

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

Fiscal Year 2019

The Montague Finance Committee proposes a balanced budget of \$23,673,992 to provide municipal services during Fiscal Year 2019. These services include the town's general operations, educational assessments, the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), 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 at www.montague-ma.gov. The website also contains this report, a Glossary of terms used in it, revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2019, details of compliance with Financial Policies, and line item budgets for all Town departments. To locate this information on the website, select "Your Government," "Boards and Committees," then "Finance Committee." "Annual Budget Information" will show to the right under "Additional Pages." Many bold-type terms used in this report are defined in the Glossary, sent separately.

INTRODUCTION

Montague strives to operate effective municipal programs and services, in support of our residents' values and objectives. Approval of this budget will fund the town's services and promote our financial stability. Our estimated **revenue** reflects our view of economic conditions and tax collections, as well as the initial payment by Kearsarge on a 25-year lease of land for a solar array. In addition, for a second year we have benefited from significant **New Growth** in our tax base, reflecting increased valuation of utility company property.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Our spending recommendations consider both requests from department heads and application of the Financial Management Policies adopted by the Select Board in June 2014, which are available on the town website. These policies lay out a set of goals the town strives to achieve to ensure its sustainability. (These goals refer to the town's **General Fund** operations and exclude the WPCF.) The Fiscal Year 2019 recommendations include appropriations to several savings funds in accordance with these policies, and if all recommendations are approved at Town Meeting, our results will be:

- Total **Town Stabilization Funds** plus **Free Cash** will be \$1,099,599 or 6.08% of Prior Year General Operating Revenue (PYGOR). The goal is between 5% and 10%. PYGOR consists of:

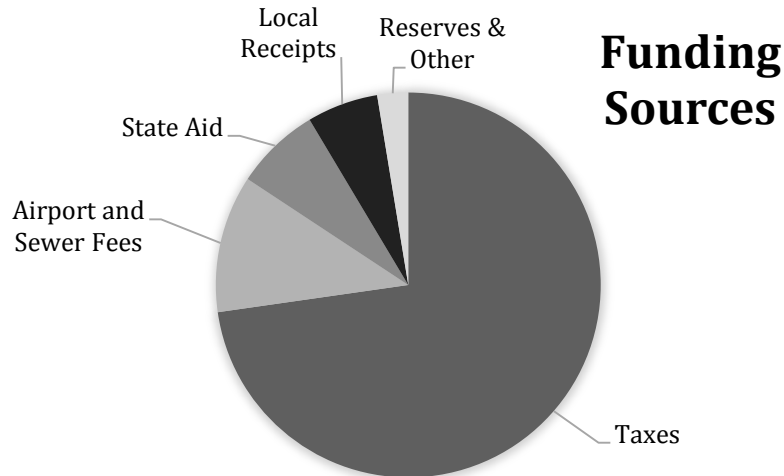
Net Tax Levy (less Excluded Debt)	\$14,820,370
Net State Aid plus Local Receipts	<u>3,251,500</u>
Total	\$18,071,870

- The **General Stabilization Fund** balance alone will be \$961,771 (5.32%) of PYGOR; the goal is 5% - \$903,593). This amount includes an appropriation of \$67,510 to bring the initial level up to policy level and the recommended annual 0.3% of PYGOR (\$54,216) from taxation.
- The **Town Capital Stabilization Fund** will have a balance of \$136,218. This amount includes the recommended annual appropriation of 0.2% of PYGOR (\$36,144) from taxation and a portion of the first year's lease payment for the Kearsarge solar array (\$40,150).
- The town's current debt payments plus direct purchase of capital items recommended at this meeting total \$1,222,764, or 6.77% of PYGOR; this exceeds the minimum 6% (\$1,084,312) called for by the policies.
- Building Renewal and Equipment Replacement is recommended to be 2% of the budget year General Operating Revenues (GOR, not the PYGOR used for other recommended amounts). GOR for FY2019 is \$18,694,844, and 2% of that is \$373,897. The recommended budget includes capital appropriations for these purposes (DPW Equipment, GMRSD items, and police cruiser) totaling \$416,000, which exceeds the goal.
- The town's total long-term debt service, including our share of GMRSD debt but excluding short-term interest, is \$609,774 (3.37% of PYGOR); the policies call for not more than 15%. The town's non-excluded debt service is \$66,138 (0.37%), well below the policy recommendation of between 2% and 5% of PYGOR.

The policies suggest that the town is not carrying enough of a debt load, under the assumption that low debt may indicate inadequate attention to a town's infrastructure. Later sections mention purposes to which additional debt might be put, primarily in public works and wastewater treatment. However, unless we utilize tax-excluded borrowing or tax overrides, servicing a higher debt load can be accomplished only with significant new revenue sources or by reducing spending in other areas. The Revenue Highlights section below offers more information on this subject.

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

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



Property Taxes The proposed budget assumes that property will be taxed to the levy limit. Net levy revenue is 5.09% higher than Fiscal Year 2018. For the second year, the estimate of **New Growth** reflects a significant increase in personal property assets identified by electrical power or utility companies. This becomes a permanent part of the tax base for future years. We continue to set aside a provision for settlement of disputed valuations of certain utility properties and hope to reach an agreement in the next year on valuations for several past years in dispute.

State Aid At the time this report went to press Governor Baker had delivered his proposed budget to the legislature, including municipal aid figures higher than in Fiscal Year 2018, and we expect the eventual House Budget Committee report to agree with this. Consequently, our recommendation uses the governor’s figures for most elements of **State Aid**, totaling 1.28% over Fiscal Year 2018. Unrestricted Aid rose 3.5%, in line with expected growth in state tax collections, but other types of aid were flat or lower.

Local Receipts This source is projected at 13.76% above the Fiscal Year 2018 level, strengthened by the first year of the Kearsarge lease payments on a solar array. Approximately 58.6% of Local Receipts comes from Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and Trash Sticker sales and 9.7% from the share of Kearsarge lease payments.

School Resource Officers The cost of School Resource Officers at Gill-Montague and Franklin County Technical Schools (FCTS) appears in the Police department budget and the reimbursements are part of **Local Receipts**. The FCTS reimburses the full cost (salary, benefits and related non-personnel expenses) of one School Resource Officer and the GMRSD will reimburse 75% of the costs for the other, which is proposed for the first time in Fiscal Year 2019. Together these account for 7.6% of **Local Receipts**.

Reserves are a combination of **Free Cash**, **Stabilization Funds** and other miscellaneous reserves. Our objective is to reduce our reliance on **Free Cash** to balance the budget, so we propose reducing its contribution to the **General Fund**

budget from \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2018 to \$150,000 in Fiscal Year 2019. The strong Free Cash position as of July 1, 2017 also makes it possible to use these funds, rather than Stabilization, to support several Special Articles.

As part of the lease agreement with Kearsarge, the town will receive an annual lease payment for 20 years. The Select Board and Finance Committee considered the question of how to treat this payment, both how it should fit in to the town's budget process generally and whether it should be included in the affordable assessment calculation for GMRSD. The decision was to share 48.5% of it with GMRSD, as with other revenues, and after discussions with the district the boards opted to apply half of their share to the affordable assessment and half into the GMRSD stabilization fund. They also agreed to put the town's portion (51.5% of the total) into the town capital stabilization fund; however, due to an oversight the current recommendations do not do this. Only half of the town's portion is being appropriated to the fund in this warrant; the Finance Committee intends to correct this by adding the remainder at a future meeting.

Airport and Sewer User Fees

Airport user fees include Payments in Lieu of Taxes, rentals/leases and house rent.

Sewer user fees include residential and industrial sewer bills and septage fees.

Funding Goals

In preparing the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget, the Finance Committee continued to pursue two general goals discussed in 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 \$25,000. We accomplished this goal, for a second consecutive year, because Taxation and Free Cash were adequate for the year's recurring needs. In addition, several non-recurring requests are funded from these sources, enabling us to increase Capital and **General Stabilization** balances.

The second goal is to allocate funds available for annual operations in a set proportion between the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) assessment and other town functions. We met this goal by recommending, per past agreement with the GMRSD, that 51.5% of available funds (as defined) be allocated to the town **operating budget** and 48.5% to the GMRSD assessment for operations. Continued use of these percentages preserves the present balance of resources between town and GMRSD needs, and seems adequate to meet our respective needs. The School Committee's request for Fiscal Year 2019 met our target, and we recommend approval of their request.

Use of Reserves

We try to ensure a financially sustainable future for Montague by funding recurring expenses with taxes and other recurring revenue, and providing for significant future non-recurring needs by establishing savings funds. The Finance Committee recommendations for articles and funding sources are presented in the Motions (at the end of this Report). Most votes were unanimous.

We customarily recommend annual appropriations from **Taxation** or sewer user fees to **discretionary funds** for needed purchase and repair of Information Technology, Police, Public Works and WPCF equipment. These are presented as Special Articles to enable unused balances to be carried over for future use. No Fiscal Year 2019 request was received from the Police department, and we recommend a total of \$135,000 for the other discretionary funds.

We customarily recommend funding vehicle leases from **Taxation** and outright purchases from **Taxation** or **Capital Stabilization**. Vehicle commitments in Fiscal Year 2019 include the replacement of a vehicle for the Police, budgeted as Capital Outlay in the Police budget, and the annual lease payment for a flail mower, budgeted as Capital Outlay in the Public Works budget. The effect is to fund them from **Taxation**, as intended.

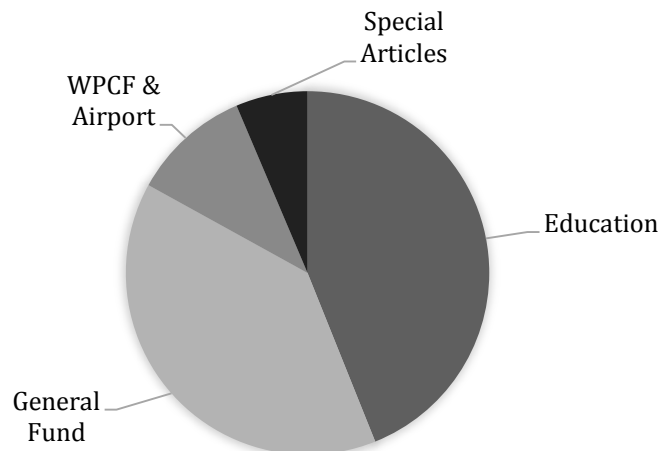
We customarily recommend that appropriations for small non-recurring expenditures (below \$25,000) come from **Taxation/Sewer Fees** or **Free Cash** (if available). In Fiscal Year 2019 we recommend three such requests, funded from those sources.

Once again we recommend no spending from **General Stabilization**, in order to preserve that fund for possible future cuts in state aid.

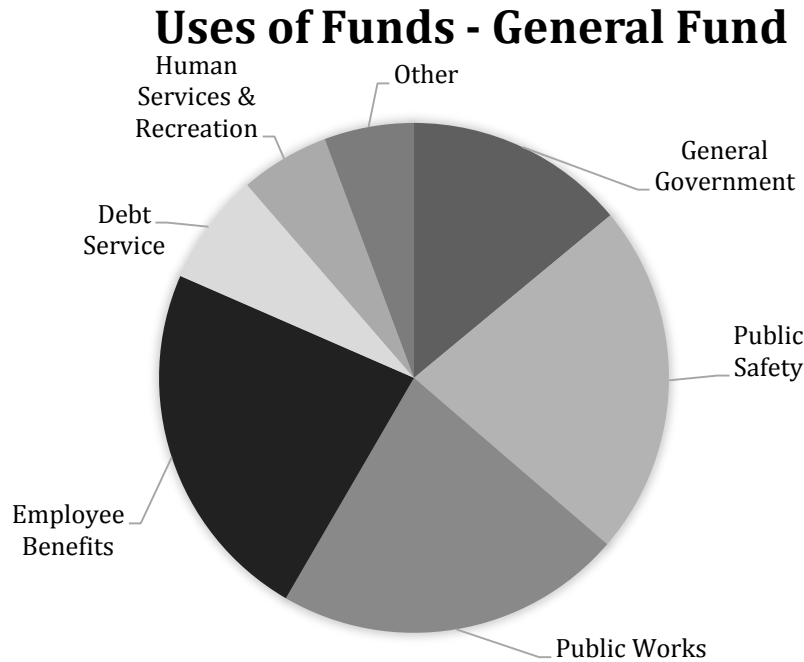
Education Revenue

It is disappointing that once again **State Aid** (Chapter 70) to the GMRSD rose only slightly from Fiscal Year 2018. Last year we predicted that, in the absence of more adequate Chapter 70 increases for our schools, future years would impose increasing funding stresses on towns and districts – that has indeed come to pass. The sharp increase in **New Growth** and the solar lease eases, but does not eliminate, these stresses; such increases are likely to be smaller in future years.

Uses of Funds - All Uses



TOWN OPERATING BUDGET



General Conditions

Town departments were asked to submit “level services” budget requests. For Fiscal Year 2019, the requested and recommended cost of General Fund operations rose by \$398,327 or 4.43% to \$9,400,018. In the course of our joint review with the Select Board we suggested some adjustments or reworked estimates, and both the requested and recommended appropriations reflect those adjustments.

Staffing Changes

Several increases in staffing were requested for Fiscal Year 2019. The Cultural Coordinator position formerly funded by grants will become a benefitted town employee in the Planning department, where an intern will be eliminated. An additional police officer is being requested, to act as a School Resource Officer at Gill-Montague Regional School District similar to the one in place at the Franklin County Technical School. Weekly hours for a part-time employee in each of the Library and Treasurer departments will increase to accommodate work-load demands. The increase to the Library Assistant’s hours will make it a benefitted position. An intern will be added to the Airport. While the Finance Committee supported these changes, there was some skepticism regarding the justification for the Cultural Coordinator position, and the support for the Airport intern was not unanimous.

Wages & Benefits

Wages reflect a 2% overall wage increase, plus step increases per current collective bargaining agreements for those employees not at the top of their range. Employee Benefits costs rose \$128,396 or 6.16%, due in part to higher health insurance costs and in part to the increase in eligible employees.

General Government

These departments include statutory or otherwise essential functions for basic municipal operations. Principal departments are the Select Board, Town Accountant, Assessors, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Town Planner, Legal Expenses, and Public Building Utilities.

The recommended budget for this group totals \$1,327,973, a 5.50% increase over Fiscal Year 2018. Higher costs for elections and the Cultural Coordinator position accounted for two-thirds of the increase. Total utilities costs are planned essentially flat.

Public Safety (includes Board of Health)

In total, the recommended budget for this group of departments rose 5.52% from the Fiscal Year 2018 budget; Police and Dispatch services account for 86% of this category. Dispatch increases are about 3.3% and reflect staff stability following the per diem increases approved in recent years. Police costs rose about 7.5% due to the addition of a second School Resource Officer and the impact of a retroactive contract settlement to Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018, which is the subject of Special Town Meeting articles. There is no provision, at this time, for the cost to recruit and employ a new chief.

Public Works

Our recommendation incorporates the recurring lease payment on a flail mower into regular operations, accounting for about a third of the 5.21% increase in this group. The Capital Improvements Committee considers the vehicle fleet to be in good condition. Solid Waste handling is under contract, and the DPW Superintendent is comfortable with a \$6,000 increase in the Snow & Ice budget.

Human Services and Recreation

These departments provide social services and other functions that enhance quality of life in Montague. These include the Council on Aging, Libraries, Parks & Recreation, and Veterans' Services. The proposed total budget for this group is \$684,531, including the added hours for a Library Assistant, but is still 1.5% below Fiscal Year 2018, reflecting a lower case-load in Veterans Services.

Debt Service (excludes WPCF)

This category fell slightly from Fiscal Year 2018, to \$629,774. Debt service for the Public Safety Building and the town's share of the Combined Sewer Overflow project accounts for about 83.7% of the town's debt service, but does not divert funds from the operating budget because those projects are covered by debt exclusions. Debt Service for these projects will end in the 2026 – 2028 period. Significant future borrowing is expected to include excluded debt for a new Public Works garage and further non-excluded borrowing is expected for other projects in the next year or so.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY (including Special Articles)

Revenue for the facility has fallen sharply, due to the closure of the PaperLogic plant and the suspension of sludge handling for other towns. It is not possible to offset the revenue loss with comparable cost reductions, but such efforts continue, including the elimination of three positions. In this circumstance user rates will rise again. The Water Pollution Control Facility's Fiscal Year 2019 operating budget of \$2,017,231 is \$168,450, or 7.7%, lower than Fiscal Year 2018. Alternative methods of sludge treatment are being sought, including co-operation with other towns with similar concerns, but the results will not bear fruit in the immediate future. We continue to invest in planned upgrades to the facility, which are even more necessary in order to operate safely with the reduced staff level.

As part of planning for long-term operating and sludge storage needs, we recommend the town continue appropriations from user fees to upgrade pump station controls and to add to a Discretionary Fund, similar to those already in use for Information Technology and Public Works purposes. These expenditures enable better use of labor and prompt response to unanticipated equipment repair or replacement needs.

In recent years the town has annually appropriated \$385,000 from borrowing for inspection, cleaning, lining and rehabilitation of sewer lines throughout the town. The superintendents of the WPCF and DPW feel the rehabilitation efforts have been productive, and expect to resume them in the future, but in view of the ongoing need for investment in the treatment plant itself we propose suspending this effort temporarily. The town proposes to install a solar array to reduce the plant's energy requirements over the long term.

The Facility's total Fiscal Year 2019 budget request (including Special Articles) is \$2,583,231, of which about 72.1% is funded by user fees and 20.1% from borrowing – the remaining \$200,000 is covered by Taxation, which represents the approximate cost of treating "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 2019 spending, which will rise 2.23% to \$51,039. The Airport Commission proposes to use an intern from the Franklin County Technical School for a

semester to enable better use of the manager's limited hours. In spite of this added expense the airport is expected to be 70.7% self-supporting, a slight improvement over Fiscal Year 2018. The Airport Commission is actively pursuing development plans for areas not suitable for aviation operations, and renegotiates user fees as contracts are renewed.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) assessment for Fiscal Year 2019 increased sharply, from \$747,340 to \$974,338, due in part to an increase in the proportion of Montague students within the total enrollment and in part to Montague's assessment for capital improvements. In prior years we appropriated funds into a stabilization fund to cushion sharp changes in this assessment, and we recommend that we use a portion of that fund to meet the assessment, rather than covering all of it from Taxation.

Unfortunately, FCTS is expecting a decline in total enrollment in future years, based on the number of future ninth graders. In this environment the superintendent expects rising assessments to member towns in coming years.

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district worked hard to align their assessment request with Montague's affordable calculation, and they were able to do so. They were helped by the fact that Montague's affordability calculation increased from the previous year, thanks to stronger than usual new growth and the addition to the calculation of part of the Kearsarge lease payment. On the other hand, Montague's share of the total assessment to the member towns increased. It is expected that the affordable assessment will likely grow by smaller percentages in future years, which will present challenges for both the district and the member towns. The approved Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) budget, on a basis similar to last year, rose from \$21,627,936 to \$21,748,690 (0.6%). The requested assessment to Montague increased 4.86% from \$9,356,560 to \$9,811,160, which includes 75% of the cost of the requested School Resource Officer mentioned earlier. The district worked hard to meet this goal and met it. As in recent years, there was very little increase in state aid and transportation reimbursements (Chapters 70 and 71). Although a legislative commission concluded that some elements of the aid calculations need revision, the Governor's budget does not reflect any revisions; although there are efforts in the legislature to provide increases in some areas, their success is uncertain at this point. Future years are not likely to benefit from new solar arrays and property revaluations to the extent Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 have.

APPROPRIATIONS TO STABILIZATION FUNDS

We believe it is important to appropriate funds annually from **Taxation** to the **Town General Stabilization** and **Town Capital Stabilization Funds**, and from **Free Cash** when an adequate balance is available. The welcome increase in **New Growth** makes it possible to recommend these appropriations. We are also directing part of the Kearsarge lease payment to **Town Capital Stabilization**. After several years of no

additions to the **Gill-Montague District Stabilization Fund** we are adding roughly one-quarter of the Kearsarge lease payment to that fund.

We also recommend that an appropriation to the Other Post-Retirement Benefits Fund be made, as in recent years, as an early step toward funding a substantial unfunded liability.

CONCLUSION

Although it is challenging to maintain town services with the funds we have available, the **New Growth** in our property valuation and the commencement of lease payments for a solar array have made possible some enhanced services, particularly in the libraries and town-wide cultural development. Our ability to maintain services has been significantly aided by the commitment and resourcefulness of town employees and the gradual recovery of revenue sources. We continue to wrestle with changing revenue sources and infrastructure and regulatory challenges at the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Looking forward to Fiscal Year 2020 and beyond we expect that **state aid** will continue to increase slowly, if the legislature continues the practice of increasing unrestricted aid in line with increased tax collections. **Local receipts** should also be stabilized by the regular lease payments for a solar array, and other solar installations seem likely in future years.

Though the continued strength of economic growth is uncertain at this time, the town's fiscal condition continues to be strong, and is expected to remain so. We believe this strength is important to obtain favorable bond rates on future borrowings. State and federal governments may re-allocate funds to address their own program needs, which would affect the availability of the grants and other aid on which we rely to support our development plans. The increasing age of our buildings and equipment, within both the **General Fund** and the Water Pollution Control Facility, will require continued spending for repair, maintenance or replacement. We expect to work with the Select Board and Capital Improvements Committee to formulate and follow a clear plan to provide effective 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 revenue (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, Town Hall renovations, Senior Center, Libraries, and the Water Pollution Control Facility and related infrastructure. We invite both general comments and specific questions from residents and Town Meeting members as to how Town services should be prioritized to support our common values.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hanold, Chair

Greg Garrison

Jennifer Audley

Chris Menegoni

Fred Bowman

Michael Naughton

Richard Widmer

	HISTORICAL BUDGET SUMMARY		
REVENUES	FY17	FY18	FY19
Net Tax Levy	15,498,658	16,455,441	17,367,361
State Aid	1,584,712	1,617,524	1,634,123
Local Receipts	1,366,826	1,416,846	1,611,474
Other Available	453,025	22,850	53,465
Reserved Receipts	102,150	97,525	247,375
Free Cash	250,000	401,000	344,000
Borrowing	1,385,000	385,000	521,000
Airport Fees	40,337	33,258	36,096
Sewer User Fees	2,250,482	2,627,714	1,862,231
Total Revenues	22,931,190	23,057,158	23,677,125
EXPENSES			
General Government	1,215,207	1,258,683	1,327,973
Public Safety	2,117,547	2,147,078	2,265,691
Public Works	1,916,723	1,985,091	2,088,609
Human Services	208,252	178,989	149,889
Culture & Recreation	487,590	508,386	534,642
Debt Service	659,072	639,218	629,774
Intergovernmental	92,564	99,253	101,036
Employee Benefits	1,963,295	2,083,243	2,211,404
General Insurance	92,946	94,000	91,000
WPCF	2,331,733	2,384,214	2,017,231
AIRPORT	49,020	49,925	51,039
FCTS Assessment	659,356	747,340	974,338
GMRSD Assessment	8,852,114	9,356,560	9,811,160
Special Articles	2,283,263	1,520,492	1,420,206
Total Expenses	22,928,682	23,052,472	23,673,992

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 5, 2018**

MOTIONS

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,300 for the purpose of funding the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the New England Police Benevolent Association for Fiscal Year 2017, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2016, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Finance Committee Recommends 5-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$28,300 for the purpose of funding the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the New England Police Benevolent Association for Fiscal Year 2018, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2017, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Finance Committee Recommends 5-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

SUMMARY OF WARRANT ARTICLES

#	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>
1.	Annual Reports			
2.	Accept Grants			
3.	HazMat Revolving Bylaw			
4.	HazMat Revolving Limit			
5.	Elected Salaries			
6.	Appointed Salaries			
7.	Cultural Coordinator			
8.	Town Operating Budget	9,400,018	39.71	Taxation/Free Cash
9.	WPCF Operating Budget	2,017,231	8.52	Taxation/SUFs*
10.	Colle Operating Budget	97,375	0.41	Colle RRA**
11.	Airport Operating Budget	51,039	0.22	Taxation/AUFs***
12.	FCTS Assessment	974,338	4.12	Taxation/FCTSStab
13.	GMRSD Assessment	9,811,160	41.44	Taxation/Free Cash
14.	Hillcrest Entrance	12,000	0.05	Taxation
15.	TFHS/GFMS BMS	72,000	0.30	Free Cash
16.	Sheffield Intercom	30,000	0.13	Free Cash
17.	Hillcrest Intercom	25,000	0.11	Free Cash
18.	GMRSD Lease			
19.	WPCF Equipment	20,000	0.08	SUFs*
20.	WPCF Panels/Alarms	25,000	0.11	SUFs*
21.	WPCF Solar Array	521,000	2.20	Sewer Debt
22.	Senior Center Entry	30,000	0.13	Free Cash
23.	DPW Equipment	100,000	0.42	Taxation
24.	IT Equipment	15,000	0.06	Taxation
25.	MC Park Master Plan	7,000	0.03	Free Cash
26.	Town Map Storage	30,000	0.13	Free Cash
27.	Colle Building Repairs	150,000	0.63	Colle RRA**
28.	GMRSD Stabilization	37,811	0.16	Taxation
29.	Town General Stabilization	121,726	0.51	Taxation
30.	Town Capital Stabilization	76,294	0.32	Taxation
31.	OPEB Trust Fund	50,000	0.21	Taxation
32.	Local Option Meals Tax			
33.	Colle Preservation Restriction			
34.	Selectmen to Select Board			
35.	Convey Property			
36.	Resolution: Greenhouse Emission Pricing			
	Total	23,673,992		

*Sewer User Fees **Colle Receipts Reserved for Apprpr. ***Airport User Fees

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 5, 2018**

MOTIONS

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 to establish the revolving fund set forth below for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2017 and to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws by inserting a new section 7, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as most recently amended by Section 86 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing various revolving funds of the Town, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund.

Section 7: Revolving Funds

(a) There are hereby established in the Town of Montague pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, the following revolving funds:

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Spending Authority</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Allowed Expenses</u>
Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. SARA Title III Committee)	SARA Title III Comm	Fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills	For the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills

(b) Expenditures from each revolving fund shall be subject to the limitations established by Town Meeting, and to any additional limitations as otherwise set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½.

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 §53E1/2 as most recently amended, to establish an annual spending limit of \$7,500 for the Town’s Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. SARA Title III Committee) revolving fund, as listed in Article II, Section 7 of the Town’s General Bylaws, entitled “Revolving Funds”, which funds may be expended without further appropriation for the purposes defined therein, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to increase the same; provided, however, that in accordance with state law, the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase the limit for that fiscal year only.

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

SCHEDULE I			
Elected Officials			
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY19 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY19 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	350	350	350
BOARD OF SELECTMEN			
Chairman	2,040	2,040	2,040
Second/Third Members	2,040	2,040	2,040
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,500	1,500	1,500
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	1,500
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	0	61,243*	61,243
*G-3			
TOWN CLERK	69,988*	71,388**	71,388
*G-9, **G-10			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
Town Clerk	800	800	800

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY19 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY19 RECOMMEND</u>
TREE WARDEN	1,500	1,500	1,500
BOARD OF HEALTH			
Chairman	1,500	1,500	1,500
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	1,500

Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY19 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY19 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	500	500	500
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,490	5,490	5,490
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,500	1,500	1,500
BARN INSPECTOR	1,000	1,000	1,000
IT ADMINISTRATOR	2,000	2,000	2,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50
GAS INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY19 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY19 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
EXTRA CLERICAL	10.00-12.00	11.00-12.00	11.00-12.00
ELECTION WORKERS	10.00-13.00	11.00-13.00	11.00-13.00
SUMMER HIGHWAY	10.00-13.00	11.00-13.00	11.00-13.00
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	14.50-19.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00
PARKS & RECREATION	11.00-20.00	11.00-20.00	11.00-20.00
AIRPORT INTERN		11.00-12.50	11.00-12.50

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2018</u>		<u>Range FY2019</u>	
		<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
<u>SALARIED</u>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	87,893	108,169	89,651	110,332
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	57,148	69,988	58,291	71,388
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR	G	57,148	69,988	58,291	71,388
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	79,903	98,334	81,501	100,301
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	71,567	88,084	74,094	91,183
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	57,148	69,988	58,291	71,388
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	57,148	69,988	58,291	71,388
WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	H	72,641	89,395	74,094	91,183

HOURLY

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	21.24	26.15	21.66	26.67
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	35.80	38.75	36.51	39.52
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	14.24	17.52	14.52	17.54

Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the classification plan to add the position of Cultural Coordinator at Grade C as per a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Montague and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) dated **TBD**.

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,400,018 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, with \$75,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$9,325,018 to be raised from Taxation.

SCHEDULE III, BUDGET

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY18	REQUESTED FY19	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19
	<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>			
113	TOWN MEETING	1,700	1,800	1,800
122	SELECTMEN	169,212	175,625	175,625
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	680	680	680
132	RESERVE FUND	60,000	60,000	60,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	76,163	77,765	77,765
141	ASSESSORS	165,705	172,981	172,981
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	212,823	221,739	221,739
151	TOWN COUNSEL	98,000	98,000	98,000
155	INFORMATION TECH	53,480	47,100	47,100
159	SHARED COSTS	77,009	81,559	81,559
161	TOWN CLERK	135,183	156,710	156,710
175	PLANNING	89,233	114,059	114,059
176	ZONING BD OF APPEALS	2,300	2,400	2,400
182	MEDIC	1,000	1,000	1,000
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	116,195	116,555	116,555
	TOTAL GENERAL GOV	1,258,683	1,327,973	1,327,973
	<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>			
211	POLICE	1,492,914	1,615,928	1,615,928
211	POLICE CRUISER	42,000	34,000	34,000
212	DISPATCH	286,358	295,792	295,792
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	132,589	132,108	132,108
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	2,750	2,750	2,750
291	EMERG MANAGEMENT	5,490	5,490	5,490
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	26,353	19,257	19,257
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631
299	TREE WARDEN	17,210	17,210	17,210
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	139,933	141,525	141,525
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,147,228	2,265,691	2,265,691

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY18	REQUESTED FY19	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19
	<u>PUBLIC WORKS</u>			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,293,765	1,348,463	1,348,463
420	FLAIL LEASE #2 of5		24,090	24,090
423	SNOW & ICE	224,000	230,000	230,000
433	SOLID WASTE	457,326	479,056	479,056
491	CEMETERIES	10,000	7,000	7,000
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,985,091	2,088,609	2,088,609
	<u>HUMAN SERVICES</u>			
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	45,489	43,889	43,889
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	133,500	106,000	106,000
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	178,989	149,889	149,889
	<u>CULTURE & RECREATION</u>			
610	LIBRARIES	386,328	401,962	401,962
630	PARKS & RECREATION	128,193	130,980	130,980
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,200	1,200	1,200
	TOTAL CULTURE & REC	516,221	534,642	534,642
	<u>INTERGOVERNMENTAL</u>			
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	99,253	101,036	101,036
	<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>			
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,083,008	2,211,404	2,211,404
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	94,000	91,000	91,000
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,177,008	2,302,404	2,302,404
	GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	9,001,691	9,400,018	9,400,018

Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,017,231 for the purpose of operating the Water Pollution Control Facility and associated pumping stations, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, WPCF Budget, with

\$200,000 to be raised from Taxation and \$1,817,231 to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

**SCHEDULE IV
WPCF BUDGET**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY18	REQUESTED FY19	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19
	<u>WATER POLLUTION CONTROL</u>			
440	Wages & Expenses	1,418,181	1,314,508	1,314,508
700	Debt Service	495,800	390,221	390,221
910	Employee Benefits	239,700	261,702	261,702
	SUBTOTAL WPCF	2,153,681	1,966,431	1,966,431
449	<u>DPW SUBSIDIARY</u>			
	Wages & Expenses	32,000	42,800	42,800
	Capital Outlay	-	8,000	8,000
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	32,000	50,800	50,800
	TOTAL WPCF	2,185,681	2,017,231	2,017,231

Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$97,375 for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance, and debt service of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Board of Selectmen Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$51,039 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport with \$14,943 to be raised from Taxation and \$36,096 to be raised from Airport User Fees.

Airport Commission Request
Finance Committee Recommends 4-2
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$974,338 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 with \$53,465 to be raised from the FCTS Stabilization Fund and \$920,873 to be raised from Taxation.

Franklin County Technical School Request
Finance Committee Recommends 5-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,811,160 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 \$75,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$9,736,160 to be raised from Taxation.

Gill-Montague Regional School District Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a double door security entrance with window and/or camera system at Hillcrest Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Gill-Montague Regional School District Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$72,000 for Montague's share of purchasing and installing network controllers and related components that manage the HVAC and related systems to upgrade the Building Management Systems at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Gill-Montague Regional School District Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 16. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing an intercom system at the Sheffield Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Gill-Montague Regional School District Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 17. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing an intercom system at the Hillcrest Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Gill-Montague Regional School District Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 18. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease with the Gill Montague Regional School District not to exceed fifteen (15) years and on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate to allow the District to use the following described property.

The land together with the buildings presently known as the Hillcrest School (shown generally on Montague Assessor's Map 10, Lot 049), and the Sheffield School (shown generally on Montague Assessor's Map 06, Lots 323, 324 and 325, and Map 10, Lot 022), along with the current and future improvements thereon, including, but not limited to, all buildings, fixtures, recreational areas, athletic fields, sidewalks and parking areas.

Board of Selectmen Request

ARTICLE 19. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of purchasing, 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 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 20. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing new control panels and alarms at the Denton Street and Montague Center Pump Stations, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

WPCF Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 21. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$521,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a solar array at the Water Pollution Control Facility at 34 Greenfield Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefore pursuant to G.L. c. 44 §7(1), or any other enabling authority. Although this borrowing shall constitute a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, any such borrowing shall be repaid in the first instance from sewer rates and charges. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44 §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. The Board of Selectmen are further authorized to accept any State, Federal or private grant monies available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

WPCF Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 22. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of designing and constructing exterior renovations to the Senior Center building at 62 Fifth Street including but not limited to replacing the steps and landing, constructing side rails for same, and constructing a roof over the new landing, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Council on Aging Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 23. 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 Taxation.

Department of Public Works Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

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

IT Administrator Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 25. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,000 for the purpose of developing a master plan for Montague Center Park improvements, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Parks & Recreation Commission Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 26: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of purchasing services, materials, equipment and supplies to retain, preserve, manage and store Town maps, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Board of Selectmen Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 27. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of repairs to and maintenance of the Colle building, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Board of Selectmen Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4-0

ARTICLE 28. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$37,811 for the purpose of increasing the GMRSD Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 29. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$121,726 for the purpose of increasing the Town General Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee Request
Finance Committee Recommends 5-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 30. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$76,294 for the purpose of increasing the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee Request
Finance Committee Recommends 5-0
Selectmen Recommend 3-0

ARTICLE 31. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of increasing the Town OPEB Trust Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee Request
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Selectmen Recommend 2-0

ARTICLE 32. MOVED: That the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64L, §2 authorizing the Town to impose a local sales tax at the statutory rate of three-quarters of a percent (0.75%) on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town.

Board of Selectmen Request

ARTICLE 33. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a permanent Historic Preservation Restriction, under the provisions of G.L. c. 184, § 31-33 on the Colle Opera House Building located at 85 Avenue A in Turners Falls, shown on Montague Assessor's Maps as Map 07, Lot 0062, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; provided, however, that the authorization granted hereunder shall not be

exercised unless and until the Town of Montague is awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund.

Board of Selectmen Request

ARTICLE 34. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the By-Laws of the Town of Montague to change the title of the “Board of Selectmen” to the “Select Board” as follows.

1. Amend Article III, Section 4, by changing the title from “Selectmen” to “Select Board” and by adding the following clause to the beginning of the section: “There shall be a Select Board of three members elected for three-year overlapping terms. Such Select Board shall have all the powers and duties of a Board of Selectmen for purposes of any and all federal, state and local laws referring to Board of Selectmen or Selectmen, including but not limited to the Massachusetts General Laws, Code of Massachusetts Regulations and any bylaws and special acts applicable to the Town of Montague”; and
2. Delete the words “Board of Selectmen” and “Selectmen” in each place in which they appear and insert in their place the words “Select Board”.

Board of Selectmen Request

ARTICLE 35. MOVED: That the Town vote in accordance with MGL c. 40, § 15A to transfer from the board or commission having the care, custody, and control of a parcel of land containing 2.91 acres of land, more or less, located on Federal Street and identified on the Town Assessor’s Maps as Map 48, Lot 0148, further described in a deed recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Book 3733, Page 177, and being “Lot 2” on a plan recorded with said Registry in Plan Book 105, Page 57 to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey all or a portion of said parcel on such terms and conditions as determined by the Board of Selectmen to be in the best interest of the Town.

Board of Selectmen Request

ARTICLE 36. MOVED: That the Town vote to adopt a Resolution relative to energy policy: A resolution calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to Establish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Pricing to Curb Climate Change.

A Resolution Calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to Establish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Pricing to Curb Climate Change

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus firmly holds that catastrophic climate change is

taking place and the burning of fossil fuels, with its resultant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is among the chief contributing factors; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations here in the Town of Montague, and all over the world; and

WHEREAS, free markets operate most efficiently when individuals and corporations are responsible for the costs of their actions, and these markets offer a fertile environment for creation of economical services and products in the areas of conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy, to allow us to wean ourselves off fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, price changes shift behavior by establishing GHG pricing that can spur innovation of more climate-friendly ways to provide and consume goods and services; and

WHEREAS, prices for fossil fuels do not reflect the cost of health impacts, climate change, and other environmental degradations that are associated with pervasive fossil fuel use and GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, state and federal policies have differentially subsidized renewable and non-renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts is one of nine New England and mid-Atlantic states which in 2014 implemented a market-based policy, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electric sector, which has successfully contributed to substantial decreases in greenhouse gas emissions in the electric sector; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017, the Massachusetts legislature's Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy held a hearing on GHG emissions pricing proposals at which the testimony was strongly in favor of adding a form of GHG emissions pricing for all other (non-electric) energy sectors; and

WHEREAS, British Columbia implemented GHG pricing in 2008 and, according to a 2014 report in the *Economist*, British Columbia's economy is as strong as, and arguably better than, the rest of Canada while the GHG pricing is successfully driving environmental gains; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Montague, Massachusetts strongly urges the Massachusetts Legislature to pass legislation that puts a gradually increasing fee on GHG emissions from fossil fuels to:

- Increase market incentives for non-electric energy sectors to lower greenhouse

gas emissions;

- Make individuals and corporations accountable for the costs of their actions when they choose to use fossil fuels;
- Level the economic playing field between fossil fuels and conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strongly support a provision in the GHG pricing legislation that ensures that the most economically vulnerable residents of Massachusetts are not caused any undue financial hardship because of the law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the Town of Montague shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to MA Governor Charles Baker; State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg; MA Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg; MA Speaker of the House Robert A. DeLeo; MA State Representative Stephen Kulik; MA Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE), Senator Michael J. Barrett; House Chair of the TUE Committee, Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr.; Senate Vice Chair of the TUE Committee, Michael Brady; House Vice Chair of TUE Committee, Frank A. Moran; all members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy: Senators Marc R. Pacheco, Anne M. Gobi, Joan B. Lovely, Bruce E. Tarr; and Representatives James M. Cantwell, Carolyn C. Dykema, Nick Collins, Josh S. Cutler, Adrian Madaro, Daniel Cahill, Joan Meschino, Leonard Mirra, and Randy Hunt; U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren; and U.S. Senator Ed Markey.

Energy Committee Request