

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Highland School Apartments**  
**Community Room**  
**446 Millers Falls Road, Millers Falls, MA**  
**MONDAY, October 23, 2017**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Highland School Apartments Community Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Kuklewicz makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

**Approve Selectmen minutes of October 16, 2017**

Not available.

**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**

Peter Golrick thanked the Selectmen on behalf of the residents of Millers Falls for taking the meeting to them.

Michael Naughton echoed Golrick's thank you, as well as made some suggestions regarding Dry Hill Cemetery:

- 1) **Utility Road** could be a short-term solution for access to the cemetery.
- 2) No solutions should be dismissed too quickly because of perceived cost.
- 3) The traffic to the cemetery should not be waived because it's difficult. Want it to be more accessible to the public and when it's convenience to the public. We should pursue options through Town Meeting.

**Jason O'Grady, Operations Supervisor, Republic Services**

**Proposed trash/recycling schedule route changes**

- Republic Services will be implementing a new trash and recycling schedule effective December 4th.
- Nelson read aloud the list of proposed streets to be moved from Thursday collection to Friday.
- Updated schedule will be posted on the website and bottom of the agenda.

**Personnel Board/Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent**

**Appoint Casey Dyer, Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade B-1, \$16.78/hr. effective November 6, 2017**

*Nelson makes a motion to appoint Casey Dyer as a Truck Driver/Laborer, 40 hours a week, UE Grade B-1, \$16.78/hr. effective November 6, 2017 pending a successful physical exam. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

**Bruce Hunter, FC Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA)**

**Award Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Design Project to Berkshire Design Group, Inc. \$70,000**

*Nelson makes the motion to award the Avenue A Streetscape Phase III design Project to Berkshire Design Group, Inc. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Execute Agreement between Town of Montague and FCRHRA for professional services relating to the implementation and administration of the Mass. CDBG FY2017 Program, \$119,271**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the agreement between Town of Montague and FCRHRA for professional services relating to the implementation and administration of the Mass. CDBG FY2017 Program in the amount of \$119,271. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Execute Letter to Mark Southard, DHCD re: FY2014 Monitoring Report**

*Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign off on the letter to Mark Southard of the Department of Housing and Community Development as has been presented. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

**Millers Falls Historic District (nomination is pending)**

Ramsey: This nomination form that we submitted it back in August to the National Park Service has been completed. The initial review by Mass Historic is that the Millers Falls Historic District would indeed be eligible as a historic register place. We now need to wait for them to make the final determination. There will be one final follow-up meeting probably in the next 3-6 months. Even with the pending nomination status, the Powers Block project was able to apply for and receive historic tax credits, about \$200,000 for the historic rehab. Once the nomination process happens, the Town would be able to create historic district signage for Millers Falls.

**Sculpture Montague project (grant application pending)**

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Ramsey: This is a project that's a collaborative between the Planning Department, RiverCulture, and Millers Falls Arts Bridge. There's an application out there to the National Endowment for Arts, a federal program. This would take our creative economic development model that's worked in Turners Falls and essentially employ it in Millers Falls by doing a downtown master plan, and then implement some public art pieces throughout Millers Falls that capture the vision the community has for itself. That grant application is for \$50,000, to be matched through in kind services and local fundraising. We hope to hear back in April. If awarded, that project would proceed from August 2018 to July 2020.

**Mormon Hollow Working Farm Preservation Project and Dry Hill Trail System (recently finished projects)**

Ramsey: This is a collaboration between the Planning Department, Conservation Commission, and Mount Grace Land Trust, as well as several private landowners. This project raised funds from a state grant from the Mass Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs that preserves two fifth-generation family farms in the village of Millers Falls. The Conservation Commission holds the conservation restrictions on these farms, specifically the hunting farm on East Chestnut Hill Road and the Smith Farm on Mormon Hollow Road, roughly about 150 acres total. Several family farms in Wendell are also protected as part of this project. The grant also provided \$30,000 for technical assistance for the Town to update our zoning bylaws to support our farmland preservation goals.

**Millers Rivers Access at Newton Street (conceptual level design)**

Ramsey: The Town is in the process of foreclosing through tax title three small riverfront parcels off of Newton Street. Montague 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan calls for making this area into a formalized river access point for car park, boat access, and fishing access to the Millers River. I'm looking to apply in February for a DCR recreational trails grant to make some minor improvements to these parcels. At some point over the next year, there will be a public information session about this project.

**Update on Dry Hill Cemetery**

Ramsey: The cemetery can now be accessed for maintenance vehicles and through a marked hiking trail system. We have some funding left in a previous grant to do some maintenance work at the cemetery itself. DPW fixed up the culvert that was preventing access.

Ellis: The access is not limited to maintenance access. We can now also access the property for purposes of planting flags, and we can provide the public with escorted supported transportation to the site.

**Eversource solar project (under construction)**

Ramsey: The 23-acre solar development on the corner of Millers Falls Road and Lake Pleasant is being built by Eversource on land that they own. It is under construction and is about halfway built. It will be complete by December.

**Tree Committee's DCR grant to replace street trees in Millers Falls. (Application in development) David Detmold and Michael Marcotrigiano**

Millers Falls resident: We feel that Turners has received a lot of attention and upgrades over the last decade or two, and you can really see the results in that part of town. Millers, it seems, is just on the cusp of the commercial redevelopment and community activity and we would like to work with that kind of effort to brighten up the downtown with new trees. We were encouraged to apply by the end of this month for a \$6,400 grant to plant 32 trees around West Main, East Main, Bridge Street, Newton Street, and Crescent Street. Millers Falls is an environmental justice zone, so for that reason the Town would only be on the hook for a 25% match, which could be provided in kind. We would be doing some outreach to businesses and residents to make sure that people have input.

Michael M. discussed the species that were already there as well as the species that will hopefully be planted.

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Execute FY18 Engineering Agreement for Landfill Monitoring Services Agreement with Tighe & Bond, \$13,550**

*Nelson makes a motion to execute the FY18 Engineering Agreement for Landfill Monitoring Services Agreement with Tighe & Bond in the amount of \$13,550. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

**Declaration of Procurement Authorizations for Town Staff**

To be discussed at a future meeting.

**Update on FY19 Montague Employee Health Insurance Plan Changes**

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Ellis: I brought some key changes as voted by the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust to the Board in late summer. They had not finalized what those changes would be at that time. They did listen to some of the concerns, particularly on the dramatic increases in co-pay for office visits. Hampshire Country Group Insurance Trust had seen an erosion of their reserves and were unable to make ends meet. They felt that they tolerated the ongoing loss as well as they could. The changes that they implemented would align certain co-pays associated both with our providing organization and our HMO packages to align more closely with GIC levels. Once they give us data that make clearer what the benefit to the Town in terms of rate savings will be, we have to adopt Chapter 13B sections 21-23. We've sent a note to each of our bargaining units as well as our exempt staff and our retirees, asking for representatives for nomination selective, and then there will be 2 at large positions nominated for the insurance advisory committee so that we can begin conversations about exactly what that means and answer questions. The one positive thing is that the anticipated increase to a \$60 co-pay for office visits was reduced to \$40 at their last meeting. We believe we now have the final parameters for a set of changes that will take effect as of July 1st of 2018.

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

Kuklewicz: We received a letter from the NAGE, bargaining units this afternoon that was asked to be read tonight, but the Board has not had an opportunity to review it. We will review and discuss it at our next regular meeting.

**The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Monday, October 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA**

*Nelson makes a motion to adjourn. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

**Executive Session under G.L. c.30A, §(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Votes may be taken.**

Selectmen moved to the Town Hall in Montague to have the Executive Session.

**Documents and Exhibits:**

- Jason O'Grady, Operations Supervisor, Republic Services, Proposed trash/recycling schedule route changes
- Appointment form for Casey Dyer, Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade B-1, \$16.78/hr. effective November 6, 2017
- Avenue A Streetscape Phase III Design Project to Berkshire Design Group, Inc. \$70,000
- Agreement between Town of Montague and FCRHRA for professional services relating to the implementation and administration of the Mass. CDBG FY2017 Program , \$119,271
- letter to Mark Southard, DHCD re: FY2015 Monitoring Report
- FY18 Engineering Agreement Landfill Monitoring Services Agreement with Tighe & Bond, \$13,550
- Declaration of Procurement Authorizations for Town Staff