

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MAY 4, 2024**

**MOTIONS**

**ARTICLE 1. MOVED:** That the Town vote to receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 2. MOVED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard, or other Town departments with the approval of the Selectboard, 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.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 3. MOVED:** That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

**SCHEDULE I  
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
<b>MODERATOR</b>	500	500	500
<b>SELECTBOARD</b>			
Chairman	2,355	2,640	2,640
Second/Third Members	2,140	2,400	2,400
<b>BOARD OF ASSESSOR</b>			
Chairman	1,765	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,800	1,800
<b>TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER</b>	78,423*	82,394**	82,394
*Step 9			
**Step 10			
<b>TREE WARDEN</b>	1,575	1,764	1,764
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>			
Chairman	1,765	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,800	1,800

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 4. MOVED:** That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II  
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
<b><u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u></b>			
<b>BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)</b>	625	625	625
<b>BOARD OF REGISTRARS Town Clerk</b>	900	900	900
<b>EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR</b>	5,765	6,444	6,444
<b>ANIMAL INSPECTOR</b>	1,575	1,764	1,764
<b>BARN INSPECTOR</b>	1,050	1,400	1,400
<b>IT COORDINATOR</b>	2,100	2,352	2,352
<b>POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR</b>	3,000	6,000	6,000
<b>FOREST WARDEN</b>	1,710	1,882	1,882
<b>HEARING OFFICER</b>	2,500	2,500	2,500
<b>FARMERS MARKET MANAGER</b>	4,000	4,000	4,000
<b><u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u></b>			
<b>ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR</b>	35.00	45.00	45.00
<b>GAS INSPECTOR</b>	35.00	45.00	45.00
<b>PLUMBING INSPECTOR</b>	35.00	45.00	45.00
<b>ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR</b>	35.00	45.00	45.00
<b>SEXTON/PER BURIAL</b>		100.00	100.00
<b><u>HOURLY RATES</u></b>			
<b>EXTRA CLERICAL</b>	15.00-16.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
<b>ELECTION WORKERS</b>	15.00-17.75	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75
<b>SUMMER HIGHWAY</b>	15.00-16.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
<b>SNOW PLOW DRIVERS</b>	15.00-25.00	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00
<b>PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS</b>	25.00-28.00	29.00-35.00	29.00-35.00
<b>PART TIME DISPATCHERS</b>	22.00-25.00	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>	15.00-21.50	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25
<b>AIRPORT INTERN</b>	15.00-16.00	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75

**SCHEDULE II  
Appointed Officials**

	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
<b>SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS</b>			
<b><u>PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS</u></b>			
SECOND SHIFT		1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT		1.25	1.25
<b><u>PART TIME DISPATCHERS</u></b>			
SECOND SHIFT		0.75	0.75
THIRD SHIFT		1.00	1.00
<b><u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u></b>		0.75	0.75

**NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE** (placed on NAGE Scale)

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2024</u>		<u>Range FY2025</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<b><u>SALARIED</u></b>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	100,946	124,233	103,470	127,339
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	91,770	112,940	94,064	115,764
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
TOWN CLERK	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	91,770	112,940	94,064	115,764
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	83,428	102,672	85,514	105,239
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	83,428	102,672	85,514	105,239
<b><u>HOURLY</u></b>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	24.40	30.02	25.01	30.77
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	40.11	44.50	40.95	45.44
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	16.35	20.12	16.76	20.62

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 5. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,409,728 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary charges, with \$487.42 to be raised from Fund Balance Reserved for Excluded Debt and \$12,409,240.58 to be raised from Taxation.

**Schedule III  
Town Operating Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET	REQUEST	SELECTBOARD
		FY24	FY25	FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113	TOWN MEETING	2,980	3,180	3,180
122	SELECTBOARD	330,581	326,230	326,230
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000	600	600
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	90,500	93,000	93,000
141	ASSESSORS	189,801	186,059	186,059
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	231,048	206,965	206,965
151	TOWN COUNSEL	80,000	87,475	87,475
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	80,500	92,252	92,252
159	SHARED COSTS	85,907	93,499	93,499
161	TOWN CLERK	243,041	237,224	237,224
175	PLANNING	134,429	140,788	140,788
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	155,932	140,050	140,050
197	FARMERS MARKET	5,000	5,200	5,200
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,682,419	1,663,222	1,663,222
	PUBLIC SAFETY			
211	POLICE	1,970,054	2,067,608	2,067,608
211	POLICE CRUISER	68,100	60,000	60,000
212	DISPATCH	395,588	410,768	410,768
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	148,621	155,082	155,082
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,265	6,944	6,944
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	23,112	23,658	23,658
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,882	1,882
299	TREE WARDEN	30,285	30,474	30,474
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,650,917	2,763,598	2,763,598
	PUBLIC WORKS			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,747,506	1,772,006	1,772,006
423	SNOW & ICE	311,250	321,250	321,250
433	SOLID WASTE	679,221	802,776	802,776
480	CHARGING STATIONS	7,380	11,980	11,980
491	CEMETERIES	30,150	32,150	32,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,815,507	2,940,162	2,940,162

**Schedule III  
Town Operating Budget**

DEPT NO.	BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
HUMAN SERVICES			
511	175,444	168,004	168,004
541	58,593	59,272	59,272
543	76,500	77,897	77,897
	310,537	305,173	305,173
CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	503,336	518,233	518,233
630	160,703	164,826	164,826
691	500	500	500
693	1,600	1,600	1,600
	666,139	685,159	685,159
DEBT SERVICE			
700	1,154,319	1,158,857	1,158,857
INTERGOVERNMENTAL			
840	113,924	116,874	116,874
MISCELLANEOUS			
910	2,490,334	2,657,083	2,657,083
946	120,600	119,600	119,600
	2,610,934	2,776,683	2,776,683
	12,004,696	12,409,728	12,409,728

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 6. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,119,324 for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, CWF Budget, with \$359,499 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,759,825 to be raised from Sewer Revenue.

**Schedule IV  
Clean Water Facility Budget**

DEPT NO.	BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD	
			FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25	
CLEAN WATER FACILITY				
440	Wages & Expenses	2,015,729	2,116,590	2,116,590
440	Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
700	Debt Service	483,614	478,365	478,365
910	Employee Benefits	363,631	380,719	380,719
	<b>SUBTOTAL CWF</b>	<b>2,921,474</b>	<b>3,034,174</b>	<b>3,034,174</b>
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY			
	Wages & Expenses	84,650	85,150	85,150
	<b>SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY</b>	<b>84,650</b>	<b>85,150</b>	<b>85,150</b>
	<b>TOTAL CWF</b>	<b>3,006,124</b>	<b>3,119,324</b>	<b>3,119,324</b>

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 7. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$419,677 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, with \$26,041 to be raised from Town Sale of Real Estate, \$107,593 to be raised from Taxation, and \$286,043 to be raised from Airport Revenue.

**Schedule V  
Airport Budget**

DEPT NO.	BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD	
			FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25	
AIRPORT				
482	Wages & Expenses	274,915	255,238	255,238
482	Capital Outlay/Local Share	10,000	-	-
700	Debt Service	101,535	102,775	102,775
910	Employee Benefits	40,515	61,664	61,664
	<b>TOTAL AIRPORT</b>	<b>426,965</b>	<b>419,677</b>	<b>419,677</b>

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 8. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$52,250 for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 9. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$837,356 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.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 10. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,143,442 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, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 11. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$24,000 for the purpose of reconfiguring the Sheffield School main office, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 12. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$175,500 for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

**AMENDMENT By Matthew Lord:**

**ARTICLE 12. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$175,500 for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, **said sum to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization Fund.** ~~and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.~~

**AMENDMENT PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**FINAL AMENDED ARTICLE:**

**ARTICLE 12. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$175,500 for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

**PASSED/ VOTE YES 46  
VOTE NO 21**

**ARTICLE 13. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$36,000 for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 14. MOVED:** That the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 57C, for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal year 2026).

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 15. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$260,000 for the purpose of paying for legal fees and valuation expert testimony before the Appellate Tax Board, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 16. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$283,800 for the purpose of upgrading the Montague Center Pump Station, including any and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and the Selectboard is authorized execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

**PASSED/BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 17: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of funding the planning and design phase of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**



**ARTICLE 18. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$64,218 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 19. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,402 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a 20-ton trailer for the DPW, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 20. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$365,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

**PASSED/BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 21. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$78,500 for the purpose of lining sewer manholes and relining sewer pipes, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 22. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of paving the First Street alley, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 23. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$296,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating the public parking lot at One Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 24. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the following sums for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, said sums to be raised from Taxation.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund	10,000
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	119,653
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	34,323
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>213,976</b>

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 25. MOVED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement for a printer/copier in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §21C, said sum to be included in the Shared Services departmental budget.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**