

**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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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

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.

DEFEATED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

<u>TITLE</u>	SCHEDULE I		
	Elected Officials		
	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY19</u>
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>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
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

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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
<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>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<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
<u>HOURLY</u>					
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

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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**.

AMENDED 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 April 30, 2018.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE AS AMENDED

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

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY18	REQUESTED FY19	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19
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

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

HUMAN SERVICES

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

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY18	REQUESTED FY19	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19
	<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

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

**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
DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY18	REQUESTED FY19	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY19
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

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

AMENDED ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$48,539 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport with \$12,443 to be raised from Taxation and \$36,096 to be raised from Airport User Fees.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE AS AMENDED

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

AMENDED 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, lighting 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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE AS AMENDED

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

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".

AMENDED 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 “Selectboard” as follows.

1. Amend Article III, Section 4, by changing the title from “Selectmen” to “Selectboard” and by adding the following clause to the beginning of the section: “There shall be a Selectboard of three members elected for three-year overlapping terms. Such Selectboard 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 “Selectboard”.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE AS AMENDED

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.

AMENDED ARTICLE 35. MOVED: That the Town vote in accordance with MGL c. 40, § 15A to transfer from the officer, 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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE AS AMENDED

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 gains¹; 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)

AMENDED 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 gains²; 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 Executive 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; District State Senator; 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)

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE AS AMENDED

Adjourn without day 2:10 pm