

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 13, 2020**

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 at the Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, June 13, 2020, 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, 2020, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/374/Annual-Budget-Information> 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, 2020, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/374/Annual-Budget-Information> or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to amend the classification plan to add the position of Assistant Planner at Grade D as per a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Montague and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Planning Department Request)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,527,445, 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 on the Town's website at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/374/Annual-Budget-Information> and for any other necessary changes, 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 \$2,449,068, 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 and on the Town's website at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/374/Annual-Budget-Information>, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$79,750, 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 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$55,694, 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 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,255,456, 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)

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ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,732,268, 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 12: 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 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$41,953 or any other amount, for the following school building related projects and any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

1. To repair the canopy over the Gill Montague Regional School District Administration Building's side entry
2. To repair the Hillcrest Elementary School roof
3. To obtain Building Condition Assessments to support capital planning for the Sheffield School, Hillcrest School, and Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School Buildings

(GMRSD 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 \$191,000, or any other amount, for the following WPCF projects and any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

1. To increase the appropriation made pursuant to Article 7 of the March 5, 2020 Special Town Meeting, which appropriated \$75,000 to remove and dispose of an existing oil tank and vault.
2. To replace coarse bubble diffusers at the Montague WPCF with fine bubble diffusers or similar energy saving technology
3. To replace a primary sludge pump at the Montague WPCF, including purchasing and equipping a new pump, removal and disposal of the existing pump, design and installation services.

(WPCF Superintendent 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 \$127,260, or any other amount, for the following Town projects and any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

1. To purchase, equip and make major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment
2. To replace the Council on Aging chimney
3. To repair traditional walking paths in the villages of Millers Falls and Turners Falls, including but not limited to repair or replacement of the existing public stairway leading from the Millers Falls Village Center to Highland Park and the existing public walkway running from 7th Street to High Street, near its intersection with Avenue B.

(Dept. of Public Works, Council on Aging and Planning Department Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of the land and/or building commonly known as the former DPW Garage, located at 500 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and shown as Assessors' Parcel ID 05-0-127, from the Selectboard for general municipal purposes to Selectboard for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance or lease; and to authorize the Selectboard to sell or lease, transfer or convey all or any portion of such land and/or building for such sum and upon such conditions determined by the Selectboard to be in the best interests of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all instruments, including deeds, leases or other agreements and take all other actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the vote taken hereunder, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of the land and/or building commonly known as the Town Hall Annex, located at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and shown as Assessors' Parcel ID 04-0-0004, from the Selectboard for general municipal purposes to the Selectboard for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance or lease; and to authorize the Selectboard to sell or lease, transfer or convey all or any portion of such land and/or building for such sum and upon such conditions determined by the Selectboard to be in the best interests of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all instruments, including deeds, leases or other agreements and take all other actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the vote taken hereunder, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18:

We are writing to request that funds be appropriated to facilitate the repair of the public stairway leading from the Millers Falls Village Center to Highland Park. While many people continue to use the stairs they are in a sorry state and could cause someone harm if not addressed. Several of the concrete stairs are crumbling and the railings are rusted and broken. We feel that this is an important connector between the village center and the park and we hope that fixing the stairs would increase the use of the park by residents of the village center. Please repair the stairs so that we can use them safely.

(Petitioned Article)

Given under our hands this 26th day of May in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty.

Michael Nelson

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA May ____, 2020

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