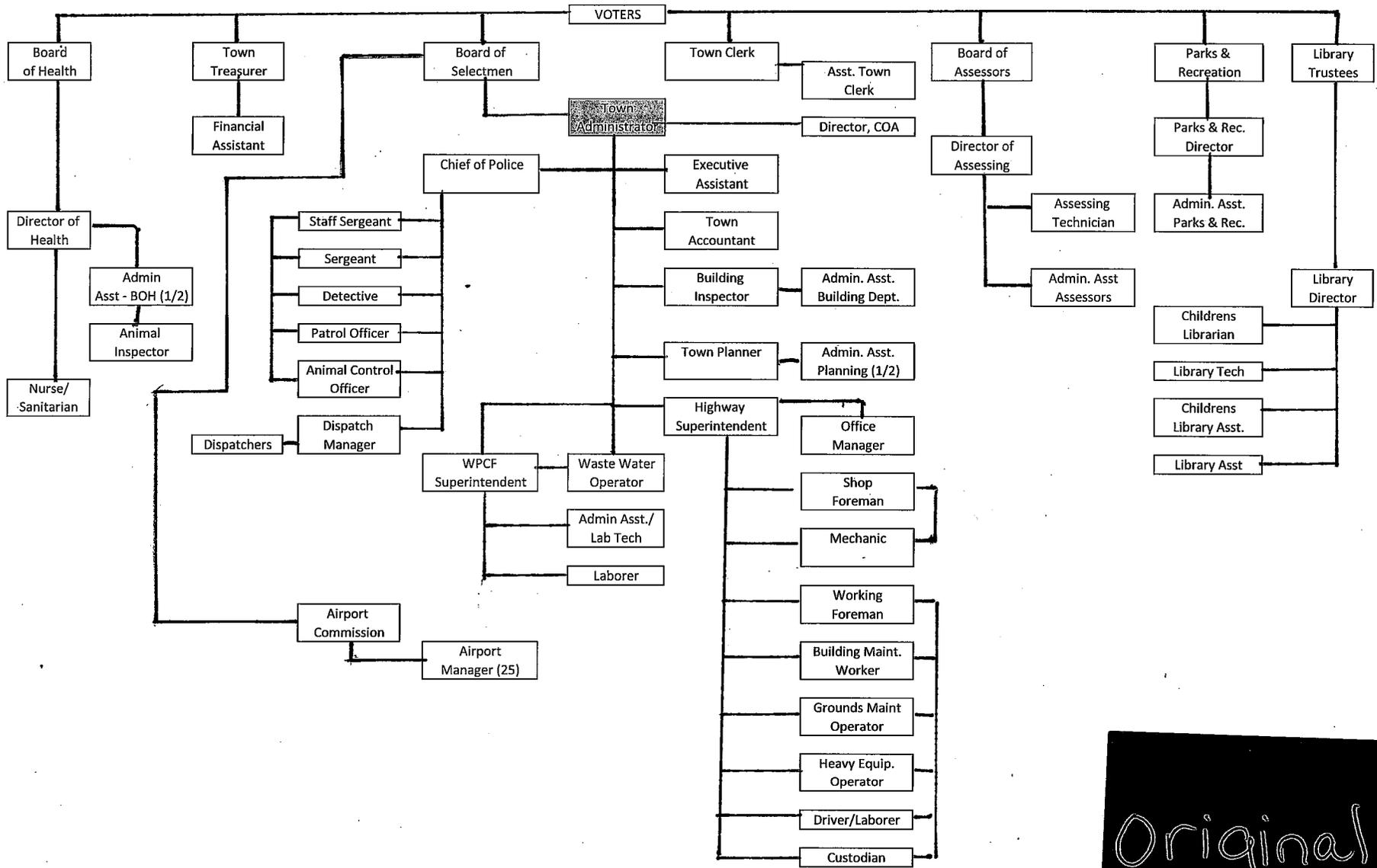


TOWN OF MONTAGUE

**FISCAL YEAR 2015
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL BUDGET &
FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN
FY 2016 – FY 2020**

**FRANK ABBONDANZIO
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**



Original

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
ANNUAL BUDGET & FINANCIAL PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2015
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INTRODUCTION

The Town Administrator would like to thank the department heads for their cooperation in helping to put together this budget document. The budget narratives that were submitted required a lot of thought and hard work on their part, but I think they should provide the readers with a greater understanding of and appreciation for the excellent work that Montague's town employees do every day. The town is fortunate to have the qualified and experienced workforce that it has today. Their knowledge and experience have enabled the town to achieve many amazing things. Readers are strongly encouraged to take a look at the budget narratives that were submitted by departments (Section Seven), because they describe individual as well as departmental achievements that are far too numerous to mention here. For example, in recent years, the Montague Water Pollution Facility has been singled out for recognition by the EPA, been featured in the Wall Street Journal and recognized by the scientific community for its innovative and creative solutions to the problems faced by all water pollution control plants nationwide. The work being done by the WPCF is cutting edge. Our DPW is routinely compared favorably with neighboring communities, excelling in the way it maintains our roads and clears snow and ice in a timely manner, operating with a staff of seventeen – far less than the pre-Proposition 2 1/2 workforce that numbered more than twice this number. The DPW has also taken on a significant amount of new responsibilities including the day to day maintenance of several properties acquired through tax title foreclosure. Our Police Department is second to none in protecting persons in property and involving the community in crime prevention efforts and community policing. It has also consistently been a leader in efforts to efforts to maximize cooperation and coordination with county-wide law enforcement. In the past decade our libraries have doubled their circulation and have greatly expanded the programs and services that they offer to children and adults. Our Parks and Recreation Department recently achieved a major milestone when it completed the second phase of Unity Park improvement project – a \$1.2 million dollar upgrade. Plans for a new skate park in the coming year will significantly enhance this facility. In 2011, our River Culture Program was recognized by the state receiving a “Commonwealth Award” and designation of Turners Falls River Culture as a “creative community.” Our planners ensure that many of those values that are important to Montague residents including the protection our environment and the creation of job opportunities and quality housing are protected. To these highly visible achievements must be added the less visible, more mundane but equally important accomplishments of our Town Hall staff that routinely exceed standard benchmarks in the delivery of administrative and financial services important to the operation of the town. These include the timely generation of tax bills and financial statements, the efficient collections of town revenues (98% efficiency), and the submission of financial statements that have enabled the town to be “first in the state” in obtaining free cash certification. Finally, our code enforcement staff ensures that residents can feel secure knowing that their dwellings are safe and that food services and other establishments meet sanitary and health codes. These are all services that we have come to expect from our town employees and they have always delivered.