

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 19, 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; Library Director Caitlin Kelley; and Police Chief Chris Williams.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings: May 5 and May 12, 2025

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meetings of May 5 and May 12, 2025 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

Personnel

- **Correct Jackson Erali's Appointment from 5/12/25 meeting**

- **Change duration from 8 months to 3 months**

Boutwell makes the motion to set the appointment for Jackson Erali for Grounds Maintenance at the airport for a period of three months, effective hire date 06-01-25. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Caitlin Kelley, Library Director, Job Description Approval**

- **Eliminate Children's Programs Assistant Position**
 - **Create Community Relations Coordinator Position**

- **Library-in-Charge (LiC) Management Support Stipend Position**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the position changes as described. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.

Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Other (not on agenda)**

Ramsey states that Andrew Nicoletti is ready to become a Full-Time Dispatcher. He has completed his training as of last week.

Brian Westbrook, RPM Fest

Overview of RPM Fest August 29 - August 31, 2025, at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club

Westbrook gives an overview of the RPM Fest. There are no significant changes.

Public Hearing:

Proposal to amend the Montague Traffic Rules and Regulations by adding a new section #11 to Article V titled "Commercial Truck Parking Restrictions"

- Kuklewicz gives an overview of the new section #11 being proposed.
- Ramsey states he has received some feedback and there is a general feeling of satisfaction that Board has taken this action.
- Some people feel that the regulation could go further to restrict truck parking at all times during the day.
- Ramsey shares that there is an anti-idling law in Massachusetts and suggests that the Town look into and enforce this law if necessary. He will review this issue with the Board of Health Director and the Police Chief.
- Resident Lillian Moss discusses the impact that low-frequency noise created by an 18-wheeler's cooling unit can have on some individuals. She suggests that the Town find a designated spot for these trucks to park.
- Kuklewicz suggests putting a "No Parking" sign on L Street from some distance for safety.
- Kuklewicz suggests having a public discussion regarding a designated spot for the trucks to park.
- Lord states that the Planning Board would be an excellent place for conversations regarding a designated spot.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Montague Traffic Rules and Regulations by adding a new section #11 to Article V titled "Commercial Truck Parking Restrictions." Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to make the new regulation effective Monday, May 26, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize application for funding from FY26 Community One Stop for Grown grant programs**

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Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to apply for the grants as described. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Other Updates/Avenue A Construction**

- The Tree Hearing was held for the two trees in front of Gary's Coins and Antiques last week. Two members of the public attended and both were in support of removing those two trees, which will be taken down by the Tree Warden. This will save us \$1,000 from the originally approved Change Order.
- Construction might start on that block of Avenue A (the even side between 2nd and 3rd Street) later this week, weather-permitting.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Plan to solicit feedback on Annual Town Meeting date**

Ramsey will send a questionnaire to Town Meeting members to get their feedback regarding having the Town Meeting during the middle of the week. He will bring the results to the Board at the next meeting.

- **Planning for electricity purchase contract renewals up in December 2025**

Ramsey shares that he is working on electricity purchase contract renewals. A two-year contract is recommended due to the changes that are happening.

- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements**

- **Executive Session Minutes**

Ramsey asks the Board if they would be willing to designate Kuklewicz to review and approve Executive Session minutes. Lord suggests giving it a try for now. Kuklewicz asks Lord and Boutwell to read through the minutes, then he will meet with Ramsey next week to review them.

- **Election**

Ramsey announces that there is an Election tomorrow from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Executive Sessions:

- **Anticipated Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2), to conduct contract negotiations with Police Chief, Chris Williams; votes may be taken**
- **Anticipated Executive Session in accordance, with G.L. c. 30A; Section 21(a)(2), to conduct collective bargaining sessions (NEPBA Local 183) and G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and collective bargaining (NEPB Local 183; S. Williams v. Town of Montague, MCAD Docket No. 25SEM00137)**
- The Chair deems that holding these discussions in open meeting 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*

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, June 2, 2025, at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM