

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
VIA ZOOM  
Monday, June 6, 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; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; Board of Health Director Ryan Paxton; FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton; and Capital Improvements Committee Chair Greg Garrison.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:30 PM.

**Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, Kearsarge**

- The Chair deems that holding such discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, Kearsarge. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Selectboard Chair re-opens the meeting at 7:17 PM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

**Approve Selectboard Minutes from May 22, 2023**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from May 22, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - 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**

**High Speed Traffic**

- A Montague Center Union Street resident states that there have been a lot of incidents of high-speed traffic on Main Street. He proposes several solutions (i.e., speed bumps, waves, and pinch-ins).
- The DPW Superintendent will be consulted.
- Ellis will ask the Police Chief to get a patrol in the area to enforce the speed limit during the times when traffic is worse.
- Kuklewicz suggests having the Police Chief in for discussions on implementing a low tolerance for speed policy.
- Another resident shares that she had a similar incident on a crosswalk. She suggests moving the existing 25 mph speed limit sign.
- A traffic discussion will be included as an agenda item in a future meeting.

**Kim Williams, JaDuke Center for the Performing Arts**

**Use of the Public Property, close the loop at the end of Industrial Boulevard to hold a "Fun Run" 8/26/2023, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of the Public Property, close the loop at the end of Industrial Boulevard to hold a "Fun Run" 8/26/2023, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Kathy Davis, Representative for the Anchor House**

**Use of Montague Center Common Sunday, 7/9/23 for a rest stop for cyclists to rehydrate and rest during a week-long fundraiser ride to support the Anchor House**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Montague Center Common Sunday, 7/9/23 for a rest stop for cyclists to rehydrate and rest during a week-long fundraiser ride to support the Anchor House, pending certificate of insurance and signature of the Police Chief. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Annie Levine, Market Manager, Great Falls Farmers Market**

**Use of Peskeompskut Park for Atlas Mobile Market on Thursdays, June 8 through October 26 at 4:00 - 5:30 PM**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park for Atlas Mobile Market on Thursdays, June 8 through October 26 at 4:00 - 5:30 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Brian McHugh, FCRHRA**

**Authorize Payment #9 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$990.00 for professional landscape architectural, civil engineering and land surveying services for the FY21 MONTH CDBG Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Continuation Project**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #9 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$990.00 for professional landscape architectural, civil engineering and land surveying services for the FY21 MONTH CDBG Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Continuation Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Personnel Board**

- **Appoint Easton Smith, Library Assistant, NAGE, Grade A, Step 2 effective 7/1/2023 (Previously was a substitute Library Assistant)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Easton Smith, Library Assistant, NAGE, Grade A, Step 2 effective 7/1/2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Accept resignation of Mike Naughton, effective May 24, 2023, from the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board**

*Boutwell makes the motion to accept the resignation of Mike Naughton, effective May 24, 2023, from the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Appoint Dorinda Bell-Upp, effective June 6, 2023, to the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Dorinda Bell-Upp, effective June 6, 2023, to the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Ryan Paxton, Board of Health Director**

**Request to Execute Intermunicipal Agreement with the Valley Health Collaborative to Participate in a MA DPH Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant**

*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Valley Health Collaborative to Participate in a MA DPH Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Jeff Singleton**

##### **FRTA Updates**

- There is an event tomorrow at 11:00 o'clock for the opening of the FRTA Maintenance Facility.
- The FRTA Access has been expanded to be more like Uber. The hours will be expanded, and it will run on weekends. It will also be available for anybody to use (not just seniors).
- The Workforce Transit Program will be continued and will focus on second- and third-shift workers.
- With regard to the Weekend Fixed Route Service, they are having difficulty finding the drivers to work on the weekends. The committee created for this service will pursue a better explanation.
- With regard to the Advisory Board By-Laws, Singleton would like a better explanation of what the Advisory Board are supposed to be doing. This discussion will resume in September/October.
- A Fare Working Group is going to be established due to fare inconsistencies.
- They voted to extend Free Fares for the Fixed Routes.
- They voted the FY24 budget (\$4.815 million).
- The Administrator's Salary has been increased by 3%.
- The Chair and a Vice-Chair were elected.

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#### Greg Garrison, Capital Improvements Committee

#### **Deliver Capital Improvement Committee's advisory recommendation of capital improvement projects to be funded by ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)**

- The following capital improvement projects are recommended by the CIC:
  - 1) Town Hall Annex Roof Solar Project
  - 2) Old Town Hall Window Replacement
  - 3) Old Town Hall Roof Repair
  - 4) Unity Skatepark Lighting Upgrades
  - 5) Montague Center Park Playscape (Alternate)
- Capital projects that were considered, but not recommended for funding include the following:
  - 1) DPW Roof Solar
  - 2) Town Hall Annex Meeting Room and ADA Bathrooms
  - 3) Town Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction
  - 4) South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement
  - 5) Hillcrest School Parking Lot, driveway, sidewalk rehabilitation
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the recommendations made by the Capital Improvements Committee for the capital project spending using ARPA funds, and to authorize the Town Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator to begin the process of bidding the first four projects. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

#### **Town Administrator Report**

- **Discuss ARPA "Clawback" Provision in Federal Budget Deal - Implications for Montague Environmental Protection in the Amount of \$150,000**  
Ellis states that these funds are considered obligated as based on U. S. Treasury guidance.
- **Execute Amended GAP II program grant agreement with the MA Department of Environmental Protection in the Amount of \$150,000**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Amended GAP II program grant agreement with the MA Department of Environmental Protection in the Amount of \$150,000 and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Amend MOU with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for Legal Services related to the FERC Relicensing of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Facilities. Extend end date to 9/30/24 and increase total cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000**  
*Boutwell makes the motion to amend the MOU with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for Legal Services related to the FERC Relicensing of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Facilities; extend end date to 9/30/24 and increase total cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Senator Anne Gobi appointed first Director of Rural Affairs for Massachusetts**  
The Governor has created a position, the Director of Rural Affairs for Massachusetts. Senator Anne Gobi has been appointed to that role and will be participating in our Economic Development Planning Council conversations.
- **Thanks to the Franklin County Technical School Welding and Metal Fabrication Program for Building and Installing the New Highland Cemetery Archway**  
Ellis expresses a strong thank you to the Franklin County Technical School Welding and Metal Fabrication Program for assisting the Montague Cemetery Commission Building in installing the New Highland Cemetery Archway.
- **GMTA Bus Maintenance Facility Updates**  
FRTA has requested that GMTA maintain their lease and their rights to operate out of the building on Deerfield Street through the end of June. The GMTA will actively be seeking to dispose of that property. A Phase I Environmental study has been completed. There is a secondary set of actions that Ellis and Olsen will update the Board later regarding the building.

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*