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, Section53E½, the following revolving funds:

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

(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.

(Emergency Management Director Request)

Annual Town Meeting Motions May 5, 2018 Page 1 of 13 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> | FY18 BUDGET | FY19 REQUEST | FY19 RECOMMEND | |
| MODERATOR | 350 | 350 | 350 | |
| BOARD OF SELECTMEN Chairman Second/Third Members | 2,040 2,040 | 2,040 2,040 | 2,040 2,040 | |
| BOARD OF ASSESSOR Chairman Second/Third Members | 1,500 1,500 | 1,500 1,500 | 1,500 1,500 | |
| TREASURER/COLLECTOR *G-3 | 0 | 61,243* | 61,243 | |
| TOWN CLERK *G-9, **G-10 | 69,988* | 71,388** | 71,388 | |
| BOARD OF REGISTRARS Town Clerk | 800 | 800 | 800 | |
| TREE WARDEN | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| BOARD OF HEALTH Chairman Second/Third Members | 1,500 1,500 | 1,500 1,500 | 1,500 1,500 | |

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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

| TITLE | FY18 <u>BUDGET</u> | FY19 <u>REQUEST</u> | FY19 <u>RECOMMEND</u> |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ANNUAL STIPENDS 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 |
| RATES PER INSPECTION 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 |
| HOURLY RATES | Ranges/hr. | Ranges/hr. | Ranges/hr. |
| EXTRA CLERICAL | 10.00-12.00 | 11.00-12.00 | |
| ELECTION WORKERS | 10.00-12.00 | 11.00-12.00 | |
| SUMMER HIGHWAY | 10.00-13.00 | 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</u> | FY2018 | <u>Range</u> | FY2019 |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| SALARIED | | Start | End | Start | End |
| 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 | 1 | 79,903 | 98,334 | 81,501 | 100,301 |
| DPW SUPERINTENDENT | Н | 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 | Н | 72,641 | 89,395 | 74,094 | 91,183 |
| HOURLY | | | | | |
| EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | Е | 21.24 | 26.15 | 21.66 | 26.67 |
| POLICE LIEUTENANT | G+8.5% | 35.80 | 38.75 | 36.51 | 39.52 |
| POLICE CUSTODIAN | Α | 14.24 | 17.52 | 14.52 | 17.54 |

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. (Planning Department Request)

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

| | | | | SELECTMEN FIN COMM |
|------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| DEPT | | BUDGET | REQUESTED | RECOMMEND |
| NO. | | FY18 | FY19 | FY19 |
| | GENERAL GOVERNMENT | | | |
| 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 |

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| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY18 | REQUESTED FY19 | SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19 |
|-------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 151 | TOWN COUNSEL | 09.000 | 09 000 | 00 000 |
| 151 | INFORMATION TECH | 98,000 53,480 | 98,000 47,100 | 98,000 47,100 |
| 159 | | 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 | | 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 |
| | | | | |
| | PUBLIC SAFETY | | | |
| 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 | | 2,750 | 2,750 | 2,750 |
| 291 | EMERG MANAGEMENT | 5,490 | 5,490 | 5,490 |
| 292 | ANIMAL CONTROL | 26,353 | 19,257 | 19,257 |
| 294 299 | FOREST WARDEN TREE WARDEN | 1,631 | 1,631 | 1,631 |
| 511 | BOARD OF HEALTH | 17,210 139,933 | 17,210 141,525 | 17,210 141,525 |
| 311 | TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY | 2,147,228 | 2,265,691 | 2,265,691 |
| | TOTAL TOBLIC SALLTT | 2,147,220 | 2,203,031 | 2,203,091 |
| | PUBLIC WORKS | | | |
| 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 |
| | LILIMANI CEDVICES | | | |
| E 11 | HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL ON AGING | 45,489 | 42 000 | 42 000 |
| 541 543 | VETERANS' SERVICES | 45,489 133,500 | 43,889 106,000 | 43,889 106,000 |
| 343 | TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES | 178,989 | 149,889 | 149,889 |
| | I O I / LE I I O IVI / II V O E I V VIO E O | 170,303 | 170,000 | 170,000 |

| | | | | SELECTMEN |
|------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| DEDT | | DUDOET | DEOLIECTED | FIN COMM |
| DEPT | | BUDGET | REQUESTED | RECOMMEND |
| NO. | | FY18 | FY19 | FY19 |
| | CULTURE & RECREATION | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |
| | INTERGOVERNMENTAL | | | |
| 840 | INTERGOVERNMENTAL | 99,253 | 101,036 | 101,036 |
| | | • | , | , |
| | MISCELLANEOUS | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |

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

| | | | | SELECTMEN |
|------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | FIN COMM |
| DEP1 | Γ | BUDGET | REQUESTED | RECOMMEND |
| NO. | | FY18 | FY19 | FY19 |
| | WATER POLLUTION CONTROL | | | |
| 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 |

| | | | | SELECTMEN FIN COMM |
|------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| DEPT | • | BUDGET | REQUESTED | RECOMMEND |
| NO. | | FY18 | FY19 | FY19 |
| 449 | DPW SUBSIDIARY | | | |
| | 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 |

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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

Annual Town Meeting Motions May 5, 2018 Page 7 of 13 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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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

Annual Town Meeting Motions May 5, 2018 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)