

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

Fiscal Year 2017

The Montague Finance Committee proposes a balanced budget of \$22,978,645 to provide municipal services during Fiscal Year 2017. These services include the town's general operations, educational assessments, the Water Pollution Control Facility, maintenance of the Colle building, and the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. The warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, and the related Motions, provide figures by major category and operating department. Further detail is available on the town website (see path at end of this report).

Montague has staffed and operated effective municipal programs and services, which serve our residents as well as attracting visitors from outside the town. Approval of this budget will fund the town's services and support continued progress toward the goal of fiscal sustainability. Our recommendations considered both the Financial Management Policies, adopted by the Board of Selectmen in June 2014, and the Town Administrator's recommendations. Our estimated revenue and spending reflects our cautious view of recovering economic conditions and tax collections, and our review of spending requests.

The Financial Management Policies (see link on the town web site) lay out a set of goals that the town should strive to achieve. We are pleased to report that the town is currently doing so in most areas (see Building Renewal and Equipment Replacement and Debt Load for the notable exceptions):

- Total Town Stabilization Funds plus Free Cash is expected to be \$821,464 or 4.87% of Prior Year General Operating Revenue (PYGOR); the goal is between 5% and 10%.
- The General Stabilization Fund balance will be \$789,374 or 4.68% of PYGOR; the goal is 5%. The policy suggests an annual appropriation of .3% of PYGOR from taxation, but we recommend no appropriation at this time in view of the commitment of taxation to operating uses.
- The Town Capital Stabilization Fund will have a balance of \$29,905. The policy suggests an appropriation of .2% of PYGOR from taxation but we recommend no appropriation at this time, for the same reason.
- The town's current debt payments plus PAYGO capital items recommended at this meeting total 5.06% of PYGOR; this is below the minimum 6% called for by the policies.
- Building Renewal and Equipment Replacement in the recommended budget (DPW equipment, library repairs, police radio system and police cruiser) total \$290,825, which is about \$75,000 less than the recommended level of 2% of Fiscal Year 2017 forecasted revenue. Clearly, our building infrastructure requires ongoing attention; however, the committee felt that recommending

additional funding at this time would place undue strain on other areas of the budget. This situation will need to be addressed in future years.

- The town's total debt service is 3.82% of PYGOR; the policies call for not more than 15%. Also, the town's non-excluded debt service is .61% of PYGOR; the policies call for between 2% and 5%.

The policies indicate that the town is not carrying enough of a debt load. There are certainly worthy purposes to which additional debt might be put; later sections for Public Works and the Wastewater Treatment Plant mention some anticipated borrowing needs. However, without significant new revenue sources, servicing a higher debt load (without tax-excluded borrowing or tax overrides) can be accomplished only by reducing spending in other areas. This matter will receive further scrutiny in upcoming years.

The Town Administrator's Recommendations tie budget recommendations to an overall view of the town's operations and goals. It provided our Committee with a second point-of-comparison, along with the original departmental requests, and in most respects our recommendations agree.

Here are Summaries of the Total Proposed Budget Revenue and Expense categories. Fiscal Year references are to budget cycles ending June 30th.

Change figures in parentheses are changes from Fiscal Year 2016 as adjusted.

	FY2016	FY2017		
Revenues	BUDGET	PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Taxation	14,896,389	15,331,345	434,956	2.92%
State Aid	1,509,148	1,580,490	71,342	4.73%
Local Receipts	1,255,109	1,309,000	53,891	4.29%
FCTS SRO Reimbursement	56,706	51,826	(4,880)	-8.61%
Available Funds/Reserves				
Free Cash for Town Budget	125,000	125,000	-	0.00%
Free Cash for GMRSD	125,000	125,000	-	0.00%
Sale of Real Estate		132,000	132,000	
Town Stabilization for Sp Articles	136,000	301,325	165,325	121.56%
Chapter 90	-	44,700	44,700	
Colle Receipts	80,350	102,150	21,800	27.13%
Sewer User Fees	2,044,913	2,450,472	405,559	19.83%
Airport User Fees	30,847	31,987	1,140	3.70%
Airport Retained Earnings	-	8,350	8,350	
Long Term Debt-Town	1,661,764	1,285,000	672,419	-22.67%
Long Term Debt - WPCF	385,000	100,000	(285,000)	-74.03%
Total Revenues	22,306,226	22,978,645	672,419	3.01%
Total Revenues net of Debt	20,259,462	21,593,645	1,334,183	6.09%

	FY2016	FY2017		
Expenses	BUDGET	PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
General Town	8,373,806	8,725,506	351,700	4.20%
WPCF	2,244,913	2,331,733	86,820	3.87%
Airport	46,278	48,812	2,534	5.48%
Gill-Montague Assessment	8,498,343	8,802,571	304,228	3.58%
Franklin Cty Tech Assessment	760,615	659,356	(101,259)	-13.31%
Colle	80,350	102,150	21,800	27.13%
Recommended Special Articles	2,301,921	2,308,517	6,596	0.29%
Total Expenses	22,306,226	22,978,645	672,419	3.01%

Revenue Highlights

The town’s budget is funded mostly from four sources: property taxes, state aid, local receipts, and reserves (principally from Free Cash or Stabilization Funds).

Property Taxes The proposed budget assumes that the total levy will rise to the 2.5% limit. Net levy revenue, including New Growth, is 2.92% over Fiscal Year 2016. New Growth is forecast at a level typical of earlier years, and we continue to set aside a provision for settlement of disputed valuations.

State Aid At the time this report went to press Governor Baker had delivered his proposed budget to the legislature, including municipal aid figures slightly higher than in Fiscal Year 2016, but neither house of the legislature has proposed increased municipal aid; consequently, our recommendation uses the governor’s proposal for all elements of State Aid.

Local Receipts This source is projected 4.29% above the Fiscal Year 2016 level. Approximately 69% comes from Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and Trash Sticker sales.

Reimbursement for SRO Normally part of Local Receipts, this item is highlighted separately for clarity. It is reimbursement by the Franklin County Technical School of the full cost (salary, benefits and related non-personnel expenses) of a School Resource Officer.

Reserves are a combination of Free Cash, Stabilization Funds and other miscellaneous reserves. Our recommended appropriations from Reserves (compared to Fiscal Year 2016) are presented in the chart on page 2.

In preparing the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget, the Finance Committee attempted to pursue two general goals from prior years. The first is to fund annual needs (both departmental operating budgets and recurring Special Articles) from non-Reserve sources, and to avoid using reserves for non-recurring projects estimated to cost less than \$10,000. The second is to allocate funds available for annual operations in a set

proportion between the Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment and other town functions.

We were unable to accomplish the first goal because non-Reserve sources were inadequate for the year's pressing needs. Refer to pages 10 - 11 for a list of sources for each of this year's Special Articles.

We addressed the second goal by recommending, as in earlier Fiscal Years, that 51.5% of available funds (as defined) be allocated to the town operating budget and 48.5% to the Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment for operations. Continued use of these percentages preserves the present balance of resources between town and District needs, and seems adequate to meet their respective needs. This method resulted in a target affordable assessment of \$8,802,571, or \$304,228 higher than the final Fiscal Year 2016 figure but still \$49,543 lower than the School Committee's Fiscal Year 2017 request of \$8,852,114. In view of the other needs of the town, we recommend approval of our affordable assessment figure.

It is disappointing that State Aid to the District rose only slightly from Fiscal Year 2016, as has been true for several years. Last year we predicted that, in the absence of more adequate Chapter 70 increases, future years would impose increasing funding stresses on towns and districts – that has indeed come to pass.

Town Operating Budget (excludes Special Articles)

General Conditions

Requests from town departments generally met the initial guideline of a "level services" budget. For Fiscal Year 2017, the requested cost of general town operations rose by about \$373,000 or 4.45% to \$8,769,783. We are suggesting some reductions, and recommend an appropriation of \$8,725,506 (a 3.92% increase). Some department heads adjusted their requests downward to our recommendations, which helped balance the budget.

Staffing Changes

The Department of Public Works has requested two added positions for Grounds Maintenance and a third position for Building Maintenance. We are recommending one Groundskeeper and one Building Maintenance employee. In addition, we support a small requested increase in opening hours for the Carnegie Library. Proposed re-organizations in the Water Pollution Control and Police departments will not alter total staff levels.

Wages & Benefits

Wages reflect only step-increases per current collective bargaining agreements; negotiations with all three unions have only recently begun. After several years of modest cost increases Employee Benefits costs rose \$112,024, or 6.05%, due primarily to higher health insurance costs, the first rate increase in several years.

General Government

These departments include statutory or otherwise essential functions for basic municipal operations. Principal departments are the Selectboard, Town Accountant, Assessors, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Town Planner, Legal Expenses, and Public Building Utilities. One change for Fiscal Year 2017 is that Information Technology now has its own department, rather than being included in Shared Costs. A significant contributor to this category is preparation for the expected retirement of the Town Administrator by the end of Fiscal Year 2017, including successor overlap and a search effort.

The recommended budget for this group totals \$1,202,527, a 5.15% increase over Fiscal Year 2016 and about \$6,700 less than requested. Increased costs for elections were partially offset by recommended reductions elsewhere. Total Utilities costs, a volatile area, are projected to stay virtually the same as in 2016.

Public Safety (includes Board of Health)

Police and Dispatch services account for 86% of this category. Dispatch increases are about 2%, featuring no increases in overtime or part-time wages in the wake of per diem increases approved last year. Police costs rose about 3.5%, affected by retirement-related turnover and re-organization effects. In total, the recommended budget for this group of departments rose 2.69% from the Fiscal Year 2016 budget; we recommended the same figure as requested.

Public Works

Our recommendation includes adding two of the three requested new positions, for a 7.66% increase. This addresses the need for increased attention to town buildings and parks, sidewalks, tree management, etc. The requested increase over the prior year, for this entire category, is \$132,295 (7.28%) and the recommended increase is \$95,666 (5.26%). The Capital Improvements Committee considers the vehicle fleet to be in good condition. Solid Waste handling is under contract and we have agreed with the Superintendent on a slight increase in the Snow & Ice budget.

The Committee recommends the use of \$44,700 of Chapter 90 funds to continue the planning phase for a new Public Works facility. This will help estimate the construction cost, which is expected to be significant.

Human Services and Culture & Recreation

These departments provide social services and other functions that enhance quality of life in Montague. These include the Council on Aging, Libraries, Parks and Recreation, and Veterans' Benefits. The proposed total budget for these groups is \$691,750, which is 1.1% above Fiscal Year 2016. A lower case-load in Veterans' Benefits offset increased hours for Library services.

Debt Service

This category fell very slightly from Fiscal Year 2016, to \$659,072. Debt service for the Public Safety Building and the town's share of the Combined Sewer Overload project accounts for about 76.1% of the town's debt service, but does not divert funds from the

operating budget because it is paid from taxes assessed beyond the Proposition 2-1/2 limit. Any significant future borrowing is expected to be excluded debt (see Special Articles section).

Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF)

The Water Pollution Control Facility's Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget of \$2,331,733 is \$86,820, or 3.87%, higher than Fiscal Year 2016. A re-organization of responsibilities, under review by the Selectboard, is proposed in connection with the planned retirement of the Superintendent in December 2016. The proposed structure is the basis of our recommendation, but is also adequate to cover a continuation of the present structure. Septage handling for other towns continues to generate higher revenues, and may be expanded if sludge storage needs are met.

As part of planning for long-term operating and sludge storage needs, we recommend the town continue an appropriation for a WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, and initiate an appropriation for a Discretionary Fund, similar to those already in use for Police, Information Technology, and DPW purposes. This would enable prompt response to unanticipated equipment repair or replacement needs. User fees would be the funding source in both cases.

Capital spending for sewer facilities in Fiscal Year 2017 will amount to \$1,100,000, most of which will come from borrowing. Most of this, \$1,000,000, is for a project that will focus on the inspection, cleaning, lining and rehabilitation of the century-old drain and siphon lines from Avenue A under the power canal to the Connecticut River. Since a majority of this project concerns drains that are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works, 90% of the borrowing will be on the Town's behalf (tax-excluded) and 10% on the behalf of the WPCF. This is the next step in the long-term capital investment plan addressing the Treatment Plant and town-wide drain needs, mentioned in prior years' reports.

Of the Facility's total 2017 budget request (including Special Articles) about 89% is funded by user fees and 3.6% from borrowing – leaving about \$200,000 to be covered by Taxation. This remainder represents “inflow and infiltration” into the system from non-metered sources.

Airport

As in prior years, user fees and revenue from non-aviation sources are insufficient to cover all Fiscal Year 2017 spending, which will rise 5.48% to \$48,812. The airport is expected to be 66% self-supporting, a decrease from 67% in Fiscal Year 2016. The Commission is actively pursuing development plans for areas not suitable for aviation operations, and renegotiates user fees as contracts are renewed.

Educational Assessments

Franklin County Technical School

The Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) assessment for Fiscal Year 2017 declined by about \$100,000 (13.31%) to \$659,356, due to a decrease in the proportion of

Montague students to total enrollment. We discussed adding a portion of the savings to the FCTS Stabilization Fund, in a Special Article, to provide for possible sharp increases in Montague’s proportion in future years – however, we did not agree on an amount.

Gill-Montague Regional School District

The approved Gill-Montague Regional School District budget, on a basis similar to last year, rose from **\$20,452,361 to \$21,058,097 (2.96%)**. However, the requested assessment to Montague increased 4.16% to \$8,852,114, due in part to a reduction in our proportion of enrollment and shifts in the state-calculated minimum contribution. As in recent years, there was very little increase in state aid (Chapter 70), though transportation reimbursements (Chapter 71) recovered somewhat. Though a legislative commission concluded that some elements of the aid calculations need revision, the Governor’s budget does not reflect them and there is no sign, to date, of whether the legislature will act on them. The breakdown by category is as follows:

GMRSD Assessment	BUDGET <u>FY15</u>	BUDGET <u>FY16</u>	REQUEST <u>FY17</u>	REQUEST <u>INCREASE</u>	PROPOSED <u>FY17</u>
Minimum Contribution	4,858,813	5,006,608	5,110,010	103,402	5,110,010
Transportation	289,256	261,628	304,666	43,038	304,666
Debt Service	143,645	137,227	133,485	(3,742)	133,485
Over Minimum	3,001,744	3,092,880	3,303,953	211,073	3,254,410
Total	8,293,458	8,498,343	8,852,114	353,771	8,802,571
% Increase		2.47%	4.16%		3.57%

As noted earlier, the Finance Committee’s recommended “affordable assessment” (\$8,802,571) was calculated by allocating total forecasted available funds between the Gill-Montague district and the total of other town services. We had hoped that the state’s Chapter 70 support for the district would have returned by now to historic levels. In fact it has remained nearly unchanged in recent years, which continues to challenge the district as it balances its educational goals with available funds. Declining enrollment and increasing choice- and charter-out costs have exacerbated this challenge.

Special Articles & Use of Reserves

As noted earlier, we try to ensure a financially sustainable future for Montague by funding ongoing expenses with taxes and other recurring revenue, and providing for significant future needs by establishing savings funds. Here are the principles that guide our recommendations:

SPENDING

1. The Finance Committee recommendations for articles and funding sources are presented in the Motions (shown at the end of this report). Most votes were unanimous.
2. We customarily recommend regular appropriations to discretionary funds for needed purchase and repair of Information Technology, Police, Public Works and Sewer equipment. These are presented as Special Articles (to enable unused balances to be

preserved for future use for their intended purpose), and our goal is to fund them from Taxation (or, in the case of the WPCF, from user fees) whenever possible.

For Fiscal Year 2017 we recommend a total of \$119,000 for the discretionary funds, of which \$44,000 will come from Taxation/user fees and \$75,000 from Town General Stabilization. We hope to fund these entirely from Taxation/user fees in the future.

3. We customarily recommend funding vehicle leases from Taxation and outright purchases from Capital Stabilization. The only recommended vehicle purchase for Fiscal Year 2017 is the annual cruiser replacement for the Police, budgeted as Capital Outlay in the Police department budget.

For Fiscal Year 2017 we must recommend that a final lease payment of \$43,325 come from Capital Stabilization.

4. We customarily recommend that appropriations for small non-recurring expenditures (below \$25,000) come from Taxation.

For Fiscal Year 2017 we must recommend that three urgent maintenance projects at town libraries be funded from Capital Stabilization.

5. We customarily recommend no spending from General Stabilization, in order to preserve that fund for possible future cuts in state aid; use of other resources elsewhere have caused us to recommend spending of \$125,000 from this fund in Fiscal Year 2017. Replenishment of this Fund, and funding of postponed requests, may be considered in Special Town Meetings during Fiscal Year 2017.

APPROPRIATIONS TO STABILIZATION FUNDS

We believe it is important to regularly appropriate funds to the Town General Stabilization and Town Capital Stabilization Funds, from Taxation on an annual basis and from Free Cash when an adequate balance is available. We do not recommend these appropriations at this time, due to insufficient balances in those sources. One exception this year is to recommend that an appropriation to the Other Post-Retirement Benefits Trust Fund be made, as it was a year ago, as an early step toward funding a substantial unfunded liability.

Following past practice, and assuming a sufficient amount of certified Free Cash after July 1, we will request that amounts of Free Cash not expected to be needed for Fiscal Year 2017 Special Town Meetings and the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting be appropriated into various Stabilization funds at a fall Special Town Meeting.

Conclusion

There has been continuing pressure to maintain town services with the funds we have available. The Town has re-organized or increased staffing in several areas to better support existing services. Our ability to maintain services in recent years has been significantly aided by the commitment and resourcefulness of town employees, the

gradual recovery of revenue sources, cost controls at the two school districts that serve our town, and efficiencies and innovations at the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Looking forward to Fiscal Year 2018 we expect that state aid and local receipts will continue a slow rebound, as economic recovery establishes a “new normal” balance of national and state economies. The town’s fiscal strength is still good, and expected to improve over time, but the efforts of state and federal governments to address their own program needs will slow the growth of grants and other aid, on which we rely for some of our development plans. The increasing age of our buildings and equipment, within both the General Fund and the Water Pollution Control Facility, will require continuing spending for repair, maintenance or replacement. We expect to work with the Selectboard and Capital Improvements Committee to formulate and follow a clear plan for vital and effective town government without relying on the use of reserves for operating expenses.

In future years the Town will face the difficult choice of how to raise more revenues (through user fees, debt exclusions or a Proposition 2 ½ override) if we wish to replace or upgrade municipal buildings and infrastructure. Examples include a Public Works Garage, Senior Center, Libraries and the Wastewater Treatment Plant and related sewer lines. We invite both general comments and specific questions from residents and Town Meeting members as to how Town services should be prioritized. We may be contacted directly through the Town’s website at www.montague-ma.gov. The website also contains this report, revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2017, details of compliance with Financial Policies, and line item budgets for all Town departments. Additional information this year includes vehicle inventories for Police and DPW, as well as a computer inventory.

To locate this information, go to the website, scroll to the bottom of the page and select “Annual Budget Information.” Then select “Fiscal Year 2017.” The direct link is: http://www.montague-ma.gov/pages/MontagueMA_Finance/Budget/FY17/FY17Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hanold, Chair
Chris Menegoni

Fred Bowman
Michael Naughton

Greg Garrison
Patricia Pruitt

SUMMARY OF WARRANT ARTICLES

PLEASE NOTE: All Special Articles that affect Stabilization Funds require a 2/3 vote. These are shown below with an asterisk in front of the Topic.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

<u>ART NO.</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>
1.	Amend Dog Shelter Lease Article		
2.	Increase FY2016 Reserve Fund	8,000	Free Cash
3.	Establish PEG Fund		
4.	*Town Share Compactor	12,500	Town Capital Stab
5.	Licensing Software	6,500	Free Cash
6.	Increase FY2016 Police Budget	26,500	Free Cash

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

<u>ART NO.</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>
1.	Annual Reports		
2.	Accept Grants		
3.	Hazardous Materials Revolving Fund	7,500	Available Funds
4.	Elected Officials Salaries		
5.	Appointed Officials Salaries		
6.	Establish Position of Police Lieutenant		
7.	Operating Budget	8,769,783	Taxation/Free Cash
8.	WPCF Operating Budget	2,331,733	Taxation/Sewer Fees
9.	Colle Receipts Operating Budget	102,150	Available Funds
10.	Airport Operating Budget	48,812	Taxation/Airport Fees
11.	Airport Planning Project	8,350	Airport Ret. Earnings
12.	Franklin County Technical School	659,356	Taxation
13.	Gill-Montague Regional School District	8,852,114	Taxation/Free Cash
14.	Leaking Pipe at Hillcrest	10,000	Taxation
15.	Information Technology	24,000	Taxation
16.	*Purchase/Repair DPW Equipment	100,000	Town General Stab
17.	*Lease Payment 6 Wheel Dump Trucks	43,325	Town Capital Stab
18.	DPW Building Pre-Development	44,700	Chapter 90
19.	Primary Sludge Pumps & Equipment	100,000	Sewer User Fees
20.	Increase WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund	200,000	Sewer User Fees
21.	WPCF Equipment	20,000	Sewer User Fees
22.	Storm Drain/Siphon Repair	1,000,000	Town/Sewer Debt
23.	*Repair Carnegie Roof	14,000	Town Capital Stab
24.	*Repair Montague Center Library Roof	20,000	Town Capital Stab
25.	*Repair Library Masonry	14,000	Town Capital Stab
26.	*Upgrade Police Radio System	35,000	Town Capital Stab
27.	Purchase Industrial Park Parcel	132,000	Sale of Real Estate
28.	Abate Strathmore Mill Property	385,000	Town Debt
29.	Strathmore Demolition Plan	6,500	Taxation
30.	Increase OPEB Trust Fund	50,574	Taxation

<u>ART NO.</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>
31.	Increase FCTS Stabilization Fund	26,068	Taxation
32.	*Shea HVAC System	50,000	Town Capital Stab
33.	*Pipeline Legal Expenses	50,000	Town Stabilization
34.	Convey 15 Power Street		
35.	Rename Section of Greenfield Road		
36.	Amend Zoning By-laws – Driveways		
37.	Amend Zoning By-laws – Solar Facilities		
38.	Petition Article- Establish a Study Committee for Municipally Owned Fiber Optic Cable System		
39.	Petitioned Article – Direct Finance Committee to organize Chapter 70 discussion		

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 7, 2016**

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article #20 of the October 1, 2015 special town meeting, which authorized the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease for the regional dog shelter, by replacing the words “not to exceed ten (10) years” with the words “not to exceed thirty (30) years”.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2016 Reserve Fund, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Finance Committee Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 3. MOVED: That the Town accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 Section 53F3/4, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, the fund to begin operation for fiscal year 2017, which begins on July 1, 2016.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a compactor for cardboard and paper recyclables at the Town’s transfer station, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)
(DPW Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a software and database package for the Selectmen’s and the Town Clerk’s offices, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Town Clerk Request)
Finance Committee does not recommend Voted 1-3
Selectmen do not recommend Voted 0-3

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,000 for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2016 Police Department budget, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Police Department Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town conduct the second vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system, construction of a fiber optic network, and any related services.

(Broadband Committee Request)

This article will need motion for a ballot vote, then ballot vote requiring 2/3 majority.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 7, 2016**

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to receive and act upon the reports of the Officers of the Town and to receive the report of any committees and act thereon.

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or other Town departments with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other source, and to expend the same for purposes received without further appropriation.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

ARTICLE 3. MOVED: That the Town vote in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, as amended, to reauthorize a revolving fund for the Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. the SARA Title III Committee) into which fund will be placed the fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills, and to further authorize the SARA Title III Committee to expend up to a maximum of \$7,500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 from the Revolving Fund for the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills.

(Emergency Manager Request)

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

SCHEDULE I				
Elected Officials				
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY17</u>
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	340	340	340	340
BOARD OF SELECTMEN				
Chairman	1,500	1,500	2,040	2,040
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	2,040	2,040
BOARD OF ASSESSOR				
Chairman	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	66,270	68,271*	69,609**	68,271

*G-10 **2% increase

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY15 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY16 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY17 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY17 RECOMMEND</u>
TOWN CLERK *G-8 **G-9	63,697	65,620*	66,933**	66,933
BOARD OF REGISTRARS				
Town Clerk	800	800	800	800
TREE WARDEN	1,300	1,300	1,500	1,500
BOARD OF HEALTH				
Chairman	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY15 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY16 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY17 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY17 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>				
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	500	500	500	500
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,490	5,490	5,490	5,490
BURIAL AGENT	670	zero	zero	zero
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
BARN INSPECTOR	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
IT ADMINISTRATOR	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631	1,631

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY15 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY16 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY17 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY17 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>				
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	27.06	27.50	27.50	27.50
GAS INSPECTOR	27.06	27.50	27.50	27.50
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	27.06	27.50	27.50	27.50
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	27.06	27.50	27.50	27.50
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>				
	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
EXTRA CLERICAL	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
ELECTION WORKERS	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	10.00-13.00	10.00-13.00
SUMMER HIGHWAY	8.00-12.00	8.00-12.00	10.00-13.00	10.00-13.00
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	13.00-15.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00
PARKS & RECREATION	9.00-25.63	9.00-25.63	9.00-20.00	9.00-20.00

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2016</u>		<u>Range FY2017</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<u>SALARIED</u>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	85,737	105,515	85,737	105,515
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	55,746	68,271	55,746	68,271
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	77,943	95,922	77,943	95,922
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	70,858	87,202	70,858	87,202
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	55,746	68,271	55,746	68,271
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	55,746	68,271	55,746	68,271
WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	H	70,858	87,202	70,858	87,202
<u>HOURLY</u>					
SELECTMEN'S SECRETARY	E	20.72	25.50	20.72	25.50

Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2017 budgeted wages

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	103,446	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	68,271
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	68,271	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	61,533
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	83,817	WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	87,202
CHIEF OF POLICE*	103,241	SELECTMEN'S SECRETARY	25.50

*includes add'l 20% educational incentive pay

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
 Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to establish the position of Police Lieutenant within the Classification Plan, at Grade G+8.5 with a Lieutenant not to be hired below step 6 (\$34.78-\$ 37.68 per hour), with such benefits as are awarded to other non-union management personnel, as well as sick leave, longevity, educational incentives, clothing, and uniform and cleaning allowance afforded to police personnel.

(Police Chief Request)
 Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,769,783 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town and for any other necessary changes, with \$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$8,644,783 to be raised from Taxation said sums to be allocated in accordance Schedule III, Budget.

**SCHEDULE III
 BUDGET**

DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY15	BUDGET FY16	REQUESTED FY17	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY17
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
113	TOWN MEETING	1,615	1,720	1,700	1,700
122	SELECTMEN	148,667	162,535	196,493	196,493
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	572	840	690	690
132	RESERVE FUND	41,400	50,000	60,000	60,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	73,936	76,100	74,421	74,421
141	ASSESSORS	149,757	156,533	160,060	159,060
141	BOA SOFTWARE/CAPITAL		3,860	-	-
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	206,758	212,387	215,058	211,820
151	TOWN COUNSEL	104,258	70,000	70,000	70,000
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	22,313	33,206	34,575	34,575
159	SHARED COSTS	43,387	51,450	51,109	51,109
161	TOWN CLERK	134,638	130,320	145,307	143,857
175	PLANNING	76,610	79,226	84,917	84,917
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	1,239	2,710	2,710	1,650
182	MEDIC	676	1,500	800	800
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	94,949	111,215	111,435	111,435
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,100,776	1,143,602	1,209,275	1,202,527
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			5.74%	5.15%

DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY15	BUDGET FY16	REQUESTED FY17	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY17
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
211	POLICE	1,370,950	1,440,962	1,490,676	1,490,676
211	POLICE CRUISER	39,103	39,500	39,500	39,500
212	DISPATCH	261,016	270,691	275,247	275,247
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	118,338	125,384	126,059	125,259
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	-	2,750	2,750	2,750
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	5,590	5,740	5,590	5,490
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	16,352	17,800	18,396	18,396
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631	1,631
299	TREE WARDEN	12,951	13,510	14,210	14,210
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	119,109	136,908	136,998	136,998
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	1,945,040	2,054,876	2,111,057	2,110,157
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			2.73%	2.69%
	PUBLIC WORKS				
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,131,644	1,148,529	1,276,324	1,239,695
423	SNOW & ICE	219,245	216,000	219,000	219,000
433	SOLID WASTE	408,831	447,000	447,500	447,500
491	CEMETERIES	5,850	6,000	7,000	7,000
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,765,570	1,817,529	1,949,824	1,913,195
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			7.28%	5.26%
	HUMAN SERVICES				
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	37,844	39,669	43,676	43,676
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	161,951	175,500	164,000	164,000
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	199,795	215,169	207,676	207,676
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			-3.48%	-3.48%
	CULTURE & RECREATION				
610	LIBRARIES	337,643	351,149	362,911	362,911
630	PARKS & RECREATION	104,042	116,179	119,463	119,463
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	434	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,049	1,200	1,200	1,200
	TOTAL CULTURE & REC	443,169	469,028	484,074	484,074
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			3.21%	3.21%
	DEBT SERVICE				
700	DEBT SERVICE	653,276	661,201	659,072	659,072
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			-0.32%	-0.32%
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL				
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	71,938	94,259	92,564	92,564
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			-1.80%	-1.80%

DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY15	BUDGET FY16	REQUESTED FY17	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY17
	MISCELLANEOUS				
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,748,594	1,851,271	1,963,295	1,963,295
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	90,802	89,371	92,946	92,946
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	1,839,396	1,940,642	2,056,241	2,056,241
	% INCREASE FROM FY16			5.96%	5.96%
	GRAND TOTAL GEN FUND	8,018,959	8,396,306	8,769,783	8,725,506
	% INCREASE FROM PY	4.55%	9.47%	4.45%	3.92%

Finance Committee recommends \$8,725,506 Voted 4-0
 Selectmen recommend \$8,725,506 Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,331,733 for the purpose of operating the Water Pollution Control Facility and associated pumping stations, with \$201,261 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,130,472 to be raised from Sewer User Fees, said sums to be allocated in accordance Schedule IV, WPCF Budget.

**SCHEDULE IV
 WPCF Budget**

DEPT NO.		SPENT 2015	BUDGET 2016	REQUEST 2017	FIN COMM SELECTMEN RECOMMEND 2017
	WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY				
440	Wages & Expenses	1,416,215	1,525,575	1,602,016	1,602,016
700	Debt Service	446,469	437,052	430,457	430,457
910	Employee Benefits	181,400	227,327	249,260	249,260
	SUBTOTAL WPCF	2,044,083	2,189,954	2,281,733	2,281,733
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY				
	Wages & Expenses	41,679	46,959	42,000	42,000
	Capital Outlay	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	41,679	54,959	50,000	50,000
				188.36%	
	TOTAL WPCF	2,085,762	2,244,913	2,331,733	2,331,733

Finance Committee recommends \$2,331,733 Voted 4-0
 Selectmen recommend \$2,331,733 Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$102,150 for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance, and debt service of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised by Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriations.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
 Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$48,812 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport with \$16,825 to be raised from Taxation and \$31,987 from Airport User Fees.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,350 for the purpose of providing the town share of a federal grant for an Airport Planning Project, wherein said project may include a Master plan Update and/or an Airport Layout plan Update, said local share to be raised from Airport Retained Earnings.

(Airport Commission Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$659,356 for the purpose of paying the Franklin County Technical School District for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Franklin County Technical School said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,852,114 for the purpose of paying the Gill-Montague Regional School District for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Gill-Montague Regional Schools with \$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$8,727,114 to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee recommends \$8,802,571 Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend \$8,802,571 Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of repair/replace leaking pipes in access tunnel at Hillcrest Elementary School, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate, the sum of \$24,000 for the purpose of funding the purchase of information technology equipment, parts, accessories, and software and for the installation thereof, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Computer Administrator Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 16. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town General Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Department of Public Works Request)

Finance Committee recommends \$75,000 Voted 3-1

Selectmen recommend \$75,000 Voted 2-1

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends \$79,000

ARTICLE 17. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$43,325 for the purpose of funding FY 2017 principal and interest payments due on the Six Wheel Dump Truck authorized for lease at the May 5, 2012 Annual Town Meeting, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Department of Public Works Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 18. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,700 for pre-development assessments for a Department of Public Works Facility at Sandy Lane, said sum to be raised from Chapter 90 Receipts.

(Department of Public Works Facility Planning Committee)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 19. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of upgrading and/or replacing the primary sludge pumps and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(WPCF Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 20. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(2/3 vote required)

(WPCF Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 21. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping and making major repairs to WPCF vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(WPCF Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 22. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of funding the following water pollution abatement facility project: engineering, design, bidding, construction and any other costs pertinent thereto, in connection with the repair or replacement of the combined sanitary sewer overflow and storm drain system running from Avenue A under the canal to the Connecticut River, including without limitation, the payment of all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow under Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 of the General Laws, or any other lawful enabling authorities, which amount may be borrowed through the Rural Development Administration of the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise; it is anticipated that the principal and interest due on \$100,000 of such borrowing shall be repaid through the Sewer Enterprise Fund, and the principal and interest on the remaining \$900,000 shall be repaid through the General Fund; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend grants for such purpose and take all actions as may be necessary to meet the purposes of this article; provided, however, that the vote to authorize the borrowing in the amount of \$900,000 shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town of a Proposition 2 ½, so-called, debt exclusion question in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, §21C(k).

(DPW & WPCF Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 23. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$14,000 for the purpose of repairing two sections of roofing at the Carnegie Library, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Libraries Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 24. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of repairing slate roofing at the Montague Center Library, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Libraries Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 25. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$14,000 for the purpose of repairing and re-pointing masonry work at the Carnegie and Montague Center Libraries, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Libraries Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 26. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000, for the purpose of upgrading the Police Department radio system, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Police Department Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Does Not Recommend

ARTICLE 27. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, in accordance with the Restrictive Covenants of the Airport Industrial Park, to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, for general municipal purposes, industrial development, and for the purpose of conveyance, the fee simple ownership or any lesser interest in a parcel of land comprising approximately 7.887 acres as shown on Assessors' Map 17, Lot 58, and being more particularly described in the deed recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 6457, Page 1; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$132,000 from the Sale of Real Estate Fund, for this purpose or any purpose incidental or related thereto; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments and to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purpose of this vote.

(Town Planner Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 28. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$385,000 for the purpose of abating hazardous and asbestos containing materials within the Strathmore Mill Complex, 20 Canal Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, that this appropriation be raised by under the authority of General Laws under Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, or any other lawful enabling authority; amounts required to repay the principal and interest on any such bonds are anticipated to be repaid through the General Fund; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend grants for such purpose; and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all contracts as may be necessary to meet the purposes of this article; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town of a

Proposition 2 ½ , so called, debt exclusion question in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, Section 21 (C)(k).

(2/3 vote required)

(Town Planner Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 29. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,500 for the purpose of paying the costs of a feasibility study for segmented demolition and identification of probable demolition costs by a structural engineer within the Strathmore Mill Complex, 20 Canal Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Town Planner Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 30. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,574 for the purpose of increasing the Town OPEB Trust Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Town Administrator Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 3-1

Selectmen does not recommend Voted 0-3

ARTICLE 31. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,068 for the purpose of increasing the FCTS Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(2/3 vote required)

(Finance Committee Request)

Finance Committee does not recommends Voted 2-2 (on the original motion of \$36,068)

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 32. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of repairing or replacing the HVAC system at the Shea Theater, and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(2/3 vote required)

(Board of Selectmen Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Does Not Recommend

ARTICLE 33. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to continue Montague's participation in DPU docket 15-178 (or any succeeding docket number), concerning a proposed contract by Berkshire Gas Company to purchase transportation on the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline, and to participate in any appeals, consolidations of

cases, or related regulatory or legal proceedings at the state or Federal level, said sum to be raised from the Town General Stabilization Fund.
Funds appropriated in this Article shall be spent at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Funds appropriated in this Article may fund or help to fund actions undertaken by the Town alone and/or in conjunction with actions taken by any other municipality, coalition, or organization engaging in such regulatory or legal action.

(2/3 vote required)
(Board of Selectmen Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 3-1
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 34. MOVED: That the Town vote to transfer from the Board of Selectmen, in its role as tax title custodian, the care, custody and control of all or a portion of the parcel of land comprising approximately .745 acres located at 15 Power Street, as shown on Assessors' Map 3, Lot 89 and as more particularly described in a Judgment in Tax Lien Case recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 6744, Page 8, including all land and buildings thereon, to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for purposes of conveyance; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey any or all of the said property upon such terms and for such consideration as the Selectmen deem in the best interests of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and to execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient on behalf of the Town to effect said conveyance.

(2/3 vote required)
(Planning Department Request)

ARTICLE 35. MOVED: That the Town will vote, in accordance with Town Bylaw Article 4 Section 1, to rename the segment of the public way known as Greenfield Road from its intersection with Turners Falls Road to the Pan-AM Railway in Montague Center to "Old Greenfield Road".

(Planning Department Request)

ARTICLE 36. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the Montague Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Section 6.3.3 (Vehicular Egress/Access to a Lot) in the following manner:

Strike text from section 6.3.3 and replace it with the following text:

For Residences with a setback of 500 feet or more from an accepted way, a driveway for such residence must have a grade of no greater than 10%, a curve radius not less than 30 feet, passing turnouts with a width of 20 feet and length of 35 feet that are spaced no more than 300 feet between turnouts or terminus of the driveway, a turnaround area with a minimum 30 foot turn around radius and that the driveway be no less than 16 feet in width over its entire length. The Planning Board may issue a Special Permit to allow relief for any of the requirements in this section

(2/3 vote required)
(Planning Department Request)

ARTICLE 37. That MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the Montague Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Solar Energy Facilities in the General Business District in sections 5.2.5 (b) and 7.9.4(a) in the following manner:

By adding the text shown in **bold** below to section 5.2.5(b):

- 5.2.5(b) Uses allowed on Special Permit from the Board of Appeals:
- One family dwellings
 - Two family dwelling
 - Motel or hotel
 - Retail sales and services that involve construction or alteration of over 5,000 square feet of floor area or the development of over 130,680 square feet (3 acres) of land.
 - Business office or professional office that involve construction or alteration of over 5,000 square feet of floor area or the development of over 130,680 square feet (3 acres) of land.
 - Lodging House
 - Earth removal
 - Open recreational enterprise
 - Multi-family dwelling
 - Public Utility
 - Registered Marijuana Dispensary, in accordance with Section 7.10
 - Solar Energy Facility, in accordance with Section 7.9**
 - Other non-industrial uses if similar to the above in externally observable attributes.

By adding the text shown in **bold** below to section 7.9.4:

7.9.4 Solar Energy Facilities

Solar Energy Facilities are allowed in the ID..Industrial Districts and are permitted in the HI..Historic Industrial, RE..Recreation Education, **GB..General Business Districts** and UN..Unrestricted, by Special Permit, subject to the following requirements:

(a) Conditions of Approval:

1. A plan shall be provided for the general procedures of operation and maintenance of the installation including security measures, maintenance of emergency access and the clear and available means of shutting down the facility in the event of an emergency;
2. A fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal and site restoration, prepared by a qualified engineer;
3. Notice of Public Hearing shall be provided to the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the facility is proposed;
4. Adequate access and parking, shall be provided for service and emergency vehicles;
5. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the facility or as otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws;

6. An 8 foot security fence shall be installed no closer to a property line than the setback required for a principal building. In addition, the site and its fencing shall be screened by buffering vegetation from general view from the surrounding ground level unless the Board determines that there is no public benefit from such screening;
7. To the extent feasible, all network interconnections and power lines, to and from the facility, shall be via underground lines;
8. Drainage from impervious surfaces shall be fully accommodated onsite;
9. No array shall be floodlit;
10. Owners and successors in title shall provide a satisfactory form of surety, either through escrow account, bond or otherwise, to cover the cost of removal and restoration of the landscape, in an amount determined to be reasonable by the Board, but in no event to exceed more than 125 percent of the cost of removal. Such surety may be waived for municipally or state owned facilities.
11. **The permit may be subject to a time limitation of 20 years in the General Business District**

(2/3 vote required)

(Planning Board Request)

ARTICLE 38. MOVED: That the Town vote to establish a study committee to investigate the potential of a Town wide municipally owned fiber optic cable system to meet the town wide needs and to develop a plan to implement this technology in the area of telecommunications.

(Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 39. “The 2016 annual town meeting directs its Finance Committee to encourage and help organize a discussion of the Chapter 70 education formula, the mechanism for distributing the largest form of state aid to cities and towns. This discussion should 1) allow and encourage diverse opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of the formula 2) attempt to develop a consensus political strategy to reform the formula and 3) involve outreach to other towns and cities in the region and state.”

(Petitioned Article)