

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
via ZOOM
Monday, July 11, 2022

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; BOH Member Melanie Zamojski; Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto; and WPCF Superintendent Chelsey Little.

MCTV Vimeo Recording: <https://vimeo.com/729066127>

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

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

Approve minutes of June 27, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

COVID-19 Updates (Melanie Zamojski, Montague BOH)

Review of COVID case counts and trends

- Numbers are staying about the same.
- The Greenfield Wastewater testing shows that it is primarily the subvariant, which does seem to have some vaccine override.
- Zamojski shares weekly case counts on the screen (according to MAVEN).

Discuss any related updates or priorities

- Zamojski has been in touch with Senator Comerford's Office and the Director of the wastewater testing program. They are interested in using Greenfield's data, and the cost will be free to Montague. The BOH and Chelsey Little are working out the details.
- We have been awarded an Inter-municipal Grant for a per diem health agent with six other towns. The amount is \$300,000.
- In response to a question by Lord, Zamojski states that COVID testing kits have been distributed by the State, but she says they may be distributing more. She will stay on top of that.
- In response to a question by Lord, Zamojski states we will be getting bar graphs from the State showing COVID case count updates.

Pocumtuck Homelands Festival August 6-7 (Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture)

License Agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro LLC for property use

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the License Agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro LLC for property use for the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 6-7. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Public Property - Closure of First Street from L St. to Maple St.

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property - Closure of First Street from L St. to Maple St. for the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 6-7, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Entertainment Permit Request

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Entertainment Permit requested by Suzanne LoManto for the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 6-7, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Public Property - Film Screening in Town Hall Annex Meeting Room

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property - Film Screening in Town Hall Annex Meeting Room during the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 6-7, and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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WPCF Name Change

Proposed Name "Montague Clean Water Facility"

Boutwell makes the motion to change the name of the Water Pollution Control Facility to Montague Clean Water Facility. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Collection System Engineering Study (Steve Ellis)

Sewer Collection System Smoke Testing July 11-15

Wright-Pierce will be conducting sanitary sewer surveys that will involve smoke testing of the sewer pipes. A list of the affected streets is displayed on the screen. Residents with any questions may contact Lynn Kesler at 603-570-7101 prior to testing.

Collection System GIS Maps - Discuss Task Order to Improve Mapping

Ellis reports that we have had our consultants taking measurements, documenting where manholes are, and determining pipe sizes needed at critical junctures. We have asked our consultants to integrate previous plans of the system with all of the additional observations to create a strong model. Ellis, the DPW Superintendent, and the Town Planner feel that this integration will greatly benefit the Town over the long haul. All of this has resulted in a GIS Map that will be available to the staff and for public review. Ellis puts the Board on notice that the cost can get as high as \$10,000, which may fall under the ARPA funds that we have already appropriated.

Trash and Recycling Collection (Tyler Finnegan, Republic Services)

Update regarding ongoing work to recent trash collection problems

Amias Callender from Republic Services shares that they have started a customer service center. There is a dedicated driver in Town who is running his truck consistently daily to focus on the areas that need to be put back on schedule. He states that at this time, there are no issues with finishing the routes daily.

Discussion of new online tool for customer support

Finnegan has created and will send to Ellis a one-page, four- or five-step process to help residents obtain the online app that would help them contact Republic if they have a pick-up issue.

Great Falls Festival Request for use of Community Donation Funds (\$800)

Boutwell makes the motion to endorse the request from Great Falls Festival Request for the use of Community Donation Funds (\$800). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project (Steve Ellis)

Update from Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

- On June 28 the TPO reviewed several different projects that were competing for a spot in the regional TIP, and recommended moving forward with the Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project. They cannot firmly commit until late September or October.
- The Town would need to design it to DOT standards.
- Ellis states that DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron says that he would have the flexibility to use Chapter 90 funds for this purpose.

Execute contract with Stantec for design of the Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project, \$83,389, to be funded with Chapter 90

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the contract with Stantec for design of the Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project, \$83,389, to be funded with Chapter 90. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

Capital Project Updates

- 1) The DPW is in the process of completing the new improved drainage and ADA-accessible parking around the backside of Carnegie Library.
- 2) Ellis states architectural drawings are needed for the Town Hall roof. He has spoken to two different architects. A Hazmat assessment is recommended. Discussion ensued about researching other possible roof materials.

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- 3) With regard to the Town Hall basement, Ellis states that cost will likely exceed the original \$20,000 that was set aside.

Legislative Updates

STAM Legislative Relations Committee Formed

There is a group called the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts that works with rural and smaller communities on matters of legislative interests. At their meeting last week, they voted to form a Legislative Relations Subcommittee, which Ellis will be a member of. They will be meeting with a few key legislators who will make sure they are organizing their work correctly.

COVID Meeting Accommodations

- There is significant momentum for extending the remote meeting accommodations until December 16, 2023. The Senate and House passed legislation to that effect, which includes a lot more amendments. These amendments will be brought to a conference committee in conversation with the Senate, and then it will go to the Governor's desk.
- The Selectboard decides to post next week's meeting as a hybrid if we don't get the information by Thursday.

Special Legislation for Removal of MPD from Civil Service

Special Legislation was filed and had a hearing relative to the Removal of Montague Police Department from Civil Service. A municipal report may need to be filed before they will approve that change.

Cannabis Legislation

As the State looks to improve access towards social equity businesses to the cannabis market in Massachusetts, we have been trying to encourage them not to have the legislature retroactively undo existing host community agreements. We will learn more in the near future.

Congressional Earmark (\$975,000)

We've worked with Congressman McGovern's, Senator Markey's, and Senator Warren's Offices to seek an earmark, which has been included in the House Congressional Budget request process. We have been told that the House Budget will include that earmark at \$975,000. This would be to pay for completion of the north end of the Avenue A Streetscape.

Governor's FORWARD economic development bill

With regard to the Governor's FORWARD economic development bill for the selective demolition and stabilization of the Strathmore Mill site, Ellis states that as the bond bill which had that money stripped out of it moved forward to a joint committee of House and the Senate, he has continued to advocate for consideration of that project.

Transportation Bond Bill

Senator Comerford's Office is going to include \$2 million in the Transportation Bond Bill that would support the engineering, design, rehabilitation, and/or replacement for improvements to two Montague bridges (Center Street in Montague Center and the Paper Mill Road Bridge in Millers Falls).

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/Paving on Canal Street

We are working with the contractor to get a base coat to remove what we have presently. Once done, Bergeron intends to have the Town mill the entirety of Canal Street.

Other

Double Poles

- With regard to the double poles, Boutwell states that he has not seen anything done in the last couple of weeks in the entire Town.
- Bogusz states 14 were scheduled to be pulled and 63 required facilities to be transferred. As soon as they are transferred, Eversource will hire a contractor to remove 77 total.
- Bogusz will contact Mike Kane at Eversource for a status update. This topic will be revisited during an August meeting.

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Sandy Lane

- Boutwell states the ECN call came in about the transfer station being closed on Wednesday again. Boutwell feels the road is not fit to be traveled on.
- Jeff Singleton will bring this topic up to the FRTA.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. Seconded by Lord, approved unanimously.

Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye