

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 4, 2019**

Franklin, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at 8:30 A.M. and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will 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: To see if the Town will 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$9,828,399, or any other

amount, for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and for any other necessary changes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$2,295,227, or any other amount, 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, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$95,400, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance, and debt service of the Colle Building, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$53,078, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,085,007, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Franklin County Technical School Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,229,737, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$76,670, or any other amount,

for the purpose of replacing sidewalks and curbing at the Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$21,755, or any other amount, to complete the installation of columns at the Sheffield Elementary School, including replacing wood trim and railings, masonry work at the landing, and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation to.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$35,344, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a truck for the GMRSD Facilities Management Department, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$16,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of hiring a contractor to provide valuation services relating to the natural gas and electric transmission/distribution utility properties located in town, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of hiring a contractor to provide specialty property valuation services for hydroelectric generating facilities, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$20,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing, equipping and making major repairs to WPCF vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(WPCF Request)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$25,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of obtaining a feasibility study for a composting facility for the Montague WPCF, said study to include the development of plans and specifications, cost estimates, location options and anything related thereto, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(WPCF Request)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of obtaining a study to assess inflow and infiltration to the public sewer system in the village of Millers Falls and to provide options and cost estimates for the removal of same, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(WPCF Request)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$55,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing upgrades to the Industrial Park pump station, including replacing the control panel and level sensors in the wet well, and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(WPCF Request)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$100,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$11,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding information technology equipment, parts, accessories, software and installations, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(IT Administrator Request)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$15,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing police equipment such as firearms and accessories, computers and accessories, police cruiser equipment, department furniture, bullet-proof

vests, Tasers, radios or any similar items as well as extraordinary repairs to same, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Police Chief Request)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing 7 optical scanners to replace wooden ballot boxes, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Clerk Request)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of modifying the interior swinging doors and repairing and weatherizing the front doors of the Carnegie Library, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Trustees Request)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$22,050, or any other amount, for the purpose of making building improvements to remediate moisture problems at the Montague Center Library, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Trustees Request)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$20,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of making building improvements to remediate moisture problems at the Millers Falls Library, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Trustees Request)

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$7,500, or any other amount, for the purpose refurbishing or replacing signs at the Airport Industrial Park, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(EDIC Request)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$8,975, or any other amount,

for the purpose of restoring the lower skirt of the Montague Town Hall front awning, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$38,507, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the GMRSD Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$78,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the FCTS Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$57,654, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Town General Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$124,369, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Town OPEB Trust Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a ten (10) year contract with the option for a five (5) year extension, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Selectboard's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town

Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to extend MCCI's present three year contract to provide PEG access services to the Town for an additional seven years, as is required by their current contract after completion of its third year , or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 36: : To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to sell Montague's interest in the GMTA building, located at 382 Deerfield Street, Greenfield, MA, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 37:

To see if the Town of Montague will support our request to have the local option tax (approved by 2018 annual town meeting) renewed at every town meeting election by popular vote.

Any changes to such a tax in the future would also have to be approved at town election. By popular vote. The changes would be in effect for 1 year .then go back to original

If the local option tax is approved revenue generated by it would be published in the town report

Petitioned Article

ARTICLE 38: To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

A RESOLUTION

Calling for the US to Join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons cannot be used without catastrophic humanitarian consequences that violate every principle of international law and human morality; and

WHEREAS, the continued existence of these weapons poses an intolerable risk to human survival, since they can be detonated by accident as well as by design; and

WHEREAS, the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China, signed and ratified a legally binding commitment more than 50 years ago to negotiate "in good faith" and "at an early date" the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice ruled, in their 1996 Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Nuclear Weapons, that the legally binding commitment to negotiate means “bringing those negotiations to a successful conclusion;” and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000 the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China gave an “unequivocal undertaking” to 187 other nations that they would fulfill their commitment to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, in July 2017, 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, possess, stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons ; and

WHEREAS, once this Treaty enters in force, it will be illegal in all countries who are party to this Treaty to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Treaty; and

WHEREAS, more and more countries will continue to sign and ratify this Treaty, including sooner or later many key allies of the United States; and

WHEREAS, this means that the United States will find it increasingly difficult to develop, manufacture, deploy or justify its continued dependence on nuclear weapons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the Town Meeting of Montague call on the town governance to take all necessary steps to align Montague with the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Montague calls upon our federal leaders to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to invite the other nuclear armed nations to do likewise, leading to an agreed multilateral pathway for the elimination of all nuclear weapons worldwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Montague calls upon the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to align with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by setting up, as a first step, a Citizens Commission to look into the implications of doing so, as per bills HD.3477 and SD.1688, currently before the State Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Montague calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to take immediate steps in the meantime to reduce the threat posed by the continued existence of these weapons and to prevent the possibility of nuclear war taking place by accident, miscalculation or design, by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the president's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- leading a global effort to reduce tensions, particularly with Russia, through dialogue, diplomacy and other confidence-building measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town clerk shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to State Representative Natalie Blais, State Senator Jo Comerford, U.S. Congressperson Jim McGovern, U.S. Senator Edward Markey, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, and President Donald J. Trump.

(Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 39: To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores;

Whereas the naked Colonial broadsword brandished above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is modeled over Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the

Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Euro-Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were taken from a Native skeleton unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675, their subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Nations within the boundaries of Massachusetts were kept in a state of serfdom, and their members legally considered incompetent wards of the state until the nonviolent action of the so-called Mashpee Rebellion of 1833 led to the granting of Native self rule by the Massachusetts legislature in 1834, as if the sovereign right of Native self-government was the Massachusetts legislature's to confer;

Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the quartercentenary anniversary of the landing of the Euro-Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, is approaching in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to a new awareness of a better relationship between the descendants of the Euro-Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation of their symbols for public schools and sports teams, the diminution and pollution of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their cultural lifeways;

Whereas the Town of Montague, first settled by European colonists in 1715, shares a rich Native history, going back 12,000 years, and was once known as Wissatinnewag (Shining Hill), a place of shared resources for many Native Nations such as the Abnaki, the Sokoki, the Mohegan, the Pocumtuc, the Nipmuc, and the Narragansett, among others;

Whereas the Town of Montague held a reconciliation ceremony to “bury the hatchet” with the Narragansetts on May 19, 2004, during which the Montague selectboard and Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox, Medicine Man of the Narragansetts, committed to “a future that will continue the exchange of action to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of the indigenous peoples of our region, and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Montague hereby adopts this resolution in support of , a “Resolve Providing for the creation of a Special Commission relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth,” and request that Representative Natalie Blais and Senator Jo Comerford continue their strong advocacy and support for the aforementioned Resolve (HD.2968 and SD.1495) in the General Court, and that the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, after holding a public hearing on the Resolve report it out favorably, and if the legislation shall pass that the governor shall sign it and work with members of the General Court to ensure its enactment.

(Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 40: To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

RESOLUTION DECLARING the TOWN of MONTAGUE to be a POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs and fruits; and WHEREAS, locally grown crops such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, squash and tomatoes depend on pollinators and thus are at risk; and WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoid and other systemic insecticides cause illness and death to bees and pollinators; and WHEREAS, alternative land management practices are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage while decreasing maintenance costs; and WHEREAS, the monetary and social costs of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than costs associated with maintaining chemically-treated mono-crop landscapes. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED by the Town Meeting of the Town of Montague, Massachusetts, that the Town of Montague is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community, and that the Town encourages adoption of policies and practices that protect and support pollinator health by minimizing the sale and use of insecticides. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Montague urges all Montague property owners, residents, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods to become more pollinator friendly by adopting practices including: committing to avoiding use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides on their property; avoiding the planting of flowering plants which are treated with systemic insecticides; planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, and adopting organic or chemical free lawn and landscaping practices.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this Resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Jo Comerford, and State Representative Natalie Blais, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Petitioned Article)

Given under our hands this 8th day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Nineteen.

Michael Nelson

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectmen, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA April ____, 2018

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague by posting attested copies of the same in a conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, and the Town Hall of the Town of Montague at least seven days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague