

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson (7:10 PM), Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio (absent) , Executive Assistant, Wendy Bogusz

**Approve minutes of September 28 and October 5, 2015;**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of September 28, 2015. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved.*

*Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye*

**Executive Session Minutes of September 21, 28 and October 5, 2015**

To be approved at a future executive session meeting

**Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment:**

Aiyana Masla: Wanted to keep the Board up to date with what is going on in terms of the racial sensitivity training proposal... Very complicated process, not knowing what financially can be afforded and time available.

Matthew Cohen: There is a group of us called the Coalition for Racial Justice and we are in the process of finalizing proposal to give to the Selectboard and wanted to invite the Selectboard or a representative to come to our next meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM at the Brickhouse. Mr. Cohen is told to email Wendy the information.

**Jason Hunter, Berkshire Brewing Company**

**1 Day Beer and Wine License at Shea Theater, November 7, 2015 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the 1 Day Beer and Wine license at the Shea Theater for a music concert on November 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrators Report**

**Request Use of Public Property: Rag Shag Parade, October 31, 2015, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Aubuchon Parking Lot, down Avenue A, to Second St. to Discovery Center Parking Lot**

Boutwell declares he's on the Soldiers Memorial Committee

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Request for Use of Public Property: Rag Shag Parade on October 31, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, route is Aubuchon Parking Lot, down Avenue A, to Second St. to Discovery Center Parking Lot. Seconded by Boutwell, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye*

**Michael M. Nelson, Pumpkinfest**

**Request to change time of Avenue A road closure from 12:00 PM to 11:00 AM on 10/24/15**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request to change time of Avenue A road closure from 12:00 PM to 11:00 AM on October 24, 2015. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye.*

**Allen Fowler, Chair, Civic Center Commission**

**Shea Theater Lease Transition Updates**

Fowler: Things are going well, we had a sit down with members from the current board and incoming board. Looks like the Civic Commission will be stepping in on November 2 and the other board will step out; they will help us with the clean out of the space and get the stuff that belongs to the current board members out of the space and get stuff out that belongs to the current board members. The last three shows will go on and are pretty self sustaining. I have an email into Tom Bergeron regarding the continuing leaks around the hatch on the roof into the sound booth. This is a concern to get tightened up before the new Board comes on board and also the Fire doors need to be repaired prior to the new Board being taking over. I don't think there is a budget to maintain the Shea.

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

Kuklewicz: I ran into the Building Inspector today and we talked about having a budget for Town buildings. We talked about David meeting with the Finance Committee and Capital Improvements Committee to come up with a plan to get money for the building

Fowler: Fundraising didn't go as well as they had hoped. I will be back at a later date to see what the Town wants to do with the outstanding bills. They are hoping to get some income to get bills down

Walter has been working with new board on executing a lease agreement and hopes to be back before the Selectmen within 4 weeks

**Bob Trombley, WPCF Superintendent  
FY2016 Sewer Rate Hearing**

This is the second of two scheduled meetings with the Selectboard to address FY 2016 sewer rates; the first was held on 28 September 2015. Each year as part of the work to set the sewer rates the Enterprise account retained earnings (RE) estimate is sent to the State for verification. The State of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue Division of Local Services has certified the free cash amounts for the Town. The amount of \$226,707 is available to the Town in the RE account from FY 2015, which is a \$259,746 reduction over FY2014. At the Town Meeting of 1 October, of the \$226,707 RE \$100,000 was assigned for use to offset the sewer rates increase and \$100,000 voted for the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund.

Trombley: I know that the sewer rate increase of 10% is larger than we have seen for a while. Mr. Charlie Blanker, Southworth Company representative asked the question "why do rates increase 10% when the budget only increased 1.19% over last year's". My response was as follows, the change is affected by the use of retained earnings, and for example, in FY 2015 \$294,000 was used to offset the sewer rate increase. If only \$100,000 was used the FY 2015 the rates would have increased 20%. The process of relying on retained earnings year to year contains some level of risk as there is no guarantee that there will continue to be substantial retained earnings. Yes we have been fortunate with the amount of retained earnings available due to the process control efforts of the staff and also the receiving of increased amounts of trucked in sludge and associated revenue. As we continue each year to reap the benefits of these we also increase the amount we estimate for the revenue budget and due to that the potential for retained earnings is lessened. So in order to address the expected reduction in retained earnings, decrease in metered flow from both residential and commercial accounts the rates need to rise. If this is not done at some point the impact may be greater in following years.

Mr. Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrator, in my discussions with him has shown a concern over the continued use of significant amounts of retained earnings to reduce sewer rates. He feels that continuing to do so would then require the Town to generate an equivalent amount of retained earnings in the following year just to cover the budget base the next year and this with no increase in the budget.

Because we are taking in sludge we want to begin sunsetting surcharges to major industries in town, Southworth, Lightlife and Australis. We would do this by reducing surcharges by 25% a year until it disappears in the fourth year, this is as long as we continue to take in outside thickened sludge. It would come out to a 2% - 4% increase for Southworth.

Discussion regarding raising rates for trucked in sludge. We need to keep this income flowing into the plant and this needs to be looked at. If faucet shut off tomorrow and sludge is not trucked in you are looking at a 30% increase in sewer rates.

Boutwell is very uncomfortable with 10% increase and is sure many residents are

10% increase is roughly \$40.

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

Olsen: At this point best estimates with sewage coming into the plant, he needs to use that rate to get a balanced budget. We don't have a whole lot of choices in my opinion unless you want to go back to town meeting and cut their budget.

Mike Brown of the TF Water Dept. and I have discussed water meter age and he will be looking at the water meters this winter and researching whether it makes sense to pursue changing out residents meters..

Grant Weaver: If the sewer rates went up the same rate the taxes did over this time period it would be a lot more. I think it was like 16%. There has only been a small increase over the years.

John Hanold: I have not been part of the exchange between Southworth, Accountant and Bob. The issue of cost whether it goes up or down, sewage treatment is a lot like schools, population goes up and down but you still need the facility. We have benefited a lot from the use of retained earnings in the past, at the same time we have been aware of an overhang in capital replacement spending in the future which is getting closer and closer to us and concentrating so much on this one year, loses sight of what our long term needs are. This is an old system in addition to new initiatives coming from State or Federal agencies; you have the replacement of existing facilities, pump stations and equipment in the treatment plant. Some of the retained earnings deposited into a capital stabilization fund is belated but important in providing for that. If we reduce budget to a non sustainable level in order to have a lower rate increase, or devote all the retained earnings every year, we have with no provision for the future. It's just as important to protect our future.

Charlie Blanker: Sent Bob information on October 9<sup>th</sup> and didn't receive a reply?

R. Trombly responded that he felt Ms. Olsen did a good job responding to his question. Ms. Olsen states they will agree to disagree as there is more than one year to look at use of retained earnings. Discussion held regarding use of retained earnings and the way each are looking at this. The use of retained earnings was discussed at the last meeting and at Town Meeting.

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the recommended rates for FY2016;*

*Rates per 1,000 gallons – 10% increase: I. Gill, Southworth & Strathmore \$6.33/1,000 gallons*

*II. Turners Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, Lake Pleasant \$6.84/1,000 gal.*

*III. 12 month Flat Rate \$378/ FY; IV. Millers Falls \$6.84/1,000 gallons*

*Non – Contract Surcharges: Total Suspended Solids, \$0.2956 per pound; Biochemical Oxygen Demand \$0.2078 per pound; Septage – no change In Town & Town of Gill, \$75/1,000 gallons; Out of Town \$80/1,000 gallons;*

*Trucked-in Sludge – no change \$310/dry ton*

*Other – no change: Interest Rate – 14% per Annum; Demand Charge - \$5.00; Minimum Bill - \$36.00*

*also included industrial surcharge rate for Southworth is similarly reduced 25% per year from current 2014 rate.*

*Seconded by Nelson, approved. Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Boutwell - Nay*

**OTHER**

Trombly: The efforts around the plant to remove grit from the Sanitary Collection System between intersection of Greenfield Road and Sherman Drive. We took out 29 cubic yards of grit which is equivalent to 72,000 pounds then in the double channels to the primary clarifiers we got another 11 yards, we took out almost 50 tons of grit total. This will be buried at the recycle center.

**Bruce Hunter, FCRHRA**

**Change Order No. 3, Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project, Time Extension to December 15, 2015 due to the modifications required to the light pole bases, light pole installation and the fabrication delay for the planters and the benches**

Hunter: Had problems with planter, can't be trucked out till Wednesday. Area will be paved for this weekend, then taken up when planter gets here. This phase will be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. We finally have change order for lighting with a modified design to a stainless steel plate. This will have a faster lead time and last longer

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

but is a little more expensive. (\$400 - \$500 a plate). There is money accounted for in the retainer, program income from housing revolving fund, utilize \$30,000 of that and there is some in Towns program income.

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve Change Order No. 3, Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project, Time Extension to December 15, 2015 due to the modifications required to the light pole bases, light pole installation and the fabrication delay for the planters and the benches with no monetary effects. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

Discussion about sprucing up lights and adding new retrofits to the poles that aren't being removed.

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

**Announce and Execute RiverCulture FY16 and FY17 grant award from Mass. Cultural Council's Adams Arts Program. \$16,250**

RiverCulture was funded for another 2 fiscal years. State is contributing \$16,250 a year, in the past we received \$23,000 a year. Same contract done the past 8 years. Does require a town match and fundraising

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept and Execute RiverCulture FY16 and FY17 grant award from Mass. Cultural Council's Adams Arts Program in the amount of \$16,250. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Community Development Discretionary Hearing: \$10,000 for the Turners Falls RiverCulture Program as a part of the local match to the Adams Arts Grant**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request for use of Community Development Discretionary money in the amount of \$10,000 for the Turners Falls RiverCulture Program as a part of the local match to the Adams Arts Grant. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell- Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Other**

S. LaMonto announces plan for permanent sculpture to be put in new bump out area and will be writing an RFP with Walter once the area is complete. The award will be for \$5,000 and there will be two community meetings to discuss what the theme should be.

**Community Development Discretionary Hearing: \$10,500 for a National Historic Register Nomination for Millers Falls Village Center**

Ramsey: Requesting this to complete National Historic District Registration form for Millers Falls, specifically village center. Always been town goal to have a historic district in Millers Falls, process started in 1978 but lost momentum. Montague Historic Commission is supportive of this and Mass. Historic will be happy to see this. This allows property owners access to federal tax credits. Plan is to hire FRCOG to fill out registration form and this will include up to 100 hours of work.

Kuklewicz makes the motion to enter into a contract with FRCOG for the study and submission of paperwork for National Historic Register Nomination for Millers Falls Village Center in the amount of \$10,500 coming from the Community Development Discretionary fund. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye

**Financing Approval for Powers Block Properties, LLC for 26 – 28, 30, 34, 34R East Main Street under Land Development Agreement Dated 1/30/15**

Ramsey: Mr. Obear's land development agreement requires the Board to approve any new mortgages on the Powers Block prior to substantial completion of the project. I'm pleased to report the developer has secured a \$300,000 line of credit that will allow him to complete the rehab of the 4 historic buildings. I've reviewed the commitment letter and I strongly encourage the board to approve the financing.

OBear: Things have been going slowly, financing has dragged on a little bit, but we have a commitment to relinquish some of the funds that have already spent. Things are moving along as one parcel is completed the bank

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

will separate the building off into permanent financing. We are making good progress on all buildings. We expect to get occupancy permits within 60 – 90 Days and laundrymat wont be much longer after that.

Kuklewicz makes motion to approve agreement between the Greenfield and Northampton Cooperative banks and Mr. Robert Obear regarding the Powers Block Buildings and authorize the chair to sign letter. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye.

**Community Development Advisory Committee: Establish Charge, appoint Christine Speek (L Street), Andrea Chesnes (Warner Street)**

Ramsey: I realized the group does not have a charge so I wrote up one for you to approve: The Montague Board of Selectmen will commission a 5-member Citizens Advisory Committee with representatives from various locations within the town. At least 1-member will be low and moderate income, and 1 member will be from the Target Area. The Committee will provide independent oversight of program performance during the grant term. Their mission will be to ensure that all proposed activities would accomplish the goals stated in the town's Community Development Strategy. The Citizens Advisory Committee will serve as a sounding board for any changes or modification to the program activities and will receive quarterly progress reports from the town's administering agency, the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Christine Speek and Andrea Chesnes to the Community Development Advisory Committee for one year ending June 30, 2016. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to set the Community Development Advisory Committee size to 5 members and follow the guidelines as proposed by Walter as their mission statement. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

Representation from Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant is needed.

**Millers Falls Road Drainage Repair – Reserve Fund Transfer of \$25,000 to cover expenses associated with unanticipated cost overrun**

Ramsey: The newly installed swale was washed out on September 9 and on September 10 GEG Construction came back and repaired the slope at their own expense, then we had another rainstorm and the area was washed out again. It became clear at that point that the drainage portion of the design could not support the volume of water that was being discharged. The contractor proposed a solution that would bring the drainage pipe from the top of the slope down to the bottom. Because of the liability of a rapidly eroding slope and more forecasted rains (Category 3 hurricane), Tom and I had to make a quick decision in the field. The solution the contractor proposed and we agreed to involved more pipe, more fill and more labor then was anticipated in the original design, thus the change order. I am pleased to report the slope and drainage are working appropriately at this time. Paving and curbing is what is needed to finish. Change order is for \$51,520.95, with contingency and work to be done in house, we hope we will not need all of the requested \$25,000. This was not a very easy slope to fix, if it was it would have been done a long time ago.

Nelson states he was contacted and did give them the go ahead to get this fixed.

Bergeron: Final paving was finished today, and berm is in place. The Town will be installing the full 4,000 feet of guardrails from Chapter 90 funds. I do not have the cost at this moment. Barrells will stay in place until the new guardrails are installed. The new pipe should not move.

Engineering fee was \$29,000 and the Board would like to schedule a meeting with them to discuss what went wrong. Letter to be sent to Weston and Sampson.

The Board thanked Walter and Tom for their hard work on this project

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

Ramsey has an appeal into MEMA to see if any additional money is available for this project.

Hanold: This will come to the Finance Committee in a couple days, if approved we will have spent 60% of the money in the first third of the year. Most request happen the end of the fiscal year and I would like the Board to be aware of this fact.

Bergeron thanks Baltazar with their donation of loam

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer of \$25,000 to cover expenses associated with unanticipated cost overruns on the Millers Falls Road Drainage Project. Seconded by Boutwell, approved.*

*Boutwell- Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Greenfield Road Update and other**

Bergeron: Finishing up, taken a lot of fill out, going to start cleaning up for winter. I believe walls are up or almost completed. The stones at the transfer station will be crushed down to  $\frac{3}{4}$  for us to use. Baltazar will put left over black top and concrete into their crusher which will save us a lot of money. Demers Landscaping recently came over and we had a mountain of wood chips which they made mulch for us which is state grade so we have a two year supply for about \$700. Greenfield road portion from bike path to Montague City Road will be paved with Chapter 90 money as it is not part of the project.

**Rich Kuklewicz**

**Request for Montague to join the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP)**

Kuklewicz: There have been several meetings with group of officials from various towns looking at best way to look at pipeline issues and opposition to as Town meeting has recommended. A group called the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP) was formed by some of the members and this is their mission statement: the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP is a coalition of Massachusetts municipal governments working together to prevent construction of the Northeast Energy direct pipeline (NED) which is being proposed by Kinder Morgan through its subsidiary Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company LLC. In the event that the pipeline will be built, our mission will be to work to minimize the impact of the pipeline on all communities. We will accomplish this by:

- Working with governmental entities to craft and advance legislation and regulations and apply political pressure to prevent the construction of NED;
- Engaging in regulatory proceedings related to NED and it's potential customers, and other relevant proceedings concerning gas or electrical markets;
- Exploring and pursuing other legal avenues to oppose the pipeline and to protect residents, property and public lands;
- Investigating and ending any moratorium that has been imposed on new or expanded gas service in our communities by any gas company seeking contracts for capacity on NED, such as Berkshire Gas and Columbia Gas;
- Opposing NED and advancing energy solutions that have less impact on our communities and efficiency measures;
- Promoting public education and outreach around issues related to NED;
- Taking other actions that fulfill our mission.

The Coalition will be working with an attorney to look at a scope of work to see what we want accomplished. Currently the thought process is around the DPU hearing that will be coming up around permitting of the delivery portion of the pipeline that goes through NY; which there is quite a lot of opposition in New York appearing to me as well.

Further explanation of what the Coalition is and why it was formed.

*Kuklewicz makes the motion the Town of Montague join and become a member of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP). Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 19, 2015**

**Update on Employee Training through Town's Insurance Company, MIAA**

Bogusz: I have spoken to the MIAA representative and she has suggested the date of Monday 3/21 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM for "I pay your Salary and Customer Service Excellence. She also suggested April 4 for the Expert communication.

The Board feels April is to early for another session would like to see the next date pushed out until late May or June, before the fiscal year ends. Wendy will let the Board what she finds out.

**Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting requirements.**

Pumpkinfest will be this weekend with Avenue A closed until approximately 11:00 PM

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to go out of executive session at 9:15 PM and adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Boutwell approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye, Nelson – Aye*