course for the updated Five-Year Capital Plan that will cover FY27-FY31.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Town Meeting preparations**
 - We are in good shape for Town Meeting.
 - We have been working with Elizabeth Irving, who is going to be voted in as the interim Moderator.
 - Tina Sulda is the interim Town Clerk.
 - Ramsey and Nolan-Zeller are prepared to speak about some of the Articles (i.e., union contracts, the sewer lining project, the Shea Theater lease extension, the PILOT Agreement with FirstLight, and the FRCOG Article).
 - Ariel Elan states that it is very effective to have the department heads present their Articles.
- **Topics not anticipated within a 48-hour posting requirements**

None

Next Meetings:

- **Annual Town Meeting: May 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA**
- **Selectboard Meeting: Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM**

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye