

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Matt Lord, and Marina Goldman; Walter Ramsey; Christopher Nolan-Zeller and RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings:

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2025. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - 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

Jennifer Luciano, Turners Falls Softball

Request for Use of Public Property at Corner of Avenue A & 3rd Street and Corner of Avenue A & 7th Street for a Helmet Drive Fundraiser for Championship jackets and banquet

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Public Property at Corner of Avenue A & 3rd Street and Corner of Avenue A & 7th Street for a Helmet Drive Fundraiser for Championship jackets and banquet subject to submission of the insurance waiver and signature by Police Chief Williams. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture

Pocumtuck Homeland Festival

- **Request for road closure of First Street between L and Unity Park Hill between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM on August 1-3, 2025**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request for the road closure First Street between L and Unity Park Hill between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM on August 1-3, 2025; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Request for Entertainment Permit for August 1-3, 2025**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request for an Entertainment Permit for August 1-3, 2025 for the Pocumtuck Homeland Festival. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Execute Agreement with Northfield Mountain LLC/FirstLight MA Hydro for Use of Property along the river for Pocumtuck Homeland Festival, August 1-3, 2025**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Northfield Mountain LLC/FirstLight MA Hydro for Use of Property along the river for Pocumtuck Homeland Festival, August 1-3, 2025; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Discuss and authorize charge for Police Chief Hiring Committee**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the charge for the Police Chief Search Committee, with the committee to be composed of five members including the Town Administrator, one MPD Officer, one Selectboard member, and two Town residents. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Police Department requests a Phone Stipend for Timothy Momaney at current rate of \$5.77 per week**

Goldman makes the motion to authorize a Phone Stipend for Timothy Momaney at the current rate of \$5.77 per week. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Review and execute Collective Bargaining Agreement with National Association of Government Employees for period 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2028**

Goldman makes the motion to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement with National Association of Government Employees for period 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2028. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Memorandum of Agreement with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274, relating to health insurance stipend**

Goldman makes the motion to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274, relating to health insurance stipend; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Review and execute Collective Bargaining Agreement with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 for period of 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2028**

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Goldman makes the motion to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 for period of 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2028. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye

- **Appoint Judith Lorei to Cemetery Commission for a one-year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Judith Lorei to the Cemetery Commission for a one-year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Appoint Annabel Levine to Cemetery Commission for a 3-year term effective Assistant 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028**
Postponed until next week.
- **Appoint Mary Mattiace to Cemetery Commission for a 3-year term effective Assistant 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028**
Postponed until next week.
- **Temporary rescind 6/16/25 appointment of Sam Stevens as CWF Foreman and Tim Little as CWF Lead Operator**
Postponed for now.
- **Approve Annual Appointments as set forth in the attached list**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the 2025 Annual Appointments excepting the removal of Rich Kuklewicz as the FRCOG representative and putting Matthew Lord there as well, and removal of Rich Kuklewicz as the FRTA Advisory Board member and representative and putting Matthew Lord in as the Advisory Board Member. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Authorize Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement Pursuant to G.L. c. 59 §38H(b) with FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC for fiscal years 2026 through 2035**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement Pursuant to G.L. c. 59 §38H(b) with FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC for fiscal years 2026 through 2035. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Contract with Schwartz/Silver, Inc. for architectural and design services for the planning and design of the Montague Public Libraries Main Branch Project. Contract value is \$150,900.00 to be funded by Massachusetts Public Library Construction Grant Program (MPLCP) And Town appropriation**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the Contract with Schwartz/Silver, Inc. for architectural and design services for the planning and design of the Montague Public Libraries Main Branch Project excepting sections 3.2 and 14.5, which have updated language as has been presented to the Selectboard via email on June 30; and authorize the Chair to sign any necessary documents. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Approval of Change Order with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. Change order value is a credit of \$7,365.04 to the Town**
Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Change Order with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. in the amount of \$7,365.04; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye
- **Other Updates**
None

Town Administrator's Business

- **Cable Television Renewal License Updates: draft license with Comcast for term 9/1/2025 to 8/31/2035 ready for public hearing**
 - Ramsey shares that we have been able to negotiate an agreement with Comcast that is in the interest of the Town and meets the approval of the Cable Advisory Committee. This will put us in a good position for the next ten years.
 - One of the many benefits in the agreement is it funds local community access (PEG Programming).
 - The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on July 21. We will hear from Attorney Bill August, members of the CAC, and representatives from MCTV and MCCI.
- **Announce Annual Canal Drawdown 9/21 to 9/27, emergency work at Turners Falls Dam Week of July 7**
 - FirstLight will be doing the Annual Canal Drawdown from 9/21 to 9/27.
 - FirstLight will be doing some emergency work done on the Turners Falls Dam starting next week. The river is not going to be boat-able for that week as the water level will be lowered.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements/Eversource upgrades**
Eversource is going to be upgrading household meters to smart meters. They will be sending out notices over the next month.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A and via ZOOM

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