



Town of Montague
Department, Board, Committee, Commission
BUDGET NARRATIVE

FY 22

Complete this form electronically! Be clear and concise!

Department: Planning and Conservation Submitted by: Walter Ramsey

1. Please describe and provide the rationale for any substantial changes in your FY22 line item budget submission.

No substantive changes are proposed.

2. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY21? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?

ATM Article#15 6/13/20 Fix Walking paths. Appropriation: \$37,260. Spent to date: \$18,200. Balance: \$19,060. The Stairs at Millers Falls have been repaired as of October 2020. Plan is to bid for repair Turners Falls path in Spring 2021.

3. Did you receive funding for a discretionary account in FY21? What have you purchased to date, at what cost? Looking forward in FY22, what do you expect to purchase at what cost?

No

4. To-date in FY21, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.

Given the challenges of the year which disrupted the yearly norms and affected staffing capacity, the Planning Department is having a very productive FY21.

Economic Development:

Business recruiting/permitting support to the following entities that are investing in Montague: Mobility Solutions, Flower Power Growers, Pioneer Valley Brewery, Nova Motorcycles. Major planning advancements were made in MEDIC's 3 target areas: Airport Industrial Park, Sandy Lane, Canal District, and 38 Avenue A.

Capital Projects:

Oversaw completion of following capital projects: Millers Falls riverfront access, Millers Falls Stair rehab, Complete Streets #1, Strathmore abatement. Issued RFP for old highway garage.

Significant attention was dedicated Covid emergency Response, which included the following:

- Micro-enterprise relief program rollout
- Social media: “It takes 5 villages” campaign to connect residents with local businesses/organizations. Also weekly restaurant roundups to support that hard hit industry.
- Shared Streets and Spaces Project to improve walkability between downtown and Unity park
- Placemaking projects with a focus on hiring local artists and business owners
- Signage incentive program (forthcoming)
- Mural program (forthcoming)
- Local Recovery Plan (forthcoming)
- Managing smooth digital transition for the Boards staffed by this department

5. Are there challenges to your department’s ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY21 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.

No