

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
And via ZOOM

Monday, August 9, 2021

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz - remotely, Chris Boutwell, and Michael Nelson, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Director Daniel Wasiuk, WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little, FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh, and Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau.

Topics may start earlier than specified, unless there is a hearing scheduled

VIMEO Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/585312698>

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

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting July 26, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting July 26, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Abstain

Grant an Easement from the Town to NStar Electric (Eversource) and Verizon New England at Sandy Lane to serve the Kearsarge burn dump solar array

Boutwell makes the motion to grant an Easement from the Town to NStar Electric (Eversource) and Verizon New England at Sandy Lane to serve the Kearsarge burn dump solar array. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Pole Location Hearing (continued from July 26, 2021)

Eversource is requesting installation of one new pole, for a riser and recloser, to support solar site interconnection. Pole is to be located on western side of Sandy Ln., 16' from the street centerline, approximately 600 ft. south of intersection with Turnpike Road

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request from Eversource for the installation of one new pole, for a riser and recloser, to support solar site interconnection. Pole is to be located on western side of Sandy Ln., 16' from the street centerline, approximately 600 ft. south of intersection with Turnpike Road. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Deed and Agreement for Franklin Regional Transit Authority Bus Maintenance Facility on Sandy Lane Execute revised Quitclaim Deed for the Sale of 5.052 acres off Sandy Lane (Map 21, Lot 149) to Franklin Regional Transit Authority for Purchase price of \$125,000

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the revised Quitclaim Deed for the Sale of 5.052 acres off Sandy Lane (Map 21, Lot 149) to Franklin Regional Transit Authority for Purchase price of \$125,000. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Agreement (Kearsarge Montague LLC Access Right) between Town of Montague, Kearsarge Montague LLC and Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement (Kearsarge Montague LLC Access Right) between Town of Montague, Kearsarge Montague LLC and Franklin Regional Transit Authority. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Daniel Wasiuk, Board of Health Director

COVID-19 Case Count and other COVID-19 Updates

- Active cases from August 1 through 7, 2021 equals 3; active cases from July 25 through August 7, 2021 equals 7; cumulative cases from October 1, 2020 through August 7, 2021 equals 306; cumulative cases from March 1, 2020 through August 7, 2021 is 335. Percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in Franklin County is 61%. Cumulative percentage of individuals with at least one dose in Franklin County is 68%. Of the 7 cases in the two-week count, 4 were not vaccinated and 3 were fully vaccinated.
- An advisory from the Government's Office and DPH was received: Fully vaccinated individuals who have underlying medical conditions or weakened immune systems are advised to wear masks indoors; unvaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing masks in indoor settings and continue practicing social distancing.

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- The only exemptions for the face mask requirements are children under 5 years old and individuals who cannot wear masks due to health reasons.
- Ellis and Wasiuk share that indications are that among the breakthrough cases, we are seeing reduced levels of serious symptoms.

Progress Report on implementation of Montague Mosquito Control Plan

- The Board of Health has constructed a flyer for outreach and education and has put them out in various locations.
- The BOH is also planning on dispersing pamphlets and other materials, as well as constructing a website.
- Inspections are being held to identify and remove mixed rubbish, debris, and water-collecting items that create breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- The DPW has been staying on top of culvert cleaning.
- In response to a question by Kuklewicz, Wasiuk reports that in Hamden County, two mosquito species were found positive for West Nile Virus over the past two months. Montague is considered at low-level risk for West Nile and Triple E Viruses.

Authorize MA DEP Asset Management Grant Program Application, consider possible sources for match funding. Review proposal projects and funding

- Ellis states that after in-kind commitments, the Town's obligation would be around \$50,000 to \$60,000. Potential sources of funding include ARPA funding and a direct appropriation from sewer-retained earnings.
- Little shares two projects that this grant would be used for: Field investigations to identify I & I issues in Millers Falls and hydraulic modeling to support the long-term control plan update.
- Laurie Perkins from Wright-Pierce adds that the hydraulic modeling that Wright-Pierce will produce will help find the best fit alternative to mitigate the overflows with a cost-effective solution.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the MA DEP Asset Management Grant Program Application. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Joseph Price, The GreenHouse Cannabis Group, Inc.

- **Update on Delivery Courier License and Business Status**
 - Price reports that they received their provisional license on May 13. They are awaiting their final license, which they will receive after the Cannabis Control Commission does a final site survey.
 - They have received 40 applicants for the position for a Delivery Specialist.
 - Personnel will have a strong presentation in the Turners Falls/Millers Falls area.
- **Proposal for Delivery Operator License/Establishment in Montague**

Price states that pre-certification for the Delivery Operator License was submitted on July 19.

Authorize master agreement and component documents with FirstLight Hydro LLC associated with the Canal District Gateway Improvement Project at 5th Street, under the authority of 5/5/2021 Annual Town Meeting Article 24. The agreements pertain to the acquisition of easements for the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge and utilities on Canal Road, and the release of interests in Strathmore Footbridge

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the master agreement and component documents with FirstLight Hydro LLC associated with the Canal District Gateway Improvement Project at 5th Street, under the authority of 5/5/2021 Annual Town Meeting Article 24. The agreements pertain to the acquisition of easements for the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge and utilities on Canal Road, and the release of interests in Strathmore Footbridge. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Kuklewicz leaves meeting at 7:30 PM

FY21 Community Development Block Grant Public Information Meeting

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- McHugh gives an overview of the Community Development Block Grant Program. The projects the grant covers must benefit low- to moderate-income people. Eligible activities include Housing Assistance, Public Facilities, Infrastructure, Public Social Services and Planning Projects.
- Eight projects have been identified for the Housing Rehab Program.
- For the Social Service Program, four responses were received following the RFP: Montague Catholic Social Ministries, the Brickhouse, Lifepath, and the Wildflower Project.
- A public hearing will be held in two weeks where an overview of the projects will be reviewed.
- Ellis states we can apply for up to \$800,000. We are eligible for \$1.3 million over each two-year period.
- McHugh gives an overview of another Streetscape project that the FCRHRA is considering.
- Ellis clarifies that we are not going to be able to realize all of the projects on the Streetscape project; the projects mentioned are options.
- McHugh shares some community input he received with regard to potential projects.

Brian McHugh, F.C. Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

- **Authorization to Disburse No. 2, Franklin County CDC, Microenterprise Loan Program, \$400**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement No. 2, Franklin County CDC, Microenterprise Loan Program, \$400. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye
- **Authorization to Disburse No. 5, Sciaba Construction Corporation, Spinner Park Restoration Project, \$62,937.50**
 - **For Work completed prior to 6/30/21, \$36,636.75**
 - **For Work completed 7/2/21 - 7/21/21, \$26,300.75***Boutwell makes the motion to Authorize Disbursement No. 5, Sciaba Construction Corporation, Spinner Park Restoration Project, \$62,937.50. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

Personnel Board

Appoint Connor Johnson, DPW Grounds Maintenance, UE, Grade C, Step 1, effective 8/23/21

- *Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Connor Johnson, DPW Grounds Maintenance, UE, Grade C, Step 1, effective 8/23/21. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*
- **Other (not on agenda)**
 - Bogusz will send Alan Stevens a letter expressing gratitude for his years of service.
 - Ellis shares that Matt Cadran, the long-term officer manager at the DPW, is also retiring. He will also be sent a letter of gratitude.

September 21, 2021 Election Warrant

- Bourbeau gives a reminder that the Special Election will be on September 21, 2021 from noon until 7:00 PM.
- Nelson reads aloud the notice for the Election Warrant.
- *Boutwell gives the motion to authorize the Town Constable to post the Election Warrant as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*
- Bourbeau clarifies that the caucus is going to be on August 16th and that it is not closed to Democrats only.
- Bogusz shares that the caucus will be via a Zoom meeting and is open to all registered Democrats and unenrolled voters of Montague to vote to endorse a candidate for the Selectboard. Anyone who wishes to vote in the caucus should contact Mr. Wisnewski at mpwisnewski@gmail.com. In addition, any Democrat interested in seeking endorsement from the committee needs to send a Statement of Intent to the Chair of the Montague Democrats, Mark Wisnewski, at the above email.

Executive Assistant Report

Code Red - Additional Languages Added to Emergency Communication System

Bogusz shares that Spanish, Polish, and Russian languages have been added to our Code Red System. Residents may sign up through the Town's website.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Approve LaRochelle Construction Change Order for the COA Roof Replacement Project, \$5,251.07**

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Boutwell makes the motion to approve the LaRochelle Construction Change Order for the COA Roof Replacement Project, \$5,251.07. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye

- **Potential need to bid contract for WPCF Sludge Cake hauling and disposal**
 - Ellis shares that there were some issues with our Sludge Cake hauling and disposal contract, but everything has been worked out and there should be no disruption.
 - Ellis gives a reminder that there is a limited number of locations that take sludge cake. The sludge cakes have to meet very specific standards.
- **Update on North Leverett Road Bridge Advocacy**

Ellis states that Mass DOT responded favorably to our advocacy for the North Leverett Road Bridge. It has been assigned a project number for the purposes of preliminary design. The initial target cost is \$5.9 million.
- **Consider Contribution to Fund Study and Grant Application to build a regional digital economy**

Boutwell makes the motion to appropriate a sum up to \$3,000 from the Community Development Discretionary Unallocated Fund to support the Fund Study and Grant Application as described pending confirmation that all other funds required to fund the project are in place. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

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 from a meeting attendee regarding affordable housing units, Ellis states that the Town does not track any specific rental market or housing-related data. He suggests that Housing and Community Development at the State level might have the best data source available.

Boutwell the motion to adjourn at 8:31 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye