

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Police Chief Chris Williams; FCRHRA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; and Town Planner Maureen Pollock.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:30 PM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Selectboard Minutes from January 30, February 6, and February 13, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes from January 30, February 6, and February 13, 2023. 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.

None

Liquor License Hearing

Shea Theater, Christopher Belmonte as manager has applied for a transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) from Hubie's Tavern, Inc., DBA Hubie's Tavern and Restaurant. The premise is located at 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the Public Notice.
- Ellis mentions that presently there are no available All Alcohol Licenses in the community, but we do have one Beer and Wine License available.
- Belmonte explains the reasons for the Shea applying for the transfer.
- In response to a question by Lord, Belmonte explains that the Shea Board has hired a bar manager, and the Shea Director is TIPS-certified.
- Kuklewicz feels that the license has more value to the community in a more traditional establishment.
- Lord feels that if this is a public building and the Town is supporting a private enterprise, providing another mechanism for that entity to create revenue and reduce Town costs seems like the appropriate step.
- *Lord makes the motion to approve the transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant) from Hubie's Tavern, Inc., DBA Hubie's Tavern and Restaurant to the Shea Theater Arts Center. Seconded by Kuklewicz - approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Nay*

Chris Williams, Police Chief

Request Support to apply to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office for a full-time position with the task force

Boutwell makes the motion to support the Police Chief's request to apply to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office for a full-time position with the task force. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, FCRHRA

Authorize Payment #5 to Berkshire Design Group, in the amount of \$2,051.10 for professional landscape architectural, civil engineering, and land surveying services for the FY20 MONT CDBG Hillcrest Neighborhood Playground Design Project

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #5 to Berkshire Design Group, in the amount of \$2,051.10 for professional landscape architectural, civil engineering, and land surveying services for the FY20 MONT CDBG Hillcrest Neighborhood Playground Design Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Town Planner

Consider Planning Board's Recommendation to award First Street Housing Request for Proposals to Habitat for Humanity's proposal to construct 6 affordable single family homes

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the First Street Housing Request for Proposals to Habitat for Humanity's proposal to construct 6 affordable single family homes. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Intent to request \$13,000 at the May 4, 2023 Annual Town Meeting for local match for the 5 Villages: 1 Future Comprehensive Plan (FY23 and FY24 match to MVP grant)

Pollock explains the intent to request \$13,000 at the May 4, 2023 Annual Town Meeting for local match for the 5 Villages: 1 Future Comprehensive Plan (FY23 and FY24 match to MVP grant)

Public Hearing

Community Development Discretionary Account Transfer \$4,000 for the purpose of funding the 5 Village 1 Future Comprehensive Plan FY23 MVP grant local match

- Chair opens the Public Hearing.
- Pollock explains the Planning Department's request for the transfer.
- Chair closes the Public Hearing.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Request of \$4,000 for the Comprehensive Plan from the Allocation #225-5-184-5200 from the Community Development Discretionary Account, for the purpose of funding the 5 Village 1 Future FY23 MVP grant local match. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Personnel Board

Review and Approve Collection System Lead Operator job description

Postponed

Make recommendation for cost split between General Fund and Enterprise Fund (DPW CWF Subsidiary)

- Kuklewicz recommends for next year that the position be funded by DPW, monitor it for a year, then figure out a mechanism on how to go forward.
- Another suggestion by Kuklewicz involves funding it from the General Fund, having an allocation in the CWF budget, but tracking it during the year; then balancing it at the end of the fiscal year.
- Boutwell is okay with tracking in the first year; but asks if in the future we want to pay it out of one department, then charge the other department?
- Lord agrees with funding it through DPW.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to recommend that the appropriation for the Collection System Lead Operator be fully funded from the General Fund DPW budget for Fiscal Year 24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Update on Health Director Candidate H-1B Visa Process

- Ellis has been able to secure the services of Curran, Berger, and Kludt, a Northampton law firm.
- The cost of application includes a \$10 fee to enter the lottery, and \$350 for the consult and all of the work associated.
- We began that process on February 14, so we have assurance that we will be able to enter the lottery, and we should have an outcome by the end of March.
- We are probably looking at up to \$5,000 for total cost.

Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator

ARPA Priorities and Spending Decision Process - Carryover from 2/13/22 meeting

Ellis makes note of the following:

- We have made non-Capital Project investments such as COVID test kits and smaller items that relate to revitalizing our downtown.
- Some of the components of the spending decision process include whether we would want to accelerate spending, and whether the Selectboard wants to re-invite input from department heads, or the community.
- There has been a previous sensibility expressed to see about 50% of the total \$2.5 million invested towards wastewater and wastewater collection system infrastructure, which we are generally on pace to meet and possibly exceed.
- If we are asking for \$2.5 million and we are dedicating \$800,000 of ARPA money to the project, we will need to disclose that we have that allocation set aside when we file the application, and the grant funding will only be applicable to the amount that we intend to borrow.
- Discussion:

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- Kuklewicz wonders if it makes sense to shift the screw pump replacement to \$500,000, and shift \$300,000 to pay for the septage receiving upgrade, which would be a potential to generate revenue.
- Lord feels that it makes sense to borrow as much as we can, then try to go through the Town process (meetings with CIC, Town Meeting, Finance Board, etc.). Kuklewicz and Boutwell agree with Lord after some discussion.
- The Board decides to have a discussion with the CWF Superintendent before making a final decision.
- Ellis asks that the Board be prepared to share their thoughts at the Special Town Meeting.

Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant

Use of Peskeompskut Park, Montague Community Band, Monday's at 6:15-8:45 PM beginning May 15, 2023 through July 31, 2023 (Except 5-29-23 and 7-3-23)

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park, Montague Community Band, Monday's at 6:15-8:45 PM beginning May 15, 2023 through July 31, 2023 (Except 5-29-23 and 7-3-23); and waive the fees. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Report

Topics not anticipated within the 48 hour posting/General Pierce Bridge

Ellis shares that the General Pierce Bridge is now officially open to two-lane traffic.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye