

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, February 24, 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; and Montague Public Library Children's Librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard.

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting February 3 and 10, 2025 if available

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of February 3 and 10, 2025. 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

Angela Rovatti-Leonard, Montague Public Libraries

Request Use of Peskeompskut Park for Puppet Show on August 8, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Rain Date is August 15, 2025

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Use of Peskeompskut Park for a Puppet Show on August 8, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with a Rain Date of August 15, 2025; and waive the fee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Place Officer Michael Sevene on 111F status effective February 10, 2025**
Boutwell makes the motion to place Officer Michael Sevene on 111F status effective February 10, 2025 as discussed, and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Tina Sulda as Interim Town Clerk effective 2/18/25**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Tina Sulda as Interim Town Clerk effective 2/18/25 at Scale G, Step 1. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Abigail Moore as Extra Clerical/Election Worker for the Town's Clerk's Office, 15-35 hours per week, \$17.75/hour effective 2/1/2025 to approximately June 30, 2025**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Abigail Moore as Extra Clerical/Election Worker for the Town's Clerk's Office, 15-35 hours per week, \$17.75/hour effective 2/1/2025 to approximately June 30, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Establish Town Clerk Hiring Committee and appoint Tina Sulda, Interim Town Clerk; Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator; Selectboard Representative; Board of Registrars representative**
 - Motion postponed for now.
 - Lord volunteered to be the Selectboard representative.
 - Kuklewicz would like to have someone from the public to join the committee. Letters of Interest may be submitted by the close of business day on Wednesday.
- **Establish Director of Assessing Hiring Committee and appoint Ann Cenzano, Board of Assessors; Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator; Selectboard representative**
 - Motion postponed for now.
 - Boutwell volunteered to be the Selectboard representative.
 - Kuklewicz would like to have someone from the public to join the committee. Letters of Interest may be submitted by the close of business day on Wednesday.
 - Kuklewicz suggested including the Town Accountant and the Treasurer/Collector.
- **Other (not on agenda)**
The Board authorizes Ramsey or Nolan-Zeller to start advertising for the Town Clerk and Director of Assessing positions.
- **Resignations: Richard Ruth and James Mussoni from the Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC)**
 - Kuklewicz announces the resignations of Richard Ruth and James Mussoni from the Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC).
 - Nolan-Zeller states that the seat vacated by Ruth is designated for somebody with experience in industrial development.

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Contract Amendment with Tighe & Bond for Strathmore Mill Footbridge Asbestos Investigation. Amendment value is \$17,900.00 to be funded by Footbridge settlement with FirstLight Power, Inc.**

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- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Contract Amendment with Tighe & Bond for Strathmore Mill Footbridge Asbestos Investigation, and authorize the Chair to sign it; amendment value is \$17,900.00 to be funded by Footbridge settlement with FirstLight Power, Inc. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Authorize Notice to Proceed - The Associated Construction Company for Montague CWF Primary Effluent Screw Pump Station Improvements**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to sign the Notice to Proceed with the Associated Construction Company for Montague CWF Primary Effluent Screw Pump Station Improvements. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Updates from Library Building Steering Committee (LBSC)**
An RFQ to hire an OPM is going live this week. We have a one-month timeline for receiving qualifications with a deadline of March 26.
- **Other Updates**
 - **Ace Solar visit**
We have an onsite visit tomorrow from ACE Solar, who is under contract to install the solar panels on the Town Hall Annex.
 - **Request from Town Planner**
Nolan-Zeller states that the Town Planner is requesting the Board to consider granting the Planning Department authorization to move forward with an Expression of Interest for taking part in a program from the UMass Clean Energy Extension. The Board is in support of this.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Transfer \$3,961.36 into CD Shea Theater from Comm. Discretionary Account**
Boutwell makes the motion to transfer \$3,961.36 into CD Shea Theater (225-5-184-5240-000) from Community Development Discretionary Account Unallocated (225-5-184-5200). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Transfer \$182.32 into CD Town Flags from Comm. Discretionary Account**
Postponed for now
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirements**
None

Next Meeting:

Selectboard, Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 7:05 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye