

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
May 3, 2021

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Parks & Recreation Director Jon Dobosz, Fire Chief John Zellman, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton, and Finance Committee Chair Jen Audley.

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

Board of Health Chair opens the meeting, roll call taken.

Approve Minutes:

Joint Selectboard and Board of Health: April 26, 2021

- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the Minutes for the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: April 26, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the Minutes for the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: April 26, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Abstain*

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

In response to a question by Ariel Elan, Ellis explains that the Selectboard has the right to leave any item off of the Town Meeting Warrant. However, any changes would have almost no time to be reviewed by Counsel or any Board that may have specific stakes in the changes.

Jon Dobosz, Parks and Recreation Director

Request to create a gift account for Montague Center Park Improvements

Boutwell makes the motion to create a gift account for Montague Center Park Improvements. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board, Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

Appoint John Orcutt, WPCF Laborer/Summer Help, \$13.50/hr, up to 24 hrs/week, effective 5/10/21

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint John Orcutt, WPCF Laborer/Summer Help, \$13.50/hr, up to 24 hrs/week, effective 5/10/21. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

COVID-19 Update and Action Items

Update on Montague COVID case counts

Active cases from April 18 through May 1 equals 20; cumulative cases from October 1, 2020 through May 1, 2021 equals 273; total positive cases since March 1, 2020 through May 1, 2021 equals 302.

Update on Vaccine Eligibility & County Clinics

- The BOH will be vaccinating homebound individuals on Thursday.
- We were able to secure the Moderna vaccine from the FCROG.
- We are confident that there will be more availability of the vaccine for homebound people.
- FRCOG in conjunction with the City of Greenfield are still doing clinics at the John Zon Senior Center on May 5, 7, and 8. They will be transitioning into the drive-through at GCC weekly until May 25.
- Zellman attended a meeting today and gives an update: (1) the large-scale clinics are starting to be cut back; (2) Greenfield's last clinic date is in the first part of June; (3) FRCOG is looking at doing some finite clinics; (4) Deerfield is going to be having a clinic in Charlemont.

Review of Updated State Guidance or Orders

Wasiuk states that the Governor's Office announced plans for continued reopening (all of these are contingent upon the numbers staying where they are):

- Effective May 10, larger venues will be opening and permitted to increase their capacity.
- Focus will be on a lot of outdoor businesses, which will be able to operate at 50% capacity; they will have to submit safety plans to the Department of Public Health.
- Road races, amateur and professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place; they will have to submit safety plans to the DPH.
- Singing will be permitted indoors.
- On May 29, public settings and private settings will be permitted gathering limits of 250.
- Street festivals and parades will be able to operate at 50% of previous capacity.
- Beer gardens and bars will be able to open.

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- Effective August 1, dance clubs, nightclubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs, water parks, and ball pits will be allowed to open.

Discussion

- In response to a question by Singleton, Chief Zellman states that the Commonwealth and the FRCOG are pushing the vaccine as much as possible.
- Ellis states that the 1st shot rate is 54% based on DPH's data last week.

Daniel Wasiuk, Health Director

Review Mosquito Control Plan

- Wasiuk reviews the Mosquito Control Plan.
- In response to a question by Nelson, Wasiuk states that he can outline some of the advantages and disadvantages of a municipality getting involved with the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District.
- The members of the Board of Health express appreciation for Wasiuk's work into this plan thus far.
- In response to a question by Nelson, Wasiuk confirms that if we join the Mosquito District, we could join it just for surveillance and mitigation efforts and not for spraying.
- Nelson stresses the importance of making the public aware that we are not looking at doing any spraying at this point.
- Jane Allessandra strongly encourages that we get a written contract with the Mosquito District.
- Ellis states that we are fulfilling the requirement that Town Meeting approve of joining the Mosquito District, but making it subject to a secondary process. The Selectboard would be the venue for any final decision relative to joining.
- Ellis says that on page 8 of the plan, we need to check the box for website. He suggests creating a page as a subpage of the Board of Health that would be a container for the information.
- Elan clarifies that the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District is a State-defined district.
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the Mosquito Control Plan as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the Mosquito Control Plan as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Susan Corey, Manager, Montague Community Band

Use of Public Property: Concert in the Park, Peskeompskut Park, July 5, 12, 15, 26, 6:15 PM - 9:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for Use of Public Property: Concert in the Park, Peskeompskut Park, July 5, 12, 15, 26, 6:15 PM - 9:00 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

- **Rerouting of the Orange Route 32**
Route 32 will be rerouted down High Street by the Baystate Hospital, across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, through Turners, Montague, Millers Falls, then on to Orange.
- **Meeting with State regarding weekend service**
The DOT responded to a letter that Singleton sent regarding weekend services, suggesting that we meet with some of their members in which they will explain how funding decisions and weekend service actually works.
- **Other (not on agenda)**
Ellis reports that FRTA is proceeding with its maintenance garage to be located on Sandy Lane in Montague. There will be a Zoom-based public meeting on Wednesday, May 12, at 5 o'clock on this topic.

Receive and Accept reports of Police Public Advisory Groups - Schedule date for discussion

- *Boutwell makes the motion to accept the Police Public Advisory Groups that were provided. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Several individuals expressed great appreciation to Lieutenant Bonnett and Chief Williams for their willingness to share information so openly and honestly.
- Kuklewicz would like to allocate some time at the next meeting to review the reports and begin a discussion of public engagement.
- Next Monday's meeting will be posted as a joint meeting of the Selectboard with the two Police Advisory Groups. It is likely that the joint meeting will be posted for the following week as well. Ellis will invite Paula Green to attend both meetings.

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Town Meeting Warrant - To approve and execute draft May 22, 2021 warrant, attached hereto

Nelson makes the motion to add the following language to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for May 22, 2021, and to endorse all the articles as read:

- Nelson reads aloud the Town Meeting Warrant.
- Kuklewicz makes one correction.

Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Report

Public Information meeting about New Maintenance Facility for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority Located on Sandy Lane, Montague, 5/12/21 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

(See above under "Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative")

Transportation Planning Organization Update

- Ellis states that the group will be advertising implementation of the South Street Bridge Replacement Project over the Sawmill River in FY24.
- The Draft Transportation Improvement Program includes the replacement of the Sixth Street Bridge over the utility canal in FY26.
- The intersection improvements at Route 63 on North Leverett Road are on the local Franklin County Regional Project waiting list. We are not expecting see rapid action on that project. At present this project stands at 4th position for future funding.
- We will be receiving an update relative to a status on the North Leverett Road Bridge in terms of where it sits on the State's list of priorities.
- There will be a public information hearing relative to the TIF, which is one of the last steps in formalizing it.

Farren Care Center Closure Updates

- We will be having a conversation along with our legislative delegation and representatives of the Farren on Wednesday afternoon to talk about the transition plan and redevelopment study.
- The official closing date of the Farren will be June 30th.
- All patients have been moved safely to the Mount St. Vincent facility in Holyoke.
- All of the Farren staff have been offered employment at the new facility.

Topics not anticipated in 48-hour posting

Pre-Town Meeting Public Information Session

- Audley states now that the Town Meeting warrant is finalized, Town Meeting members will be receiving packets containing the Warrant and the motions, a report from the Finance Committee with background information on each of the motions on the Warrant and a report from the Capital Improvements Committee about each of the capital requests.
- All of the background information that the Finance Committee and Selectboard have reviewed in order to create the budget is available on the Town Website.
- Non-Town-Meeting members also have access to all of this information as it is public.
- Audley states she and Kuklewicz want to make sure that people have opportunities to be able to ask questions and get information and to research and get the context that they need to be able to come to Town Meeting prepared to vote.
- A list of Town Meeting members is on the website. Email addresses can be obtained from the Executive Secretary.
- Audley proposes holding a public information session about the Annual Town Meeting Warrant at the Finance Committee's meeting next Wednesday on May 12.
- Bogusz will reach out to the Town Meeting Members to let them know about the event, and also will post it on the website.
- **FRCOG document regarding Construction Services Bids**
Boutwell makes the motion for the Selectboard to approve and sign the document designating the FRCOG as the awarding authority on the Town's behalf for Construction Services Bids. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Route 47 Closing**
Boutwell mentions that there are signs up that Route 47 will be closed from 7:00 PM to 5:30 AM.
- **Email to DOT re: Canal Bridge**
Kuklewicz thanks Ellis for sending an email to DOT regarding the concerns we brought up last week about the Canal Bridge. They have agreed to take it under advisement.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Upcoming Meetings:

Selectboard Meeting, **MONDAY, May 10, 2021, 6:30 PM** via Zoom