

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM
Monday, December 16, 2024 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; Police Chief Chris Williams; DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel; and Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz;

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting December 9, 2024

Postponed until next meeting.

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

Sam Urkiel, DPW Superintendent

DEP Third-Party Report, Operations & Maintenance, Transfer Station/Handling Facility

- With regard to the DEP Third-Party Report, Operations & Maintenance, Transfer Station/Handling Facility, Urkiel lists some of the issues that need to be addressed. Small issues include fire extinguishers, Band-Aids, etc. Larger issues include cleaning up some of the leaf piles, removing brush, and getting rid of some brick and concrete.
- We can rent a brush shredder for about a week for \$10,000.
- The possibility of adding an automatic gate at the entrance was discussed to try to reduce some additional collection of products when there is nobody manning the gate.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to accept the DEP Third-Party Report, Operations & Maintenance, Transfer Station/Handling Facility. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Abstain, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Jon Dobosz, Parks & Rec Director, and Al Cummings, Soldiers Memorial Committee

Partnership and planning for the 2025 Rag-Shag Parade

- Dobosz states that the Rag-Shag did not occur last October. He asked Al Cummings if the Soldiers Memorial Committee would like to partner with the Parks & Rec Department to hold future parades, or maybe have the P & D Department take it over.
- Ramsey states that the RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto has also expressed willingness to support revival of the Rag-Shag Parade.
- Kuklewicz suggests contemplating changing the Veterans Committee to be a voluntary board.
- Boutwell shares that the Veterans Committee is currently a committee of one. For the committee, three members need to be veterans, and one needs to be a non-vet.

Personnel Department

- **Appoint Thomas Wyman, Alternate Electrical Inspector, effective 12/17/2024 for a term of 6 months. Term expires 6/30/2025**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Thomas Wyman as an Alternate Electrical Inspector, effective 12/17/2024 for a term of 6 months; term expires 6/30/2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Tim Momaney, Patrol Officer, Grade: Patrolman, Step 1: \$24.59/hour, effective January 6, 2025, pending passing of physical fitness and PAT testing per Mass. Police Academy requirements**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Tim Momaney as a Patrol Officer, Grade: Patrolman, Step 1: \$24.59/hour, effective January 6, 2025, pending passing of physical fitness and PAT testing per Mass. Police Academy requirements. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Carter Woodward, Patrol Officer, Grade: Patrolman, Step 1: \$24.59/hour, effective January 6, 2025, pending passing of physical fitness and PAT testing per Mass. Police Academy requirements.**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Carter Woodward as a Patrol Officer, Grade: Patrolman, Step 1: \$24.59/hour, effective January 6, 2025, pending passing of physical fitness and PAT testing per Mass. Police Academy requirements. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Chris Williams, Police Chief

Approve MOU between Montague PD, Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. Local 183 in regard to Field Training FCSO Deputies serving as Peace Officers in the Community

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the MOU between Montague PD, Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), and an additional MOU between the Montague Police Department and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. Local 183 in regard to Field Training FCSO Deputies serving as Peace Officers in the Community as discussed; and authorize the Selectboard

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Chair and the Police Chief to sign said documents. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant

- **Approve 2025 Annual Permit Applications and Licenses as set forth in the attached listing**
 - *Lord makes the motion to renew the Brewery/Winery Pouring Permit - Seating Under 50 for the cost of \$110.00 each: Element Brewing Company dba Element Brewing Co., LLC; Pioneer Valley Brewery, LLC; and Brick & Feather Brewery, Inc. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz (Boutwell was momentarily out of the ZOOM meeting)*
 - *Lord reads aloud the list of Licenses to be approved:*
 - *All Alcohol Club 2025 Licenses at the cost of \$725.00 each for Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.; Montague B.P.O. Elks Lodge 2521; St. Kazimierz Society dba St. Kazimierz Society dba St. Kazimierz Society; St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; and Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.*
 - *General On Premises - Wines & Malt License at the cost of \$580.00 for Sow Loud, LLC dba The Upper Bend*
 - *All Alcohol Package Store Licenses at the cost of \$975.00 each for Bryan Call dba Crestview Liquors; Slow Village Ahead dba Montague Village Store; Purple Meadow Ventures, Inc. dba Connecticut River Liquor & Wine; and Om Shiv Shambhu, Inc. dba Carroll's Market*
 - *Package Store, Wines and Malt Licenses at the cost of \$550.00 each for Crooked River Corp. dba Food City; and Sow Loud, LLC dba Avenue A Market*
 - *All Alcohol Restaurant Licenses at the cost of \$1,050 each for Crystal Spring Investments, LLC dba Millers Pub; Dreamhouse Foods, Inc. dba Dreamhouse; El Nopalito, LLC dba El Nopalito; Hole Pie, Inc., dba Harvey's; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; Secondhand Smoke, Inc. dba North Village Smokehouse; Shea Theater Arts Center; and Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club*
 - *Wines and Malt Restaurant Licenses at \$580.00 each for CVB Harvest LLC dba Great Falls Harvest; and Lady Killigrew Café, Inc. dba Lady Killigrew Café, Inc.*
 - *Miscellaneous Licenses - (with Liquor Licenses):*
 - *Automatic Amusement License at the cost of \$45.00 each device: Millers Pub; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.; Montague B.P.O. Elks #2521; St. Kazimierz Society; St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; and Pioneer Valley Brewery*
 - *Entertainment Licenses at the cost of \$55.00 each for Great Falls Harvest; Element Brewing Company; Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.; Millers Pub; Montague Elks #2521; Pioneer Valley Brewery, LLC; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; St. Kazimierz Society; Secondhand Smoke, Inc. dba North Village Smokehouse; Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc.; St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club, Inc.; and Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club*
 - *Common Victualler License at \$40.00 each for Crystal Springs Investments, LLC dba Millers Pub; CB Harvest, LLC dba Great Falls Harvest; Dreamhouse Foods, Inc. dba El Nopalito; Element Brewing Company; Hole Pie, Inc. dba Harvey's; Lady Killigrew Café, Inc. dba Lady Killigrew Café, Inc.; Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.; Montague B.P.O. Elks Lodge 2521; Rocket Science, LLC dba The Rendezvous; St. Kazimierz Society dba St. Kazimierz Society; Secondhand Smoke, Inc. dba North Village Smokehouse; Shady Glen, Inc. dba Shady Glen, Inc.; Sow Loud, LLC dba The Upper Bend; St. Stanislaus B and M Society, Inc.; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club - Dining Room; Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club - Clubhouse; and Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc.*
 - *Miscellaneous Licenses - (Not related to Liquor Licenses):*
 - *Lodging House License at the cost of \$40.00 for F. C. Housing Authority*
 - *Class II - Used Cars License at the cost of \$110.00 each for Bob's Auto; Koch's Auto Sales; Mark's Auto at 366 Federal St., Montague; Mark's auto at 484 Federal St., Montague; Rau's Sunoco; Semaski General Contractor & Equipment Sales; and Zak's Auto Sales and Repair*
 - *Class III - Junk License at the cost of \$110.00 each for Bob's Auto and Rau's Sunoco*
 - *Entertainment License for Montague Book Mill*
 - *Common Victualler License for Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant; Country Creemee; Scotty's, TF F. L. Roberts dba NEC OPCO I, Inc.; Subway dba CK Sandwiches; and Turners Falls Pizza*
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Licenses as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Set Winter Special Town Meeting Date (February 12, 2025)**
 - *Bogusz suggests setting the Winter Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.*

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- Article submissions would be due on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM.
- Kuklewicz has a standing meeting on that date, but will try to make the Special Town Meeting
- Ramsey reviews the 7 Articles which are currently lined up for the meeting.
- Kuklewicz asks that we start getting notices out to Town Meeting Members and put the date on the website.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Notice of Award to National Water Main Cleaning Company for Turners Falls Manhole Rehabilitation - Base Bid plus Alternate A. Contract Value is \$194,850.00 to be funded by Rural/Small Town Development Grant**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Award of Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation to National Water Main Cleaning Company as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract with National Water Main Service for the Manhole Rehabilitation in the amount of \$144,850.00, and to include Alternate A in the amount of \$50,000 for a total of \$194,850.00. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Authorization to apply for Shared Streets and Spaces Grant funding of up to \$250,000 for ADA improvements at 102-112 block of Avenue A**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to apply for the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant funding of up to \$250,000 for ADA improvements at 102-112 block of Avenue A. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Other Project Updates**

None

Town Administrator's Business

- **Extend Berkshire Design Group period of performance for the Ave A Streetscape Design Project to March 31, 2025**

Boutwell makes the motion to extend the Berkshire Design Group period of performance for the Ave A Streetscape Design Project to March 31, 2025; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Preview of upcoming FY26 budget review process**
 - The budget submittals are in and have been collated.
 - The Finance Committee looked at them last week and have identified which departments and boards they want to meet with. Meetings will occur on the first three or four Wednesdays. The Board is invited to attend.
 - Ramsey will be compiling the submittals and sending them to the Board for review, with all the departmental narratives as well as a master budget spreadsheet.
 - The target is to have the Selectboard finalize the budget by February 10, 2025.
 - We have a joint meeting with the Gill-Montague School District and their Finance Committees on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting**

None

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.3A, §21(a)(6), to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, 15 Power Street, Turners Falls, MA

- The Chair deems that holding this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.3A, §21(a)(6), to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property: 15 Power Street, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, January 6, 2025 at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM