

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard Members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Clean Water Facility Superintendent Chelsey Little; and Finance Committee Member Jennifer Waryas.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:00 PM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Selectboard Minutes from May 1, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from May 1, 2023 as presented. 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

Clean Water Facility Superintendent, Chelsey Little

- **Discharge Report Monthly Summary April 2023**

Little reviews the April summary: Flow has been low, BOD and TSS are good, and pH is the same.

- **Odor Discussion**

- Little lists some of the factors that contribute to odors being more noticeable: proximity, humidity, temperature, fermented soy milk discharge, fish waste sludge discharge, and the biological process. Processing sludge and holding pressed cake also contribute to the odor.
- She notes that if odor is smelled from the facility, it is not an indication of any violation in the treatment process.
- The best way to cope with odors is to add oxygen, which is being done.
- Little is looking at an odorizer, a small misting system around the heavier odor-producing areas. This would cost approximately \$48,000.
- The Board, as the Sewer Commission, would like to advance the misting option. Little is willing to move this up in Capital Planning.

- **New Draft Permit Requirements Update**

- The comment period has been extended to May 12. Ellis and Little are working on some comments for the permit.
- With regard to the Flood Plan Requirements, we may not actually be in the zone. Little is looking for some more clarification from EPA.

- **Overview on Projects (*not on agenda*)**

Chelsey shares that we have nine major projects at the facility, and eight of them are funded either entirely or partially by grants. Out of the seven physical projects, we are acting as the general contractor on six of them.

- **Project Update: Aeration Blowers and Diffusers**

After speaking with DEP and the GAP Grant Program, Little states we were able to combine the GAP 2 and GAP 3 and were officially awarded \$75,375, which will enable us to finish the project.

- **Project Update: Composting**

The kick-off meeting with Weston and Sampson took place on the 4th. Over the next year they will be doing a study of having a compost facility in Town.

- **Project Update: Industrial Blvd. Pump Station Upgrade**

We have some delay issues with purchasing equipment. We requested an extension with the State to change the deadline. We now have until the end of June 2024 to complete the project. We will be doing some site work over the next few months, followed by a procurement for wet well rehab in the fall, and then the installation of the pumps in the winter/spring.

- **Authorize the Chair to sign the Rural and Small Town (RST) grant extension contract (eSignature and paper)**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Rural and Small Town (RST) grant extension contract (eSignature and paper). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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- **Generator Project Update**

The new (used) generation arrived a few weeks ago. The generation tech says he can handle most of the design engineering. We do still need to procure an electrical contractor. Hopefully in the fall, we can do the final swap-over.

Montague Center Firefighter Associations, Ann Fisk

Request to use Montague Center Common for Community Gathering to Honor American Military Personnel lost in Wars 5-28-23, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request to use Montague Center Common for Community Gathering to Honor American Military Personnel lost in Wars 5-28-23, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM; and to waive any fees. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Presentation and Public Input Related to Recreation Settlement Agreement with FirstLight Power

- **Overview of Recreational Settlement Agreement and Related agreements**

- Ellis gives a PowerPoint presentation of the Recreational Settlement Agreement and related agreements.
- With regard to the Fish and Flow Passage, Kuklewicz expresses concern about (1) collection of silt in the area above the dam and (2) the impact on the capability of our generating plants.

- **Question and Answer**

- In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Ellis states that we don't have an expected estimate of hydropower loss, nor a quantification of the expected cost of such.
- In response to a question by Singleton regarding liability issues, Ellis states that the access points are going to be on FirstLight property. He has not had any conversation with any attorney about liability. Ramsey adds that there are some policies and bylaw-related things that the Board can consider (i.e., a bylaw requiring folks to have life jackets, as well as one regarding open containers).

- **Public Input**

Ariel Elan expresses her dismay that towns are being strong-armed/extorted - that if they want good things that they've negotiated for, they have to accept a whole other set of issues that they didn't even get to weigh in on.

- **Selectboard Discussion and Next Steps**

- Lord states that it has been a long, enduring process; and there remains unknowns in terms of what the economic impact is from this.
- Kuklewicz is concerned about the impact on our residents as far as tax base goes. However, he feels we have done the best that we can and that Ellis and Ramsey have done a very good job in digging into it and really understanding the situation.
- The agreement will be put on the agenda next week so the Selectboard can consider signing it.
- Ellis invites anyone who would like to give their input to email him.

ARPA Social Service Agency Gap Funding April 1, 2023 - September 1, 2023. Total Request \$30,000.

Authorize Professional Services Agreements with the following agencies:

- **Montague Catholic Social Ministries: "Families Learning Together" Program - \$10,000**
- **Western Mass Recovery Learning Community: "Montague Expansion" Project - \$10,000**
- **Brick House: "Youth Education and Prevention" Program - \$10,000**
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the requests from Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Western Mass Recovery Learning Community, and The Brick House for \$10,000 each of ARPA funds. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Assistant Town Administrator to enter into professional service agreements with Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Western Mass Recovery Learning Community, and The Brick House. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Town Administrator Report

- **Report and discussion of Annual Town Meeting Results and Follow-ups**

- The pre-meeting before the ATM was a great success and strong community-builder. Ellis suggests considering doing it again next year.
- Jennifer Waryas suggests considering doing a fun pre-meeting (i.e., an ice cream social) on a different day.

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- **Update on Colle-Shea Theater Roof Bid**
 - The lowest bidder for the Colle-Shea Theater Roof indicated that they made an error in their calculations and asked if we were willing to make major concessions to scope. State procurement rules do not allow us to do that.
 - We cannot immediately bid the same scope of services as it would put the other three bidders at a competitive disadvantage.
 - We can do some minor configuration to the bid (perhaps do some value engineering) and re-release it.
 - Due to the absence of HVAC, this project would be good to do in May/1st week of June or September/1st week of October.
 - Ellis states that we have a total available spending authority for this project of \$332,350.
 - Kuklewicz and Lord would prefer to re-bid the project. It will cost \$750 for us to have the consultant do all the reference check work, bid evaluation, etc.
 - Ellis mentions that we will no longer have the \$45,835 from the State earmark as it disappears on June 30.
- **Posted: Six Town Regionalization Planning Board Vacancy**

The vacancy was posted on the website.
- **Topics Not Anticipated in the 48 hour Posting/Economic Development Planning Council**

Ellis shares that he attended the kick-off meeting of the Statewide Economic Development Planning Council in Boston. He has been given the opportunity to chair the group that is focused on rural economic development.

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.

Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye