

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, November 22, 2021

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard Chris Boutwell, Matt Lord, and Rich Kuklewicz (remotely), Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, BOH Member Melanie Ames Zamojski, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, and Treasurer/Tax Collector Eileen Seymour.

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

Approve Minutes

Selectboard Meetings November 8 and 15, 2021 if available

Lord makes the motion to approve the Minutes for November 8 and 15, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - 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

Tim deChristopher and Pam Allen remind the Board of a topic which they had initially brought up two to three years ago - getting lights on the sculpture at the corner of Third Street and Avenue A. They would like to know what the plan is going forward. Ellis states that nothing has been brought to his desk relative to the project. He will follow-up with the Town Planner and RiverCulture Director. Lord states that the Planning Board (on which he sits) is the place where this project would be initiated. He recommends that Tim and Pam attend a Planning Board meeting.

COVID Updates

Review of COVID Case Counts and Trends

- Case counts from November 14 to 20, 2021 equals 11 cases; and from November 7 to November 20, 2021 equals 18 cases. Cumulative cases from March 1, 2020 to November 20, 2021 equals 442. The percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in Montague is 62% as of November 18; the percentage of individuals with at least one dose is 71%. Of the 11 individuals for the week of November 14 to 20, 6 were fully vaccinated and 5 were not. Age group breakdowns are as follows: 13- to 35-year-olds, no cases; 36- to 49-year-olds, 3 cases; 50- to 64-year-olds, 3 cases; 65- to 80-year-olds, 4 cases; and under 17, 1 case.
- The increase of case counts has occurred in all counties of Massachusetts. According to Wasiuk, numbers have increased in the United States as well as globally.
- More than 25 cases within a two-week period would put us in the red area.
- Wasiuk will discuss with the Board of Health how to respond to the numbers.
- In response to a question by Lord, Wasiuk states that the growth rate of case counts, the number of hospitalizations, and the number of deaths would determine what mitigation measures the Town should consider implementing.

Discuss any other needed response to COVID situation

In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Zamojski states we should get some communications going with the local businesses with regard to implementing their own guidance to help mitigate the spread.

Mass DPH Grants

- **Accept MA DPH Grant for COVID Contact tracing and Case Investigation**
Lord makes the motion to accept the MA DPH Grant for COVID Contact tracing and Case Investigation for \$125,000 for each of the next two fiscal years. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Submission of MA DPH Shared Services Grant**
Lord makes the motion to authorize the Submission of the MA DPH Shared Services Grant, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Michael Nelson, Great Falls Festival, October 22, 2022

- **Event Application for Use of Peskeompskut Park: 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM**

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, November 22, 2021

Lord makes the motion to approve the Event Application for the Use of Peskeompskut Park for the Great Falls Festival, October 22, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM; and to waive the usual fee and provide use for no fee. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Special 1 Day Beer and Wine License: 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

Lord makes the motion to approve the Special 1 Day Beer and Wine License for October 22, 2022 for Great Falls Festival at Peskeompskut Park from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Application to Place Sign: 10/22/22 to 10/22/22**

Lord makes the motion to approve the Application to Place a Sign by Michael Nelson for the Great Falls Festival from 10/22/22 to 10/22/22. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Tim Niejadlik, Director, Department of Veteran Services

Execute inter-municipal agreement with Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025

Lord makes the motion to execute the inter-municipal agreement with Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025; and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Accept resignation of Melinda Georgeson as Library Assistant effective 11/11/21**

Lord makes the motion to accept the resignation of Melinda Georgeson as Library Assistant effective immediately, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Melinda Georgeson as Library Substitute, \$14.00/hr. effective 11/11/21**

Lord makes the motion to appoint Melinda Georgeson as Library Substitute, \$14.00/hr. effective 11/11/21; and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

- **Approval of FY21 Green Community Annual Report**

Lord makes the motion to approve the FY21 Green Community Annual Report as presented by the Town Planner, and authorize the Chair to sign any necessary formalities. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Discussion: Town Hall Annex Reuse**

- Kuklewicz endorses doing research to help determine how to reuse the Town Hall Annex. He would also like to look into the area of where the police station was under Town Hall.
- Lord thinks that having community engagement space in the Annex would be useful.
- Ellis states that an architectural study would need to be done to support the space's redevelopment. In addition, the requirements for a public use space are different than for commercial office space. He states we will begin the process by engaging the staff internally to see how to better utilize the spaces.
- Ramsey states that it is important to start this conversation in the context of potential grant funding.

Eileen Seymour, Treasurer/Tax Collector

Execute Permanent Financing Bonds

Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the Permanent Financing Bonds for the amount of the sale of the \$1,295,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2021 Bonds (Series A) and for the \$1,490,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2021 Bonds (Series B); and to authorize the Selectboard Clerk to sign the necessary paperwork. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

- **Request to spend \$400 from the Unexpected Engineering and Surveying costs account to fund a PERC test at 517 Federal Street, Montague**

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, November 22, 2021

Lord makes the motion to authorize the expenditure of \$400 from the Unexpected Engineering and Surveying costs account to fund a PERC test at 517 Federal Street, Montague. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Execute contract for Mass DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant, \$9,600**

Lord makes the motion to execute the contract for Mass DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant, \$9,600. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Open Discussion of ARPA Spending Plan**

- Ellis lists four broad categories for the ARPA Spending Plan: (1) Sewer Infrastructure, (2) Public Health and Economic Impacts, (3) Premium Pay for Employees, and (4) Revenue Loss Compensation. He asks how the Board would like to proceed in terms of an engagement process.
- Approximately \$2.4 million will ultimately be available to us.
- Kuklewicz suggests that a focused discussion for at least an hour may be necessary to focus on criteria.

- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

Other/Early Closing

Kuklewicz makes the motion to close Town Hall and the Town libraries (subject to the Trustees' decision) on Wednesday, November 24, at 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, and Boutwell - Aye

Executive Sessions:

- **Execute Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property - First Light Power, votes may be taken**
- **Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30a, Section 21(A)(3)**
- *The Vice-Chair deems that holding these conversations in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.*
- *Lord makes the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the real estate matters, which may otherwise be detrimental to hold in public. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*