

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
*of the*  
***Town of Montague***  
**Massachusetts**



**FOR THE YEAR ENDING**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2021**

*THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Selectboard</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Town Clerk</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Accountant</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Airport Commission</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Board of Assessors</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Building Department</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Capital Improvements Committee</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Cemetery Commission</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Council on Aging</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Cultural Council</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Department of Public Works</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Emergency Management</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Energy Committee</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Finance Committee</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Franklin County Solid Waste Management District</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Franklin County Technical School District</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Franklin Regional Council of Governments</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Gill-Montague Regional School District</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Health Department</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Historical Commission</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI)</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Montague Housing Authority</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Department</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Conservation Department</b> <i>(includes Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, MEDIC, Battlefield Grant Advisory Board, RiverCulture Steering Committee )</i>	<b>119</b>
<b>Police Department</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Retirement Board</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Treasurer/Tax Collector</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Veterans' Services (Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District)</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Water Pollution Control Facility</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	<b>142</b>

## **SELECTBOARD**

The Montague Selectboard is pleased to submit its annual report to the Town for calendar year 2021, which again was marked by progress, challenges, and the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town continues to adjust and become more adept as we navigate the pandemic and its unusual requirements and opportunities, and the Selectboard and its office staff remain committed to meeting those requirements and seizing opportunities to advance the community interest as they emerge.

Among the opportunities were unusual influxes of funding intended to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. The first of these was the federal CARES Act of 2020, which provided some \$733,203 in funding that the Town leveraged for allowable expenses ranging from facility improvements, to connectivity and technology enhancements, to public health intervention and preparedness, to local small business assistance. As a follow up, the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has provided an additional \$2.4M to aid the Town's recovery. In accord with the program, the Selectboard made small initial investments in wastewater projects, with a full spending plan to be developed in 2022. The Town has also capitalized on other grant opportunities supported through state CARES and ARPA allocations.

After a wholly tumultuous 2020, many aspects of Town operations began to more fully normalize during 2021, particularly after coronavirus vaccines became available. However, the Selectboard continued to operate remotely for most of the calendar year, with limited exceptions. For public safety reasons, the Selectboard Office (SBO) coordinated two outdoor town meetings and a "virtual" town meeting that was managed through Zoom. The dedication of all Town staff and participants who worked through the challenges of meeting in these formats is applauded; particularly the work of the Selectboard's Executive Assistant, Wendy Bogusz.

The Selectboard continued to focus attention on the advancement and redevelopment in the blighted Turners Falls Canal District, directing the Town Administrator and Town Planner to submit proposals that would build upon momentum stemming from the EPA clean-up of 11 Power Street (the Griswold Mill/Railroad Salvage site) and the award of a contract for replacement of the Fifth Street Pedestrian Bridge. The Commonwealth awarded the Town a grant to develop a master plan for the canal district, which will be crucial to leveraging future resources and interest in the district.

The focus on Avenue A improvements also continued in 2021, with improvements made to Spinner Park, which was re-dedicated in September, and grant funding secured for streetscape improvements in front of the Shea Theater and Colle Building. These improvements are one component of the Town's ongoing strategy to enhance the downtown business environment and improve accessibility and employment opportunities in that area. A grant was also secured to enhance reliability of the Town's sewer pump station in the Turners Falls Industrial Park. This improvement comes as the Town's presence in the park has grown through the Airport's purchase of the former Pioneer Aviation facility and where ground was broken in the fall by a private cannabis cultivator named FlowerPower.

The Town continues to take a broad view of its infrastructure and saw positive outcomes from intense advocacy through state legislators and agencies relative to external assistance with several failing bridges located throughout the Town, which vastly exceed our financial ability to repair. In 2021, the MassDOT signaled its intention to fund replacement of the South Street Bridge, the North Leverett Bridge, and the Sixth Street Utility Canal Bridge; even as it began work on the vital General Pierce Bridge project, which is expected to be completed in May 2023. Further, the Town completed replacement of the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge, primarily funded by a state small bridge grant.

As always, policy and finance remained a focal point for the Selectboard. Most notably, the SBO worked with the Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector, Assessor, and Finance Committee to develop new tools to aid in budget projection and to update Town financial policies, with support of the UMass Collins Center. The project was supported by a state Community Compact grant. Modernization of these financial tools and policies will benefit future decision making and support our continued success. Notably, the Town was able to continue its recent practice of maintaining \$500,000+ in excess Tax Levy capacity, even while building reserves. This creates long-term financial flexibility while reducing taxes as compared with taxing to the Levy Limit, as was the historical Montague practice.

Considering the community's progress and many goals, the Selectboard also considered its limited staff capacity relative to those goals and the broad responsibilities of municipal management. The Board discussed the Town Administrator's proposal to enhance that capacity, reorganizing executive level work to allow for greater focus on key aspects of organizational planning, management, and implementation; and adding clerical support to better handle administrative workflow. The Selectboard asked the Town Administrator to advance these requests, among other personnel initiatives, for consideration at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Finally, the Selectboard wishes to acknowledge the exceptional service and dedication of member Michael Nelson, who served on the Board from June 2013 through August 2021, including past service as the Board's chair. Fortunately, a very engaged new contributor came to the board when Matt Lord—already a Town Meeting and Associate Planning Board member—won a closely contested Special Election for the vacant seat in October.

We thank you for your interest in this report and the reports of the Town's many other departments and boards. We encourage you to read those reports and learn more about their activities. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Montague remains a great place to live, work, and visit.

**SELECTBOARD**

Rich Kuklewicz, Chairman  
Chris Boutwell  
Matthew Lord

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Steven Ellis  
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**  
Wendy Bogusz

**Town of Montague  
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**BOARD OF ASSESSOR**

**Term End**

ANN CENZANO	5/21/2024
PAUL EMERY	5/15/2023
ANN L FISK	5/17/2022

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Term End**

MELANIE AMES ZAMOJSKI	5/21/2024
ALBERT CUMMINGS	5/16/2022
MICHAEL M NELSON	5/15/2023

**MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**Term End**

KAREN M. CASEY-CHRETIEN	5/15/2023
PAULA E. GIRARD	5/19/2025
JUDITH L. HASTINGS	5/19/2026
STANLEY F. ZERA, JR.	5/20/2024

**LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

**Term End**

PAULETTE BILLIEL	5/16/2023
NANCY L CROWELL	5/16/2022
DAVID HARMON	5/15/2023
LYDIA IEVINS	5/16/2023
KAREN LATKA	5/16/2022
MARGOT G. MALACHOWSKI	5/16/2022
PATRICIA PERHAM	5/21/2024
ELIZABETH SWIHART	5/21/2024
GRETCHEN W. WETHERBY	5/21/2024

**PARKS & REC COM**

**Term End**

ALBERT CUMMINGS	5/16/2022
DENNIS GRADER	5/15/2023
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	5/21/2024

**SELECTBOARD**

**Term End**

CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	5/16/2022
RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	5/21/2024
MATTHEW LORD	5/16/2023

<b>TOWN CLERK</b>	<b>Term End</b>
DEBRA BOURBEAU	5/16/2022
<b>TREASURE - TAX COLLECTOR</b>	<b>Term End</b>
EILEEN M SEYMOUR	5/16/2022
<b>TREE WARDEN</b>	<b>Term End</b>
MARK A STEVENS	5/16/2022
<b>TRUSTEE, SOLDIER'S MEM, NON-VETERAN</b>	<b>Term End</b>
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	5/15/2023
JEFFREY SINGLETON	5/21/2024
<b>TRUSTEE, SOLDIER'S MEM, VETERAN</b>	<b>Term End</b>
LORI LEE ADAMS	5/15/2023
ALBERT CUMMINGS	5/21/2024
JOHN T MURPHY	5/16/2022

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

OFFICE/BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION	NAME	TERM END	DATE OF APPT
<b>ADA COORDINATOR</b>	STEVEN F ELLIS	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION</b>	DIANE FLYNN	6/30/2022	6/24/2019
	DONNA FRANCIS	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	KARL (CHIP) GARBIEL	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	BOB MIZULA	6/30/2022	6/24/2019
	PAUL VOILAND	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
<b>AIRPORT COMMISSION</b>			
MEMBER	DAVID BRULE	6/30/2022	7/1/2019
	GARY COLLINS	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	JOSEPH M MAZESKI	6/30/2024	7/1/2021
	MAXWELL JOHN PELLERIN	6/30/2023	7/9/2020
	SETH RUTHERFORD	6/30/2022	7/1/2019
<b>AIRPORT MANAGER</b>			
	BRYAN CAMDEN	6/30/2022	
<b>ALTERNATE BUILDING INSPECTOR</b>			
	CHARLES BADO	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
ALTERNATE	DAVID JENSEN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>ASSESSOR - DIRECTOR</b>			
	KAREN TONELLI	6/30/2022	
<b>ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK</b>			
	KATHERN F. PIERCE	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>AUCTION PERMIT AGENT</b>			
	WENDY M BOGUSZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	DEBRA BOURBEAU	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>BATTLEFIELD GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>			
	DAVID BRULE	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	JOE GRAVELINE	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	DOUG HARRIS	6/30/2021	7/1/2020
	RICH HOLSHUH	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	ROGER LONGTOE SHEEHAN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

JOHN NOVE	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
ELIZABETH SANTANA KISER	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
MARILYNN STOWE TOMB	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
BETTINA WASHINGTON	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **BOARD OF ASSESSOR - TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT**

MEMBER	BARBARA A ALCONADA	5/17/2021
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#### **BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR**

DANIEL WASIUK	6/30/2022	7/7/2021
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#### **CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

JASON BURBANK	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
RICHARD WIDMER	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

JASON BURBANK	6/30/2022	6/30/2021
STEVEN F ELLIS	6/30/2022	6/30/2021
GREG GARRISON	6/30/2022	6/30/2021
JOSHUA LIVELY	6/30/2022	6/30/2021
JOHN M MARTINEAU	6/30/2022	11/3/2021
ROBERT OBEAR	6/30/2020	6/30/2019

#### **CEMETERY COMMISSION**

ANNABEL LEVINE	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
JUDITH LOREI	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
JERI MORAN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

ASSOCIATE MEMBER	ALBERT N AVERILL	6/30/2022	12/14/2021
	TOBIAS CARTER	6/30/2022	7/26/2021
	MARK FAIRBROTHER	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	JUSTIN T FERMANN	6/30/2024	7/1/2021
	DONNA FRANCIS	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	MARGAUX RECKARD	6/30/2023	10/26/2021
MEMBER	ANTHONY REIBER		1/25/2021
MEMBER	SEAN WERLE	6/30/2022	6/24/2019

#### **CONSTABLE**

WENDY M BOGUSZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS	6/30/2022	7/1/2021



**COUNCIL ON AGING**

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DEBRA BOURBEAU	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
LARRY PARKER	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
ROBERTA POTTER	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

**CULTURAL COORDINATOR**

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SUZANNE LAMANTO		7/9/2018
SUZANNE LOMANTO	6/30/2020	6/24/2019

**CULTURAL COUNCIL**

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	DANIEL BRANDON	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	JOHN FURBISH	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	ANNE HARDING	6/30/2022	7/1/2019
	KATHY LYNCH	6/30/2022	10/7/2019
	KATE MARTINEAU	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
MEMBER	BETTY TEGEL	6/30/2022	7/1/2019
	RACHEL TEUMIM	6/30/2022	6/24/2019

**DPW OFFICE MANAGER**

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BRANDY L PATCH		7/12/2021
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**DPW SUPERINTENDENT**

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TOM BERGERON	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION**

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	LINDA ACKERMAN	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
	JOHN FURBISH	6/30/2024	7/1/2021
	ELLA INGRAHAM	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
MEMBER	JAMES MUSSONI	6/30/2022	1/25/2021
	ROBERT STEINBERG	6/30/2024	4/5/2022
	KIMBERLY WILLIAMS	6/30/2023	3/21/2022
	KIMBERLY P WILLIAMS	6/30/2023	3/21/2022

**EMERGENCY MANAGER**

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JOHN ZELLMANN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

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JASON BURBANK	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
ARIEL ELAN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

	PAMELA F HANOLD	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	CHRIS MASON	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	SARAH (SALLY) PICK	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	BOB REUTER	6/30/2022	11/8/2021
	TIMOTHY N. VAN EGMOND	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

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WENDY M BOGUSZ

#### **F. C. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2**

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	CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	MICHAEL M NELSON	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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CHAIR	JENNIFER AUDLEY	6/30/2022	6/30/2019
	GREG GARRISON	6/30/2024	6/30/2021
	JOHN HANOLD	6/30/2022	6/30/2019
	CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	6/30/2024	6/30/2021
MEMBER	JENNIFER WARYAS	6/30/2023	10/12/2020
MEMBER	FRANCIA E WISNEWSKI	6/30/2023	7/6/2020

#### **FOREST WARDEN**

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	RICHARD SAWIN JR.	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **FOREST WARDEN - DEPUTY**

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	JOHN ZELLMANN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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	STEVEN F ELLIS	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - PLANNING REP**

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	ELIZABETH IRVING	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **FRTA ADVISORY BOARD**

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	RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **FRTA ADVISORY BOARD**

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	JEFFREY SINGLETON	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR**

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	JOHN LETOURNEAU	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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**GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE**

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	TIMOTHY J. HARTNETT	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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**GILL-MONTAGUE TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

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	STEVEN F ELLIS	6/30/2022	7/1/2020
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	CAROLYN OLSEN	6/30/2022	7/1/2020
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**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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	CHRIS CLAWSON	6/30/2022	9/9/2019
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	EDWARD P. GREGORY	6/30/2022	7/1/2019
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	SUZANNE LOMANTO	6/30/2024	7/1/2021
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MEMBER	JANEL F NOCKLEBY	6/30/2022	6/24/2019
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	CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO	6/30/2025	2/14/2022
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**LIBRARY TRUSTEE - TEMPORARY POSITION**

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MEMBER	LYDIA IEVINS	5/18/2021	1/25/2021
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**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**

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	JONATHAN DOBOSZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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**PERSONNEL BOARD**

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	CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	5/16/2022	5/20/2019
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	RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	5/17/2021	
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	MICHAEL M NELSON	5/15/2023	6/22/2020
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**PLANNING AND CONSERVATION AGENT**

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	WALTER F RAMSEY	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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**PLANNING BOARD**

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MEMBER	GEORGE COOKE		6/24/2019
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MEMBER	ELIZABETH IRVING	6/30/2024	7/1/2021
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	MATTHEW LORD	6/30/2026	4/5/2022
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	MICHAEL M NELSON	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
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	ROBERT OBEAR	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
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CHAIR	RON SICARD	6/30/2022	6/26/2017
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**POLICE CHIEF**

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	CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS		12/3/2018
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**PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE**

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	JASON BURBANK	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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	JAY DIPUCCHIO	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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	ARIEL ELAN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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	MARK FAIRBROTHER	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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ALTERNATE	PAMELA F HANOLD	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	DAVID JENSEN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	ROBERT MACEWICZ	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	KEN MORIN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	RICHARD WIDMER	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC)</b>			
	JOHN ZELLMANN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</b>			
MEMBER	DEBRA BOURBEAU	6/30/2022	6/30/2016
	ELIZABETH IRVING	6/30/2024	7/1/2021
	ANNE E STUART	6/30/2022	7/1/2019
<b>RETIREMENT BOARD</b>			
	STEVEN F ELLIS	6/30/2022	
<b>RIVERCULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE</b>			
MEMBER	EILEEN DOWD	6/30/2022	7/1/2020
	TAMMY KETCHAM	6/30/2022	4/27/2020
	ERIN MACLEAN	6/30/2023	7/1/2021
	OLIVER MILLER	6/30/2023	7/1/2021
MEMBER	RACHEL TEUMIM	6/30/2022	7/1/2020
	LILITH G WOLINSKY	6/30/2022	4/27/2020
<b>SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE</b>			
	MICHAEL NAUGHTON	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	MARLYN H REYNOLDS	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>TAX TITLE CUSTODIAN</b>			
	EILEEN M SEYMOUR	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
<b>TOWN ACCOUNTANT</b>			
	CAROLYN OLSEN	6/30/2023	7/1/2020
<b>TOWN COUNSEL</b>			
	K-P LAW	6/30/2022	
<b>TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>			
	ROBERT P AUSTIN	6/30/2023	4/5/2022
	WILLIAM CODINGTON	6/30/2022	6/14/2021
	DAVID DETMOLD	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	CHARLES WALKER KORBY	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

MEMBER	ANNABEL LEVINE	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	SEAN MAHONEY	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	MICHAEL MARCOTRIGIANO	6/30/2022	7/24/2021
	TOM SULLIVAN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
	RAFAEL ANDY VEGA	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
MEMBER	JEFFREY WARREN-PUKIS	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **TURNERS FALLS ATHLETIC CLUB**

CHRISTIAN COUTURE	6/24/2019
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#### **VETERAN'S BURIAL AGENT**

CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **VETERAN'S DIRECTOR**

TIMOTHY NIEJADLIK	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **VETERAN'S GRAVES OFFICER**

JOHN T MURPHY	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **WASTEWATER POLLUTION CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT**

CHELSEY LITTLE	3/29/2023	3/16/2020
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#### **WELLS TRUST**

RON SICARD	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **WIRING INSPECTOR**

WAYNE SHAW	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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#### **WIRING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE**

TODD WEED	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
THOMAS W. WYMAN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021

#### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

VICE-CHAIR	JOHN BUREK	6/30/2022	7/10/2017
MEMBER	WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV	6/30/2023	10/7/2019
	JOSHUA LIVELY	6/30/2025	12/14/2020
	ROBERT OBEAR	6/30/2022	9/20/2021
	ALLEN RIPINGILL JR.	6/30/2024	7/1/2019
	RICHARD RUTH	6/30/2026	7/1/2021

#### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - ALTERNATE**

DAVID JENSEN	6/30/2022	7/1/2021
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PCT	NAME	ADDRESS	VILLAGE	EXPIRATION
1	ACKERMAN, LINDA N.	86 TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
2	ATWOOD, MATTHEW	9 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	15-May-2023
4	AUDLEY, JENNIFER R.	27 X STREET	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
2	BAZEMORE, ROBERT	475 A TURNERS FALLS RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
6	BELL-UP, DORINDA	7 SOUTH HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
1	BLOOMBERG, SHEREE I.	25 CENTER STREET	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
3	BODIN, KRISTI A.	199 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
2	BOODY, JOANNA MAE	10 FEDERAL STREET	MILLERS FALLS	15-May-2023
4	BOUTWELL, CHRIS M.	28 SUNSET DR	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
4	BOWMAN, FREDERIC H.	701 FAIRWAY AVE	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
4	BROWN, ERNEST L.	12 MARSHALL ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	BROWN, LESLIE P.	17 POPLAR ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
5	BROWNELL, BRIAN	37 THIRD STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	CALLAHAN, LAURIE	65 FIFTH ST, #2B	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
1	CLARK, MALCOLM	PO BOX 901	HADLEY	21-May-2024
5	COHEN, NATAN M.	25 CENTRAL ST. #2	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
2	CONSTANTINE, STEPHEN	80 SOUTH PROSPECT ST	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	COSTA, BRIAN	5 KINGSLEY AVE	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
2	CROWELL, NANCY L.	4 GROUT CIRCLE	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-2022
5	CUNHA, M. EDITE	161 AVENUE A,	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
5	CURRY, RUTH	170 AVENUE A, #1	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
4	DAMKOEHLER, ERIC	67 PARK STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	DEMERS, THOMAS J.	35 WALNUT STREET	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
3			TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
3			TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
5	DOBOSZ, STANLEY	29 GROVE STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
1	DORAIS, SUSAN	22 UNION ST	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
3	DUCHARME, CHERI S.	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
3	DUCHARME, RICHARD W.	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
1	EDWARDS, CHARLES Y.	48 TAYLOR HILL ROAD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
1	ELAN, ARIEL S.	506 TURNERS FALLS RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
1	FAIRBROTHER, MARK	129 MEADOW ROAD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
1	FISK, MARK E.	15 MEADOW RD	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
2	FRENKEL, DEBORAH	51 MONTAGUE AVE	LAKE PLEASANT	21-May-2024
3	FRITZ, ROBERT R.	57 MILLERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
2	GAJDA, GEORGE W.	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	15-May-2023
6	GARRISON, GREGORY O.	27 RANDALL WOOD DR	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
3	GLOSKI, CAROL J	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	GRADER, DENNIS L.	72 DELL ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	GRONEMAN, JESSIE A.	3 H STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	HAGER, RYNE	54 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
4	HALL, THOMISINA	36 CENTRAL STREET	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023

5	HANOLD, JOHN T.	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
5	HANOLD, PAMELA F.	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
4	HARMON, DAVID	27 X STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	HASTINGS, KEVIN J.	34 RANDALL ROAD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
3	HASTINGS, MEGHAN E.	92 MILLERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
5	HEBDEN, JEAN A.	101 FOURTH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	HEISIG, LAURA E.	83 G STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	HERRERA-ORTEGA, MISHEL	33 THIRD STREET, #4	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
2	HILLIADIS, CALEB	10 FEDERAL STREET	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-2022
3	HOLMES, JENNIFER	53 MILLERS FALLS RD, #2	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
6	HUDYMA, PETER J.	82 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
1	IRVING, ELIZABETH M.	7 NEWTON LANE	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
2	JENSEN, DAVID E.	13 DENTON ST	LAKE PLEASANT	21-May-2024
2	JENSEN, HAROLD "SANDY"	25 GREEN POND RD	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	JUNG, SARAH M.	385 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
2	KETCHAM, MICHAEL A.	18 BRIDGE STREET	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
2	KETCHAM, MICHAEL J.	18 BRIDGE STREET	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-2022
3	KINGSBURY, LISA	10 CARLISLE AVE	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
2	KOSTANSKI, MARILYN	434 MILLERS FALLS RD	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-2022
4	KUKLEWICZ, LINDA M.	66 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
4	KUKLEWICZ, RICHARD J.	66 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
3	LAMONAKIS, SHARON	1 KEITH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
1	LAPIERRE, ADRIENNE S.	UNION ST.	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
6	LATKA, KAREN	266 TURNERS FALLS RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
6	LEVINE, ANNABEL	132 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	LICATA, NICHOLAS C.	1 DAVIS STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	LIVELY, DURAND D.	81 HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
1	LORD, MATTHEW	59 CENTER STREET	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
1	LOREI, JUDITH	7 NORTH ST.	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
1	LOVEJOY, SAMUEL H.	46 MAIN ST	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
1	LYNCH, KATHLEEN	27 CENTER ST	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
5			TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
1	MARIANI, EILEEN	63 MAIN STREET	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
3	MARTINEAU, ALANA J.	42 GROVE STREET	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
2	MARTINEAU, JAMES G.	4 GRAND AVE	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
3	MARTINEAU, SHANNON	18 CARLISLE AVE	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	MATTIACE, MARY K	370 MONTAGUE CITY RD.	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	MENEGONI, CHRISTOPHER	37 K STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	MILKEY, DENISE A.	2 KINGSLEY AVENUE	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
6	MURPHY, JOHN T	22 O STREET	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	MUSSONI, JAMES J.	149 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
2	NAUGHTON, MICHAEL J.	11 S LYMAN ST	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	NELSON, JACK	65 CANAL ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
5			TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
1	NELSON, MICHAEL	16 SUNDERLAND ROAD	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023

3	PACKARD, ROLLAND	17 WORCESTER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
3			TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
1	PERHAM, PATRICIA	93 E TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-2022
1	PEZZATI, PATRICK S.	144 DRY HILL RD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
3	PHILLIPS, JOYCE A.	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	PIERCE, ROBERT D.	9 OAKMAN ST.	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
6	PITCHER, BRENT	11 GREENFIELD ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	RAMSEY, WALTER F.	15 DAVIS ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
4	REID, DONALD A.	7 COUNTRY CLUB LANE	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
5	REIPOLD, APRIL J.	17 CHESTNUT ST.	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
1	REYNOLDS, JOHN L.	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
1	REYNOLDS, MARLYN H.	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
5	ROFFI, SHERRY L.	66 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
5	RUTH, JR., RICHARD R.	15 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	SINGLETON, JEFFREY C.	18 CENTRAL ST. #1	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
2	SMITH, MEGHAN L.	83 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	21-May-2024
5	SNOW-COBB, SUZETTE L.	179 AVENUE A, APT 2	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
1	SPATCHER, CLIFFORD	442 TURNERS FALLS RD.	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
4	SPRENGEL, MADDOX	36 HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
2	STEWART, ANDREW	38 FIRST AVE	LAKE PLEASANT	15-May-2023
3	STOLER, RACHEL	205 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
4	SWIHART, ELIZABETH M.	35 PARK STREET	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	TAPSCOTT, IAN E.	83 G STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	THOMPSON, DAVID P.	4 HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	TRASK, KENNETH	17 POPLAR STREET	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
4	WARYAS, JENNIFER	144 SEVENTH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
3	WELLS, CODY	20 MORRIS AVE	TURNERS FALLS	15-May-2023
2	WETHERBY, GRETCHEN W.	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	15-May-2023
2	WIDMER, RICHARD J.	5 CHURCH ST	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-2022
2	WISNEWSKI, FRANCI	196 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
2	WISNEWSKI, MARK P.	196 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	15-May-2023
6	WOLINSKY, LILITH G.	312 MONTAGUE CITY. RD	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022
6	ZAMOJSKI, MELANIE K.	33 O STREET	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-2022

MOVED DURING THE YEAR



**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
February 25, 2021**

According to the foregoing warrant the legal voters met remotely by zoom and by Options Technology, Inc. Voting Platform on Thursday, February 25, 2021 when the meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM when checker Wendy Bogusz announced the presence of a quorum. Eighty-One, (81), Town Meeting Members were in attendance while ten, (10), were excused and nineteen, twenty-six (26), were no shows. Due to COVID 19 the Town could not hold a meeting in the Turners Falls High School Theater – social distancing was not attainable and town meeting members were more open to meeting virtually. In preparation for this meeting and voting platform, the legislative body and town officials scheduled two practice town meetings to test the viability of a successful outcome. It goes without saying we have marvelous, smart and willing to try something new town meeting members. Kudos to all involved.

Moderator Chris Collins led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Officers' Return was read and the Preliminary Motions were read and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned without day at 9:20 PM.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
February 25, 2021**

Franklin, ss.

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

**GREETINGS:**

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 remotely, via Zoom Webinar and Options Technology, Inc. Voting Platform beginning at 6:30 P.M. on February 25, 2021, and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

Town Meeting members who have email addresses on file with the Town Clerk will be sent instructions via email as to how to log-in, view and participate in the meeting. Those Town Meeting members for whom we do not have a current email address, or any member who does not receive an email from the Town by the close of business on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, should contact the Town Clerk's Office at [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov) or (413) 863-3200 ext. 203 to access support that would enable you to log-in, view and participate in the meeting.

Registered Town of Montague voters, who are not Town Meeting Members, wishing to view and participate in this remote Town Meeting must submit a request to participate in the Meeting to the Town Clerk, at [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov) or (413) 863-3200 ext. 203, by no later than 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. Upon receipt of the request and verification of the requester's voter registration status, the Town Clerk shall provide to the requester instructions for participating in the remote Town Meeting.

For individuals wishing to view the Town Meeting, it will be broadcast on Montague Community Television, Comcast Channel 17.

Town Meeting members are encouraged to begin the process of joining the meeting at 6:00 pm on February 25, 2021 so as to avoid any delays in the commencement of the meeting.

The first order of business at the Town Meeting shall be for the Town Meeting members present and voting to vote on whether or not to commence business at the Town Meeting remotely by means of the Zoom webinar and Option Technologies, Inc. virtual voting platforms.

If the Town Meeting members vote to continue conducting the Town Meeting remotely, the members shall proceed by remote participation to address the remaining articles included in the warrant therefor.

If the Town Meeting members do not vote to continue conducting the Town Meeting remotely, the Town Meeting shall immediately be dissolved without taking any votes on any other matters and the Select Board may call the Town Meeting for a future date pursuant to a new warrant that provides for the Town Meeting to be held in person at a physical location in accordance with all applicable laws and provisions of the Montague Town Meeting Act.

### **WARRANT ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if Town will vote to conduct this Special Town Meeting remotely with the aid of Zoom Webinar and Options Technology Inc. virtual voting technology.  
(Moderator Request)

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 29 from the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting, by which the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 purpose of re-sealing and re-painting the walkways within the Unity Park Playground, by changing the purpose of the vote to also include crack sealing and painting of the Unity Park Basketball Court or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Parks & Recreation Request)

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Schedule II, Salaries of Appointed Officials, as voted pursuant to Article 4 of the June 13, 2020 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the stipend for the Emergency Management Director from \$5,765 to \$7,500, or any other amount, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the FY21 Information Technology budget by \$12,000, or any other amount, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(IT Coordinator Request)

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$215,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing the WPCF's current gas chlorination system with a liquid sodium hypochlorite disinfection system, or similar technology, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(WPCF Request)

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a lease purchase agreement in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §21C for a period in excess of three years for the lease and purchase of a sludge dewatering press and any equipment or expenses related thereto, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide the sum of \$70,000, or any other amount, for the first year payment of such agreement, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(WPCF Request)

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$77,150, or any other amount, for the purpose replacing the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge, including but not limited to engineering, design, permitting, bidding, oversight, construction services, and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Planning Department 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 \$1,450,000 or any other sum for the purpose of enabling the Airport Commission to acquire three properties identified below for airport and aviation purposes, and any costs incidental or related thereto:

- (a) a parcel of land located at 24 Industrial Boulevard, Montague, Massachusetts, containing 2.99 acres, more or less, and described in a deed dated 10/21/2020 and recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 7632, Page 194 also being shown as Parcel 3 on a plan dated May 1992 and recorded in FCRD Plan Book 84 Page 78. This parcel is also identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 17-0-046.
- (b) land and buildings located at 36 Industrial Boulevard, Montague, Massachusetts, containing 5.26 acres, more or less, and described in a deed dated 1/20/2006 and recorded in Franklin Country Registry of Deeds in Book 5034, Page 49 being shown as Parcel 2 on a plan dated May 1992 and recorded in FCRD Plan Book 84 Page 78. This parcel is also identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 17-0-045.
- (c) land and buildings located at 40-44 Industrial Boulevard, Montague, Massachusetts, containing 2.14 acres, more or less, and described in a deed dated 5/1/1970 and recorded in Franklin Country Registry of Deeds Book 1259, Page 683 being shown as Parcel 1 on a plan dated May 1992 and recorded in FCRD Plan Book 84 Page 78. This parcel is also identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 17-0-033.

And that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, be authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 and/or 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that 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 M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20, as amended, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; and further, to authorize the Airport Commission, and any other appropriate officials of the Town, to apply for and accept any forms of financial assistance that may be available to the Town on account of this project, including but not limited to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, and further, to authorize the Airport Commission to take any and all action and enter into and execute any and all agreements and other documents as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purposes of this Article, and, further, to authorize the Airport Commission to lease all or any portion or portions of the above-described property on such terms and conditions and for such duration (which may be up to 99 years) as the Airport Commission deems appropriate; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Airport Commission)

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,000, or any other amount, for engineering, design, permitting, bidding, oversight, and construction services for the purpose of making necessary improvements and upgrades to and for furnishing and equipping the aviation Fueling Station located at 40 Industrial Boulevard, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, be authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 and/or 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that 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 M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20, as amended, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount, provided, however, that this vote shall be contingent upon the Town appropriating funds for the acquisition of said property as set forth in Article 8 of this warrant, 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 \$39,800 for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2021 Airport operating budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Airport Commission Request)

Given under our hands this \_\_\_\_th day of February in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One.

Michael Nelson

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman  
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss      Montague, MA      February \_\_\_\_, 2021

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 fourteen days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
February 25, 2021 6:30pm  
MOTIONS**

**ARTICLE 1. MOVED:** That the Town vote to conduct this Special Town Meeting remotely with the aid of Zoom and Options Technology Inc. Virtual Voting technology. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 2. MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 29 from the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting, by which the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 purpose of re-sealing and re-painting the walkways within the Unity Park Playground, by changing the purpose of the vote to also include crack sealing and painting of the Unity Park Basketball Court. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 3. MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend Schedule II, Salaries of Appointed Officials, as voted pursuant to Article 4 of the June 13, 2020 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the stipend for the Emergency Management Director from \$5,765 to \$7,500. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 4. MOVED:** That the Town vote to increase the FY21 Information Technology budget by \$12,000, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 5. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$215,000 for the purpose of replacing the WPCF's current gas chlorination system with a liquid sodium hypochlorite disinfection system, or similar technology, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer Retained Earnings. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 6. MOVED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a lease purchase agreement in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, §21C for a period in excess of three years for the lease and purchase of a sludge dewatering press and any equipment or expenses related thereto, and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 for the first year payment on such agreement, said sum to be raised from Sewer Retained Earnings.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 7. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$77,150 for the purpose replacing the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge, including but not limited to engineering, design, permitting, bidding, oversight, construction services, and any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 8. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,450,000 for the purpose of enabling the Airport Commission to acquire the three properties identified below for airport and aviation purposes, and any costs incidental or related thereto:

- (a) a parcel of land located at 24 Industrial Boulevard, Montague, Massachusetts, containing 2.99 acres, more or less, and described in a deed dated 10/21/2020 and recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 7632, Page 194, also being shown as Parcel 3 on a plan dated May 1992 and recorded in FCRD Plan Book 84 Page 78. This parcel is also identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 17-0-046.
- (b) land and buildings located at 36 Industrial Boulevard, Montague, Massachusetts, containing 5.26 acres, more or less, and described in a deed dated 1/20/2006 and recorded in Franklin Country Registry of Deeds in Book 5034, Page 49, also being shown as Parcel 2 on a plan dated May 1992 and recorded in FCRD Plan Book 84 Page 78. This parcel is also identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 17-0-045.
- (c) land and buildings located at 40-44 Industrial Boulevard, Montague, Massachusetts, containing 2.14 acres, more or less, and described in a deed dated 5/1/1970 and recorded in Franklin Country Registry of Deeds Book 1259, Page 683, also being shown as Parcel 1 on a plan dated May 1992 and recorded in FCRD Plan Book 84 Page 78. This parcel is also identified as Assessors' Parcel ID 17-0-033.

And to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 and/or 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that 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 M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20, as amended, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; and further, to authorize the Airport Commission, and any other appropriate officials of the Town, to apply for and accept any forms of financial assistance that may be available to the Town on account of this project, including, but not limited to, from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division; and further, to authorize the Airport Commission to take any and all action and enter into and execute any and all agreements and other documents as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purposes of this vote, and, further, to authorize the Airport Commission to lease all or any portion or portions of the above-described properties on such terms and conditions, for such consideration and for such duration (which may be up to 99 years) as the Airport Commission deems appropriate.

**YES-62 NO 8**

**PASSED/ TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 9. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$68,000 for engineering, design, permitting, bidding, oversight, and construction services for the purpose of making necessary improvements and upgrades to and for furnishing and equipping the aviation Fueling Station located at 40 Industrial Boulevard, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 and/or 8, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor;

that 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 M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20, as amended, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; and further, to authorize the Airport Commission, and any other appropriate officials of the Town, to apply for and accept any forms of financial assistance that may be available to the Town on account of this project, including but not limited to from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, and further, to authorize the Airport Commission to take any and all action and enter into and execute any and all agreements and other documents as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purposes of this Vote.

**YES 62 NO 4**

**PASSED/TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 10. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$39,800 for the purposes of increasing the Fiscal Year 2021 Airport operating budget, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
May 22, 2021**

According to the foregoing warrant the legal voters met at the Franklin County Technical School on Saturday, May 22, 2021 when the meeting was called to order at 9:16 AM when checker Wendy Bogusz announced the presence of a quorum. Eighty, (80), Town Meeting Members were in attendance while thirteen, (13), were excused and twenty-nine, (29), were no shows.

Due to COVID 19 the body met on the football field under a tent where staff, town meeting members and the public could meet while social distancing and wearing masks. It ended up being a perfect day to be outside – sunny and warm, but also a tad blustery, (as the EZ UP pop up tents used to shelter MCTV and town staff were blown over by the end of the meeting).

Moderator Chris Collins led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Officers Return was read and the Preliminary Motions were read and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned without day at 2:13 P.M.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MAY 22, 2021**

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 Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 9:00 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.  
(Selectboard Request)

**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 amend Section 7 of Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, by creating a new Airport Fuel Revolving Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, with the changes as shown in **bold** below; and to establish an annual spending limit of \$160,000 for said Airport Fuel revolving fund, and 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 Selectboard, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase the limit for that fiscal year only, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

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 Expenses</u>
Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. SARA Title III Committee)	SARA Title III Comm	Fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills	For the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills
<b>Airport Fuel</b>	<b>Airport Manager</b>	<b>Fees from sale of Airport fuel</b>	<b>Purchase of Airport fuel to be sold and used at the Airport</b>

- (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.

(Airport Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 4:** 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, 2021, 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> or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 5:** 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, 2021, 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> or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from Millers River Cemetery Corporation, or the current owner, all of the real property known as the Highland Cemetery, containing

7.393 acres, more or less, located at Millers Falls Road, Montague, and shown as Parcel 28-0-13; and further, to acquire and accept, by donation, all of the personal property, funds and accounts of said Millers River Cemetery Corporation owned, maintained and used in connection with the ownership and operation of the Highland Cemetery; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary and appropriate for said acquisition and acceptance, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Cemetery Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,775,731, 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> and for any other necessary changes, 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 \$2,586,971, 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>, 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 \$78,950, 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 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$206,164, 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 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,221,005, 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 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,950,854, 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 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$13,130, or any other amount, for the purpose of utility valuation appraisal services, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Board of Assessors 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 \$190,000, 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.

- A. \$55,000 to repair the Hillcrest Façade
  - B. \$45,000 to repair the Sheffield Façade
  - C. \$90,000 to update the Sheffield fire alarm system
- (GMRSD 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 \$56,511, or any other amount, for the purpose of resurfacing the tennis courts at the Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(GMRSD 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 \$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 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$250,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a six wheel dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Department of Public Works 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 \$75,000, 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.

- A. \$25,000 Unsafe Unhealthy Buildings
- B. \$25,000 for Unexpected Engineering Services
- C. \$25,000 for Bid/Project Overrun

(Town Administrator and CIC Requests)

**ARTICLE 19:** 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 a Building Assessment and Capital Plan Study, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(CIC 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 \$32,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of a Phase II Environmental Study for 500 Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Town Planner 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 \$120,050, or any other amount, for costs associated with the establishment and operation of a marijuana establishment known as 253 Farmacy, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$14,012 for costs incurred by Town departments in connection with the establishment and operation of 253 Farmacy
  - B. \$5,538 for costs incurred by the Turners Falls Fire District in connection with the establishment and operation of 253 Farmacy
  - C. \$7,000 for police training relative to identification of cannabis intoxication
  - D. \$8,500 for prevention programming development and monitoring
  - E. \$85,000 for school-based substance abuse counseling resources
- (Town Administrator Request)

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the following sums, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	127,690
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	39,890
<b>Total:</b>	<b>217,580</b>

(Finance Committee 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 \$180,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift, purchase and/or eminent domain, an easement across the FirstLight Canal for the placement of a new 5<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge, southerly of the existing 5<sup>th</sup> Street vehicular bridge and the 1880 County Layout, and permanent and temporary construction easements at the western and eastern termini of the new pedestrian bridge as may be needed for support, access, bridge appurtenances, and for the purpose of constructing the bridge, and for all purposes incidental and related thereto, all as shown on a plan entitled "Easement Plan Canal Street & Fifth Street Bridge," dated April 5, 2021, prepared by Sherman & Frydryk, as said plan may be amended, a copy of which plan is on file with the Town Clerk, and such other permanent and temporary easements adjacent to and within 500 feet of said easements, and further to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$700, or any other amount, to fund such acquisitions; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to file a petition to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, if the Selectboard determines that joining said District is in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all documents and to take such actions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$10,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of mosquito control, and anything incidental or related thereto, which may include but not be limited to paying an assessment for the Town's membership in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 27:** Petitioned Article

**A Resolution in Opposition to State Subsidies and & Incentives  
for Biomass Plants**

WHEREAS, the Town Meeting of Montague is committed to ensuring and safeguarding the health, safety, and environment of the residents in our community, and

WHEREAS, wood-burning biomass plants are a highly polluting form of energy generation, know to release pollutants including fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth adopted science-driven Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) regulations in 2012 recognizing that wood-burning power plants emit more carbon dioxide than fossil fuel power plants per unit of energy generated, and

WHEREAS, if the weakened RPS regulations proposed in December 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) go into effect, Massachusetts subsidies and incentives would be available for inefficient large-scale biomass power plants, and

WHEREAS, the proposed RPS regulations would wrongly incentivize and directly subsidize the construction of a large-scale wood-burning biomass plant proposed by Palmer Renewable Energy in Springfield, an Environmental Justice community already heavily burdened by industrial air pollution and by record-setting rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and

WHEREAS, our Town Meeting stands in solidarity with the residents of the City of Springfield, and the Springfield City Council, which passed a resolution on December 21, 2020, opposing Massachusetts state subsidies and incentives for wood-burning biomass plants,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Montague Town Meeting opposes any state subsidies or incentives for commercial wood-burning biomass plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Montague Town Meeting calls upon the Massachusetts DOER to revise the proposed RPS regulations by returning the woody biomass provisions to their previous, science-based language, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Montague Town Meeting urges its State Legislative Delegation to support legislation in the forthcoming session of the Massachusetts General Court to remove and bar taxpayer and ratepayer incentives for commercial biomass power plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our municipality's State Legislators, as well as Governor Charles Baker, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Committee, Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Jeff Roy.

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Montague, by adding a new section titled "Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw", as set forth below, and authorize the Town Clerk to assign such numbering as is appropriate to bring said bylaw into conformance with the existing codification, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

#### **Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw**

##### 1. Preamble:

The Town of Montague recognizes that trees are an asset to the community and provide a healthier and more beautiful environment in which to live. Trees improve air quality and provide shade, wildlife habitat, and beauty. Trees give protection from wind, glare and noise, and act as barriers and water quality protection. Public trees and landscaping are economically beneficial in attracting new residents, shoppers, visitors and industry. When properly chosen varieties are planted in appropriate settings, trees enhance property values, promote the economic viability of commercial districts, and enhance the desirability and sustainability of residential neighborhoods.

##### 2. Intent and Purpose:

This by-law is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting public shade trees pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. It is also enacted to encourage the planting of more public shade trees than are removed to compensate for tree losses and the time it takes for trees to mature.

##### 3. Definitions:

**Critical Root Zone (CRZ):** Defined by measuring outwards from the trunk a minimum of 1.25 feet for every inch diameter of tree trunk four feet above the ground. For any tree, a minimum of six feet must be protected around trees regardless of the trunk diameter.

**Public Tree:** Any tree within public right-of-way, in a municipal park, or adjacent to public buildings.

**Right-of-Way:** All land within the boundaries of the public right-of-way as set forth by an order of the town laying out a public way. The public right-of-way may include not only the traveled surface of the public way but lands adjacent thereto, including sidewalks and the tree belt.

**Drip Line:** Drip line of a tree is the area defined by the outermost circumference of a tree's canopy, where water drips from and onto the ground.

#### 4. Tree Warden:

The Tree Warden is an elected position pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 106.

The duties and responsibilities of the Tree Warden shall conform to the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Care, control, and management of all trees within public rights-of-way, adjacent to public buildings on public land, and on public commons; and the care, control, and management of trees within parks if so requested by the Director of Parks and Recreation;
- Expenditure of funds for public tree planting and maintenance consistent with this bylaw and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Enforcement of the provisions of this bylaw and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Preparation and maintenance of a current Public Tree Management Plan;
- Coordination with the Highway Department, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, Planning Board, and the Montague Tree Advisory Committee on matters related to urban forestry and public tree management, and;
- Develop regulations for the care and preservation of public trees and establish fines and forfeitures for violation thereof.
- Other responsibilities consistent with this bylaw and Massachusetts General Laws.

#### 5. Cutting of Public Trees:

Consistent with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, no person except the Tree Warden, may cut, trim, prune, damage, or remove any part of a public tree, including the roots within the drip line of the tree, without written permission as described in Section 7.

The Tree Warden may not remove, permit the removal of, or cause to be destroyed any tree greater than 1.5 inches in caliper without a duly advertised public hearing as specified in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, or if objection is given at or prior to the hearing in writing, without the additional approval of the Selectboard, unless that tree is determined to be an imminent hazard tree, as described in Section 8.

Utilities may, or at the request of the Tree Warden must, file an annual vegetation management plan and/or a hazard tree removal plan.

In all cases, pruning and removal of public trees shall be done in accordance with the current ANSI pruning standards.

#### 6. Planting of Public Trees:

No person except the Tree Warden may plant a tree on public property without written permission as described in Section 7.

No trees, except those smaller species appropriate for planting under utilities, shall be planted within 10 lateral feet of an overhead electric utility wire.

Consistent with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, the Tree Warden may plant trees within 20 feet of the public right-of-way with the written consent of the adjoining land owner. The Property owner will own the tree immediately after planting and is responsible for the maintenance for the lifetime of the tree. The Tree Warden may require a one-time cost share for the expense of the tree.

#### 7. Permission for Planting, Cutting, Pruning or Removal of Non-Hazardous Public Trees:

No person other than the Tree Warden shall plant, prune, trim, cut above the ground, remove, or conduct any excavation within the drip line of, a public tree without first filing an application and procuring written permission from the Tree Warden. The Tree Warden may grant permission, may deny permission or may issue permission with conditions.

Permission must be granted by the Tree Warden not less than three business days in advance of the time the work is to commence with the exception that, if the work consists of cutting down or removal of a public tree, the application shall be made no less than thirty days in advance. At the time that the application is submitted, applicants shall pay a non-refundable fee of five dollars per tree to the Montague Tree Fund. In cases of emergency, an applicant may seek and receive oral permission from the Tree Warden to trim or excavate within the drip line of a public shade tree without first requesting permission in writing. An emergency is defined as an unforeseen occurrence, which requires immediate action to avoid or reduce significant injury or damage to persons or property. Within three business days after oral permission is granted, the applicant must submit a written request to the Tree Warden who shall grant pre-approval due to emergency.

#### Removal:

An applicant who wishes to remove a non-hazardous public shade tree is responsible for the following expenses:

- Cost of advertising a hearing as specified in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Cost of removal of tree and stump, including hauling away of all debris, and proper filling of stump hole;
- Planting of sufficient replacement trees as described below;
- Cost of police traffic details, repair of street surface and road shoulder, protection and restoration of utility structures; and
- All other costs related to the removal and replanting.

Public trees shall not be removed for a private purpose without suitable compensation to the Town for replacements. The value of existing shade trees is to be calculated on an inch-by-inch replacement basis. Replacements shall be at least two-inch trunk diameter, nursery grown stock. The Tree Warden may, at their discretion, require larger replacements. For example, if an 18-inch diameter tree, measured four feet above grade is to be removed, the applicant must sufficiently reimburse the Town to provide for the purchase and planting of nine, two-inch diameter replacements. At the discretion of the Tree Warden, the applicant shall either:

A. Arrange to plant suitable replacements using his/her own contractor, working to the Town's specifications, or

B. Make a cash contribution to the Montague Tree Fund to be used exclusively for the purchase and planting of replacements, and related expenses.

If the applicant proposes to trim or prune a public tree, and if, in the opinion of the Tree Warden, the proposed work will drastically affect the health, beauty, structural stability, or safety of the tree, the Tree Warden may consider the proposed work to have the same effect as the removal of the tree. In these cases, the Tree Warden may either order the removal of the tree, or allow the tree to remain, provided that it does not present an imminent hazard. In either case, appropriate replacement plantings must be provided by the applicant.

Nothing contained in this bylaw shall prohibit the Tree Warden from refusing to permit the cutting, trimming or removal of non-hazardous trees.

All trees or tree parts (i.e. wood) removed from the town trees are owned by the Town of Montague, with the exception of fallen leaves.

#### 8. Removal of Hazard Trees:

The Tree Warden may remove, without a public hearing, a tree that is determined by the Tree Warden, to be an imminent hazard to persons or property.

The hazard determination shall be made based on an objective risk tree rating system such as the USDA Forest Service 12-point Risk Tree Rating system or the International Society of Arboriculture Hazard Tree Evaluation system. Hazard trees shall be prioritized for pruning, removal, or otherwise minimizing the risk based on hazard trees objectively presenting the most risk.

#### 9. Fines:

Any person who removes, or causes to be destroyed, a non-hazardous public tree without a duly advertised hearing, permission from the Tree Warden, and the approval of the Selectboard if an objection is made to the removal, shall pay a fine of up to \$500 or the appraised value of the tree, whichever is greater, to the Montague Tree Fund.

Any person who cuts, trims, prunes, damages or removes any part of a public tree, including the roots within the drip line of the tree, without written permission, or who fails to comply with the conditions of their permission, shall pay a fine of up to \$100 per tree to the Montague Tree Fund.

This provision is inclusive, but not limited to the following prohibited acts:

- Mutilating (e.g. driving in nails or screws), girdling, carving into, or topping a tree;
- Damage to the root system by trenching, digging, or other excavation;
- Tapping a publicly owned sugar maple;
- Removing any tree guard, tree stake, watering bag, or other device or material intended for the protection or to support the health of a public tree;
- Covering or obstructing any open land at the base of a public tree designed to permit access of air, water and fertilizer to the root system;
- Applying or sweeping road salt onto the CRZ of a public tree;
- Securing, fastening or running any rope, wire, holiday lighting, unprotected electrical installation, or other device or material to, around or through a public tree, or attaching any sign, poster, notice or other object to any public tree, except that the Tree Warden may authorize tying temporary signs to such trees as necessary;
- Causing or encouraging any fire or burning within the drip line of any public tree. This includes the grilling of food below a public tree, within the drip line, unless the grill is provided in a public park and is permanently installed under the tree;
- Paving over the tree belt and/or over the CRZ on public land;
- Parking a vehicle on the CRZ of a public tree;
- The application of chemicals including, but not limited to, pesticides and herbicides on public land.

#### 10. Public Hazard and Abatement:

Upon a determination by the Tree Warden that a private tree constitutes a public hazard, they shall give written notice to the owner of the property upon which said hazard exists to remove, or otherwise mitigate the hazard posed by such tree as to cause the hazard to the public to be abated. Failure to comply with such written notice within fifteen days thereafter is a violation of this section, and the Tree Warden or coworkers may then remove or trim such tree and assess the cost thereof against the property.

#### 11. Severability:

Should any part or provision of this bylaw be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the bylaw as a whole or any part thereof other than the part held to be invalid.

### **Appendix A. Suitable Trees for the Town of Montague (May 2019)**

Note: A more extensive discussion of tree tolerances and preferences can be obtained from the MTC in an expanded treatment of this list. **NOTE:** specific cultivar ("variety") names are listed intentionally. Many species are not suitable for various reasons but the specific cultivars may have special traits that make

them much more desirable (e.g. no seed production, narrow outline, shorter stature, etc.). Measurements are mature HEIGHT X WIDTH. Ultimate size is influenced by growing conditions and regional climate. All trees are cold hardy to at least Zone 5 (all of the town of Montague).

### **Shade trees and ornamental flowering trees**

***Acer campestre*** (Hedge Maple) **+** (A, B, C) – preferred cultivars are Metro Gold® (aka 'Panacek') and Streetwise™ (aka 'Stwizam') 30'x30'. Obtain trees trained to **one** leader.

***Acer ginnala*** (Amur Maple) **+** (A, B, C) Obtain trees trained to **one** leader. 20' x 25'

***Acer miyabei*** (Miyabei Maple) \* (E) – preferred cultivar is State Street™ (aka 'Morton') 35' x 35'.

***Acer rubrum***\* (D, E) (Red or Swamp Maple) Male cultivars are preferred to avoid seed.

***Acer tataricum*** (Tatarian Maple) **+** (A, B, C) – best cultivar is Rugged Charm®, aka 'JFS-KW2', and HotWings® (aka 'GarAnn') 20' x 20'.

***Catalpa speciosa***\* (Northern Catalpa) (E). 45'x 35'

***Celtis occidentalis*** (Common Hackberry) \* (A – if lines are not droopy, B, C) – Better cultivars include 'Chicagoland' and Prairie Sentinel™ (extremely narrow)

***Cercis canadensis*** (Eastern Redbud) **+** (A – see conditions) – 20'x20'

***Cornus mas*** (Cornelian Cherry Dogwood) **+** (A, B, C) 20 to 25 feet Buy only those trained into a tree form.

***Cotinus*** x 'Grace' **+** (Grace Cotinus) (A, B, C) 20'x15'

Use only specimens trained to a single stem.

***Crataegus viridis*** 'Winter King' (Winter King Hawthorn) **+** (A, B, C)– 30' x 30'

***Eucommia ulmoides*** (E) (Hardy Rubber Tree) – 45' x 45' after 30 years. Use any but Emerald Pointe™ is an upright column only 5 feet wide

***Ginkgo biloba***\* (E) (Ginkgo or Maidenhair tree) Huge but very slow. Use only male clones like 'Autumn Gold', 'Princeton Upright'

***Gleditsia triacanthos*** var. ***inermis***\* (C) (Thornless Honeylocust)

(preferably 'Skyline', 'Shademaster' or the narrower 'Draves' aka Street Keeper® Honeylocust). 40-50' x 40-50'

***Heptacodium miconioides*** (Seven Son Flower) **+** (A, B, C) Only use single trunk specimens 15-20' at maturity with a 10' spread.

***Liquidambar styraciflua*** 'Ward' (Cherokee™ Sweetgum) \* (E) 60'x70' ***Maackia amurensis*** (Amur Maackia) **+** (A) 25'-30' '

***Maclura pomifera*** 'White Shield' (White Shield Osage Orange) **+** (A, B, C) 30' x 30'.

***Magnolia*** 'Galaxy' (Galaxy Magnolia) \* (E) 30' x 20'.

***Magnolia x soulangeana*** (Saucer Magnolia) **+** (E) generally 25'x 25'

***Malus*** 'Adirondack' (Adirondack Crabapple) **+** (A, B, C). 18'x14'.

***Malus*** 'Sugar Tyme' (Sugar Tyme Crabapple) **+** (A, B, C). 18'x16'

***Malus*** 'Donald Wyman' (Donal Wyman Crabapple) **+** (B, C). 15' to 20' x 20 to 25'

***Platanus x acerifolia*** (Planetree) \* (E). 80' x 80' is possible. Use only disease-resistant cultivars like 'Morton Circle' aka Exclamation!® or 'Bloodgood'.

***Prunus sargentii*** **+** (Sargent Cherry) (A, B) 30'x30' The cultivar 'Columaris' is a narrow (to 20') vase shaped tree useful when width is an issue.

***Prunus serrulata*** 'Kwanzan' (Kwanzan cherry) **+** (A, B) 25'x25'

***Prunus virginiana*** 'Canada Red' (Canada Red Choke Cherry) \* (A, B, C). Purple leaves. 25-35'x18'

***Prunus x yedoensis*** (Yoshino Flowering Cherry) (A, B) 25' x 25'

***Quercus*** Oaks produce acorns, which can litter streets and if planted near fast traffic roads hit moving cars at high speed. Oaks also extend cleanup season as many leaves are retained until spring.

***Quercus bicolor*** \* (Swamp White Oak) (E) About 50'x 50'

***Quercus palustris*** \* (Pin Oak) (C, E) – 60'x40'

***Quercus rubra*** \* (Red Oak) (E) 70'x60'

***Sophora japonica*, now *Styphnolobium japonicum*** (Scholar Tree) \* (E). '60'x 60' at maturity. Regent' is the best cultivar as it grows fast enough to be useful.

***Syringa reticulata***? (Japanese Tree Lilac) **(A, B)**. 20'x20' 'Ivory Silk', 'Summer Snow', and 'Regent' will perform best but mixed results under city conditions .

***Taxodium distichum*** (Bald Cypress) \* **(D, E)** Preferred cultivars are 'Mickelson' aka Shawnee Brave® (50'x20') or 'Skyward' (20'x6')

***Tilia americana*** 'Redmond' (Redmond Linden) \* **(E)**.

***Tilia cordata* × *mongolica*** 'Harvest Gold' (Harvest Gold Linden) \* **(E)**  
40'x 30'.

***Tilia cordata*** (Littleleaf Linden) \* **(E)** Greenspire® or 'Norlin' are good culitvars but there are many good selections. 60'x35'

***Ulmus davidiana* var. *japonica*** 'Discovery' (Discovery Elm)\* **(C, E)**. 40'x35'

***Ulmus*** 'Frontier' (Frontier Elm) \* **(A, C, E)**. (35'x20')

***Ulmus wilsoniana*** 'Prospector' (Prospector Elm) \* **(E)** 40'x25'

***Ulmus*** 'Morton Glossy' (Triumph™ Elm) \* **(E)** 50'x40'

***Zelkova serrata*** (Japanese Zelkova) \* **(A, B for 'Musashino', C, E** for the rest)

Dwarf 'JFS-KW1' aka City Sprite® (24'x18'), Wireless® aka 'Schmidtlow' flat top that avoids power lines (24'x35') or use 'Musashino' tight upright column (45'x15') or 'Village Green' when space permits as it provides more shade (50'x50').

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#### KEY:

Trees with no asterisk or plus sign are suitable for parks and open spaces and may not tolerate street conditions (drought, salt, compaction, limited root zone).

\* Trees that can tolerate street conditions (size, width, shade vs. sun, etc. still need to be considered).

The width of the tree belt or size of a tree pit will greatly influence success on some if not all of these.

+ Trees suitable for use under power lines.

Mapping codes below established by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)

- A. Under utility lines
- B. In otherwise constrained canopy area (but not under utility line)
- C. In constrained root area
- D. In wetland or river area
- E. No constraints (park, front yard, wide tree belt (8 feet or greater)

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#### **Fruit trees**

The planting of edible fruit or nut bearing trees on municipal tree belts is prohibited in Montague, except by the permission of the Tree Warden. Fruit and nut trees can cause damage to personal property (e.g. automobiles) and their low-lying limbs can provide obstruction to easy passage of pedestrians on sidewalks. They are generally considered shorter lived and more pest prone than urban shade trees. Acknowledging the important resource (nutritious fresh food) and positive community associations and harvesting traditions that develop around fruit and nut trees, the use of edible fruit and nut bearing species at community gardens and certain parklands is acceptable, with the permission of the Tree Warden.

If fruit trees are to be planted the following should be used because they require less intensive pest control:

Apple varieties ('Baldwin', 'Raritan', 'Northern Spy', 'Fuji', 'Liberty', 'Honeycrisp', 'Red Delicious', and 'Gold Delicious')

Peach varieties ('Harcot')

Pear varieties ('Seckel')

(Montague Tree Advisory Committee Request)

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 7 of Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, by creating a new Montague Tree Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, with the changes as shown in **bold** below; and to establish an annual spending limit of \$5,000 for said Montague Tree Fund revolving fund, and 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 Selectboard, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase the limit for that fiscal year only, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

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 Expenses</u>
Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. SARA Title III Committee)	SARA Title III Comm	Fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills	For the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills
<b>Montague Tree Fund</b>	<b>Tree Warden</b>	<b>Fees received under the Public Tree Protection Bylaw</b>	<b>Tree planting and maintenance consistent with the Public Tree Protection Bylaw</b>

- (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.

(Montague Tree Advisory Committee Request)

Given under our hands this 3rd day of May in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One.

Michael Nelson \_\_\_\_\_

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr. \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman  
Selectboard, Town of Montague \_\_\_\_\_

Franklin, ss Montague, MA May \_\_\_\_, 2021

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

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MAY 22, 2021  
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/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town 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.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 3. MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend Section 7 of Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, by creating a new Airport Fuel Revolving Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 as shown in Article 3 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and to establish an annual spending limit of \$160,000 for said Airport Fuel revolving fund, and 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 Selectboard, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase the limit for that fiscal year only.

Section 7: Revolving Funds

- (c) 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 Expenses</u>
Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. SARA Title III Committee)	SARA Title III Comm	Fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills	For the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills
<b>Airport Fuel</b>	<b>Airport Manager</b>	<b>Fees from sale of Airport fuel</b>	<b>Purchase of Airport fuel to be sold and used at the Airport</b>

- (d) 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.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 4. MOVED:** That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

**SCHEDULE I  
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY21 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY22 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY22 RECOMMEND</u>
<b>MODERATOR</b>	370	370	370
<b>SELECTBOARD</b>			
Chairman	2,355	2,355	2,355
Second/Third Members	2,140	2,140	2,140
<b>BOARD OF ASSESSOR</b>			
Chairman	1,765	1,765	1,765
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,605	1,605
<b>TREASURER/COLLECTOR</b>	68,963*	71,396**	71,396

\*G-7

\*\*G-8

TOWN CLERK	75,014	76,139	76,139
G-11			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
Town Clerk	840	840	840
TREE WARDEN	1,575	1,575	1,575
BOARD OF HEALTH			
Chairman	1,765	1,765	1,765
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,605	1,605
<b>PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE</b>			

**ARTICLE 5. MOVED:** That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II**  
**Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY21 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY22 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY22 RECOMMEND</u>
<b><u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u></b>			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	525	525	525
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,765	5,765	5,765
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,575	1,575	1,575
BARN INSPECTOR	1,050	1,050	1,050
IT COORDINATOR	2,100	2,100	2,100
MEDIC COORDINATOR	4,000	4,000	4,000
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	3,000	3,000	3,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,710	1,710
<b><u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u></b>			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
GAS INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
<b><u>HOURLY RATES</u></b>	<b><u>Ranges/hr.</u></b>	<b><u>Ranges/hr.</u></b>	<b><u>Ranges/hr.</u></b>
EXTRA CLERICAL	12.75-14.50	13.50-15.25	13.50-15.25
ELECTION WORKERS	12.75-15.50	13.50-16.25	13.50-16.25
SUMMER HIGHWAY	12.75-14.75	13.50-15.25	13.50-15.25
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	17.00-21.00	17.00-21.00	17.00-21.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	17.00-21.00	17.00-21.00	17.00-21.00
PARKS & RECREATION	12.75-20.00	13.25-20.75	13.25-20.75
AIRPORT INTERN	12.75-15.00	13.50-15.20	13.50-15.50

**Note: Minimum Wage is \$13.50 as of 1/1/21 and goes to \$14.25/hr 1/1/2022**

**SCHEDULE II**  
**Appointed Officials**

**NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE**

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2021</u>		<u>Range FY2022</u>	
<u>SALARIED</u>		Start	End	Start	End
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	94,203	115,934	95,616	117,673
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	61,251	75,014	62,170	76,139
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	85,639	105,395	86,924	106,976
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	77,854	95,813	79,022	97,250
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	61,251	75,014	62,170	76,139

LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	61,251	75,014	62,170	76,139
WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	H	77,854	95,813	79,022	97,250
<b>HOURLY</b>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	22.77	28.02	23.11	28.44
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	37.29	41.37	37.85	41.99
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	15.26	18.78	15.49	19.06

**Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2022 budgeted wages –**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	117,673	DPW SUPERINTENDENT	97,250
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	76,139	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	69,997
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	74,282	WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	87,227
CHIEF OF POLICE*	118,014	POLICE LIEUTENANT	41.99
POLICE CUSTODIAN	17.86	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	28.44

\*includes add'l 20% educational incentive pay

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 6. MOVED:** That the Town vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from Millers River Cemetery Corporation, or the current owner, all of the real property known as the Highland Cemetery, containing 7.393 acres, more or less, located at Millers Falls Road, Montague, and shown as Parcel 28-0-13; and further, to acquire and accept, by donation, all of the personal property, funds and accounts of said Millers River Cemetery Corporation owned, maintained and used in connection with the ownership and operation of the Highland Cemetery; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary and appropriate for said acquisition and acceptance.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 7. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,775,731 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary changes with \$59.80 to be raised from Transportation Infrastructure Fund Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and \$10,775,671.20 to be raised from Taxation.

			SELECTBOARD
			FIN COMM
DEPT		BUDGET	REQUEST
NO.		FY21	FY22
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
113	TOWN MEETING	2,090	2,140
122	SELECT BOARD	192,014	194,971
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	1,000	700
132	RESERVE FUND	60,000	60,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	81,934	83,400
141	ASSESSORS	195,422	179,952
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	239,560	229,164
151	TOWN COUNSEL	80,000	85,000
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	74,100	97,800
159	SHARED COSTS	74,759	77,579
161	TOWN CLERK	167,001	155,379
175	PLANNING	121,187	123,121
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	1,200	700
182	MEDIC	5,000	5,000
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	106,320	109,846
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,401,587	1,404,752

PUBLIC SAFETY				
211	POLICE	1,652,537	1,761,945	1,761,945
211	POLICE CRUISER	53,000	53,000	53,000
212	DISPATCH	311,584	310,291	310,291
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	141,444	143,080	143,080
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	2,750	2,750	2,750
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	5,765	6,265	6,265
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	20,414	21,527	21,527
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,710	1,710
299	TREE WARDEN	20,285	30,285	30,285
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,209,489	2,330,853	2,330,853
PUBLIC WORKS				
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,441,408	1,522,924	1,522,924
420	FLAIL LEASE #2/5	24,090	21,321	21,321
423	SNOW & ICE	278,050	278,050	278,050
433	SOLID WASTE	598,886	624,796	624,796
480	CHARGING STATIONS	7,000	6,000	6,000
491	CEMETERIES	7,000	13,440	13,440
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,356,434	2,466,531	2,466,531
SELECTBOARD				
FIN COMM				
DEPT		BUDGET	REQUEST	RECOMMEND
NO.		FY21	FY22	FY22
HUMAN SERVICES				
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	135,948	160,507	160,507
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	46,980	46,521	46,521
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	88,400	87,800	87,800
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	271,328	294,828	294,828
CULTURE & RECREATION				
610	LIBRARIES	426,950	437,744	437,744
630	PARKS & RECREATION	143,539	147,944	147,944
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,300	1,300	1,300
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	572,289	587,488	587,488
DEBT SERVICE				
700	DEBT SERVICE	1,128,500	1,066,809	1,066,809
INTERGOVERNMENTAL				
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	111,179	111,609	111,609

MISCELLANEOUS				
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,238,057	2,397,861	2,397,861
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	96,000	115,000	115,000
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,334,057	2,512,861	2,512,861
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	10,384,863	10,775,731	10,775,731
PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE				

**ARTICLE 8. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,586,971 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 \$251,228 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,335,743 to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY21	REQUEST FY22	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY22
	WATER POLLUTION CONTROL			
440	Wages & Expenses	1,585,763	1,693,291	1,693,291
440	Capital Outlay		58,500	58,500
700	Debt Service	520,551	514,047	514,047
910	Employee Benefits	291,954	270,333	270,333
	SUBTOTAL WPCF	2,398,268	2,536,171	2,536,171
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY			
	Wages & Expenses	42,800	42,800	42,800
	Capital Outlay	8,000	8,000	8,000
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	50,800	50,800	50,800
	TOTAL WPCF	2,449,068	2,586,971	2,586,971
PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE				

**ARTICLE 9. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$78,950 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 10. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$206,164 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be raised from Airport User Fees.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 11. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,221,005 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 \$27,262 to be raised from the Franklin County Technical School Stabilization Fund and \$1,193,743 to be raised from Taxation.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 12. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,950,854 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, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 13. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$13,130 for the purpose of utility valuation appraisal services, said sum to be raised from Taxation. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 14. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$190,000 for the following school building related projects and any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

- A. \$55,000 to repair the Hillcrest Façade
- B. \$45,000 to repair the Sheffield Façade
- C. \$90,000 to update the Sheffield fire alarm system

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 15. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$56,511 for the purpose of resurfacing the tennis courts at the Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Gill-Montague Regional School District Stabilization Fund.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 16. 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 17. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a six wheel dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

**PASSED/TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 18. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the following Town projects and any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

- A. \$25,000 Unsafe Unhealthy Buildings
- B. \$25,000 for Unexpected Engineering Services
- C. \$25,000 for Bid/Project Overrun

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 19. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of a Building Assessment and Capital Plan Study, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 20. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$32,500 for the purpose of a Phase II Environmental Study for 500 Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 21. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$120,050 for the costs associated with the establishment and operation of a marijuana establishment known as 253 Farmacy, said sum to be raised from the Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization fund.

- F. \$14,012 for costs incurred by Town departments in connection with the establishment and operation of 253 Farmacy
- G. \$5,538 for costs incurred by the Turners Falls Fire District in connection with the establishment and operation of 253 Farmacy
- H. \$7,000 for police training relative to identification of cannabis intoxication
- I. \$8,500 for prevention programming development and monitoring
- J. \$85,000 for school-based substance abuse counseling resources

**PASSED/TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 22. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the following sums for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, said sums to be raised from Taxation.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	127,690
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	39,890
<b>Total:</b>	<b>217,580</b>

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 23. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$180,000 for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from WPCF Retained Earnings.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 24. MOVED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift, purchase and/or eminent domain, an easement across the FirstLight Canal for the placement of a new 5<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge, southerly of the existing 5<sup>th</sup> Street vehicular bridge and the 1880 County Layout, and permanent and temporary construction easements at the western and eastern termini of the new pedestrian bridge as may be needed for support, access, bridge appurtenances, and for the purpose of constructing the bridge, and for all purposes incidental and related thereto, all as shown on a plan entitled "Easement Plan Canal Street & Fifth Street Bridge," dated April 5, 2021, prepared by Sherman & Frydryk, as said plan may be amended, a copy of which plan is on file with the Town Clerk, and such other permanent and temporary easements adjacent to and within 500 feet of said easements, and further that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$700 to fund such acquisitions, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 25. MOVED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to file a petition to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, if the Selectboard determines that joining said District is in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all documents and to take such actions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 26. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of mosquito control, and anything incidental or related thereto, which may include but not be limited to paying an assessment for the Town's membership in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 27. MOVED:**

**A Resolution in Opposition to State Subsidies and & Incentives  
for Biomass Plants**

WHEREAS, the Town Meeting of Montague is committed to ensuring and safeguarding the health, safety, and environment of the residents in our community, and

WHEREAS, wood-burning biomass plants are a highly polluting form of energy generation, know to release pollutants including fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth adopted science-driven Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) regulations in 2012 recognizing that wood-burning power plants emit more carbon dioxide than fossil fuel power plants per unit of energy generated, and

WHEREAS, if the weakened RPS regulations proposed in December 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) go into effect, Massachusetts subsidies and incentives would be available for inefficient large-scale biomass power plants, and

WHEREAS, the proposed RPS regulations would wrongly incentivize and directly subsidize the construction of a large-scale wood-burning biomass plant proposed by Palmer Renewable Energy in



Springfield, an Environmental Justice community already heavily burdened by industrial air pollution and by record-setting rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and

WHEREAS, our Town Meeting stands in solidarity with the residents of the City of Springfield, and the Springfield City Council, which passed a resolution on December 21, 2020, opposing Massachusetts state subsidies and incentives for wood-burning biomass plants,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Montague Town Meeting opposes any state subsidies or incentives for commercial wood-burning biomass plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Montague Town Meeting calls upon the Massachusetts DOER to revise the proposed RPS regulations by returning the woody biomass provisions to their previous, science-based language, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Montague Town Meeting urges its State Legislative Delegation to support legislation in the forthcoming session of the Massachusetts General Court to remove and bar taxpayer and ratepayer incentives for commercial biomass power plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our municipality's State Legislators, as well as Governor Charles Baker, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Committee, Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Jeff Roy. (Petitioned Article) **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 28. MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Montague, by adding a new section titled "Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw", as set forth in Article 28 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, and authorize the Town Clerk to assign such numbering as is appropriate to bring said bylaw into conformance with the existing codification.

### **Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw**

#### 1. Preamble:

The Town of Montague recognizes that trees are an asset to the community and provide a healthier and more beautiful environment in which to live. Trees improve air quality and provide shade, wildlife habitat, and beauty. Trees give protection from wind, glare and noise, and act as barriers and water quality protection. Public trees and landscaping are economically beneficial in attracting new residents, shoppers, visitors and industry. When properly chosen varieties are planted in appropriate settings, trees enhance property values, promote the economic viability of commercial districts, and enhance the desirability and sustainability of residential neighborhoods.

#### 2. Intent and Purpose:

This by-law is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting public shade trees pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. It is also enacted to encourage the planting of more public shade trees than are removed to compensate for tree losses and the time it takes for trees to mature.

#### 3. Definitions:

**Critical Root Zone (CRZ):** Defined by measuring outwards from the trunk a minimum of 1.25 feet for every inch diameter of tree trunk four feet above the ground. For any tree, a minimum of six feet must be protected around trees regardless of the trunk diameter.

**Public Tree:** Any tree within public right-of-way, in a municipal park, or adjacent to public buildings.

**Right-of-Way:** All land within the boundaries of the public right-of-way as set forth by an order of the town laying out a public way. The public right-of-way may include not only the traveled surface of the public way but lands adjacent thereto, including sidewalks and the tree belt.

**Drip Line:** Drip line of a tree is the area defined by the outermost circumference of a tree's canopy, where water drips from and onto the ground.

#### 4. Tree Warden:

The Tree Warden is an elected position pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 106.

The duties and responsibilities of the Tree Warden shall conform to the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Care, control, and management of all trees within public rights-of-way, adjacent to public buildings on public land, and on public commons; and the care, control, and management of trees within parks if so requested by the Director of Parks and Recreation;
- Expenditure of funds for public tree planting and maintenance consistent with this bylaw and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Enforcement of the provisions of this bylaw and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Preparation and maintenance of a current Public Tree Management Plan;
- Coordination with the Highway Department, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, Planning Board, and the Montague Tree Advisory Committee on matters related to urban forestry and public tree management, and;
- Develop regulations for the care and preservation of public trees and establish fines and forfeitures for violation thereof.
- Other responsibilities consistent with this bylaw and Massachusetts General Laws.

#### 5. Cutting of Public Trees:

Consistent with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, no person except the Tree Warden, may cut, trim, prune, damage, or remove any part of a public tree, including the roots within the drip line of the tree, without written permission as described in Section 7.

The Tree Warden may not remove, permit the removal of, or cause to be destroyed any tree greater than 1.5 inches in caliper without a duly advertised public hearing as specified in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, or if objection is given at or prior to the hearing in writing, without the additional approval of the Selectboard, unless that tree is determined to be an imminent hazard tree, as described in Section 8.

Utilities may, or at the request of the Tree Warden must, file an annual vegetation management plan and/or a hazard tree removal plan.

In all cases, pruning and removal of public trees shall be done in accordance with the current ANSI pruning standards.

#### 6. Planting of Public Trees:

No person except the Tree Warden may plant a tree on public property without written permission as described in Section 7.

No trees, except those smaller species appropriate for planting under utilities, shall be planted within 10 lateral feet of an overhead electric utility wire.

Consistent with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, the Tree Warden may plant trees within 20 feet of the public right-of-way with the written consent of the adjoining land owner. The Property owner will own the tree immediately after planting and is responsible for the maintenance for the lifetime of the tree. The Tree Warden may require a one-time cost share for the expense of the tree.

#### 7. Permission for Planting, Cutting, Pruning or Removal of Non-Hazardous Public Trees:

No person other than the Tree Warden shall plant, prune, trim, cut above the ground, remove, or conduct any excavation within the drip line of, a public tree without first filing an application and procuring written permission from the Tree Warden. The Tree Warden may grant permission, may deny permission or may issue permission with conditions.

Permission must be granted by the Tree Warden not less than three business days in advance of the time the work is to commence with the exception that, if the work consists of cutting down or removal of a

public tree, the application shall be made no less than thirty days in advance. At the time that the application is submitted, applicants shall pay a non-refundable fee of five dollars per tree to the Montague Tree Fund. In cases of emergency, an applicant may seek and receive oral permission from the Tree Warden to trim or excavate within the drip line of a public shade tree without first requesting permission in writing. An emergency is defined as an unforeseen occurrence, which requires immediate action to avoid or reduce significant injury or damage to persons or property. Within three business days after oral permission is granted, the applicant must submit a written request to the Tree Warden who shall grant pre-approval due to emergency.

#### Removal:

An applicant who wishes to remove a non-hazardous public shade tree is responsible for the following expenses:

- Cost of advertising a hearing as specified in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Cost of removal of tree and stump, including hauling away of all debris, and proper filling of stump hole;
- Planting of sufficient replacement trees as described below;
- Cost of police traffic details, repair of street surface and road shoulder, protection and restoration of utility structures; and
- All other costs related to the removal and replanting.

Public trees shall not be removed for a private purpose without suitable compensation to the Town for replacements. The value of existing shade trees is to be calculated on an inch-by-inch replacement basis. Replacements shall be at least two-inch trunk diameter, nursery grown stock. The Tree Warden may, at their discretion, require larger replacements. For example, if an 18-inch diameter tree, measured four feet above grade is to be removed, the applicant must sufficiently reimburse the Town to provide for the purchase and planting of nine, two-inch diameter replacements. At the discretion of the Tree Warden, the applicant shall either:

A. Arrange to plant suitable replacements using his/her own contractor, working to the Town's specifications, or

B. Make a cash contribution to the Montague Tree Fund to be used exclusively for the purchase and planting of replacements, and related expenses.

If the applicant proposes to trim or prune a public tree, and if, in the opinion of the Tree Warden, the proposed work will drastically affect the health, beauty, structural stability, or safety of the tree, the Tree Warden may consider the proposed work to have the same effect as the removal of the tree. In these cases, the Tree Warden may either order the removal of the tree, or allow the tree to remain, provided that it does not present an imminent hazard. In either case, appropriate replacement plantings must be provided by the applicant.

Nothing contained in this bylaw shall prohibit the Tree Warden from refusing to permit the cutting, trimming or removal of non-hazardous trees.

All trees or tree parts (i.e. wood) removed from the town trees are owned by the Town of Montague, with the exception of fallen leaves.

#### 8. Removal of Hazard Trees:

The Tree Warden may remove, without a public hearing, a tree that is determined by the Tree Warden, to be an imminent hazard to persons or property.

The hazard determination shall be made based on an objective risk tree rating system such as the USDA Forest Service 12-point Risk Tree Rating system or the International Society of Arboriculture Hazard Tree Evaluation system. Hazard trees shall be prioritized for pruning, removal, or otherwise minimizing the risk based on hazard trees objectively presenting the most risk.

#### 9. Fines:

Any person who removes, or causes to be destroyed, a non-hazardous public tree without a duly advertised hearing, permission from the Tree Warden, and the approval of the Selectboard if an objection is made to the removal, shall pay a fine of up to \$500 or the appraised value of the tree, whichever is greater, to the Montague Tree Fund.

Any person who cuts, trims, prunes, damages or removes any part of a public tree, including the roots within the drip line of the tree, without written permission, or who fails to comply with the conditions of their permission, shall pay a fine of up to \$100 per tree to the Montague Tree Fund.

This provision is inclusive, but not limited to the following prohibited acts:

- Mutilating (e.g. driving in nails or screws), girdling, carving into, or topping a tree;
- Damage to the root system by trenching, digging, or other excavation;
- Tapping a publicly owned sugar maple;
- Removing any tree guard, tree stake, watering bag, or other device or material intended for the protection or to support the health of a public tree;
- Covering or obstructing any open land at the base of a public tree designed to permit access of air, water and fertilizer to the root system;
- Applying or sweeping road salt onto the CRZ of a public tree;
- Securing, fastening or running any rope, wire, holiday lighting, unprotected electrical installation, or other device or material to, around or through a public tree, or attaching any sign, poster, notice or other object to any public tree, except that the Tree Warden may authorize tying temporary signs to such trees as necessary;
- Causing or encouraging any fire or burning within the drip line of any public tree. This includes the grilling of food below a public tree, within the drip line, unless the grill is provided in a public park and is permanently installed under the tree;
- Paving over the tree belt and/or over the CRZ on public land;
- Parking a vehicle on the CRZ of a public tree;
- The application of chemicals including, but not limited to, pesticides and herbicides on public land.

#### 10. Public Hazard and Abatement:

Upon a determination by the Tree Warden that a private tree constitutes a public hazard, they shall give written notice to the owner of the property upon which said hazard exists to remove, or otherwise mitigate the hazard posed by such tree as to cause the hazard to the public to be abated. Failure to comply with such written notice within fifteen days thereafter is a violation of this section, and the Tree Warden or coworkers may then remove or trim such tree and assess the cost thereof against the property.

#### 11. Severability:

Should any part or provision of this bylaw be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the bylaw as a whole or any part thereof other than the part held to be invalid.

### **Appendix A. Suitable Trees for the Town of Montague (May 2019)**

Note: A more extensive discussion of tree tolerances and preferences can be obtained from the MTC in an expanded treatment of this list. **NOTE:** specific cultivar (“variety”) names are listed intentionally. Many species are not suitable for various reasons but the specific cultivars may have special traits that make them much more desirable (e.g. no seed production, narrow outline, shorter stature, etc.). Measurements are mature HEIGHT X WIDTH. Ultimate size is influenced by growing conditions and regional climate. All trees are cold hardy to at least Zone 5 (all of the town of Montague).

#### **Shade trees and ornamental flowering trees**

***Acer campestre*** (Hedge Maple) +\* (**A, B, C**) – preferred cultivars are Metro Gold® (aka ‘Panacek’) and Streetwise™ (aka ‘Stwizam’) 30’x30’. Obtain trees trained to **one** leader.

**Acer ginnala** (Amur Maple) +\* (A, B, C) Obtain trees trained to **one** leader. 20' x 25'

**Acer miyabei** (Miyabei Maple) \* (E) – **preferred cultivar is State Street™** (aka 'Morton') 35' x 35'.

**Acer rubrum\*** (D, E) (Red or Swamp Maple) Male cultivars are preferred to avoid seed.

**Acer tataricum** (Tatarian Maple) +\* (A, B, C) – best cultivar is Rugged Charm®, aka 'JFS-KW2', and HotWings® (aka 'GarAnn') 20' x 20'.

**Catalpa speciosa\*** (Northern Catalpa) (E). 45'x 35'

**Celtis occidentalis** (Common Hackberry) \* (A – if lines are not droopy, B, C) – Better cultivars include 'Chicagoland' and Prairie Sentinel™ (extremely narrow)

**Cercis canadensis** (Eastern Redbud) + (A – see conditions) – 20'x20'

**Cornus mas** (Cornelian Cherry Dogwood) +\* (A, B, C) 20 to 25 feet Buy only those trained into a tree form.

**Cotinus** x 'Grace'+\* (Grace Cotinus) (A, B, C) 20'x15'

Use only specimens trained to a single stem.

**Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'** (Winter King Hawthorn) +\* (A, B, C)– 30' x 30'

**Eucommia ulmoides** (E) (Hardy Rubber Tree) – 45' x 45' after 30 years. Use any but Emerald Pointe™ is an upright column only 5 feet wide

**Ginkgo biloba\*** (E) (Ginkgo or Maidenhair tree) Huge but very slow. Use only male clones like 'Autumn Gold', 'Princeton Upright'

**Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis\*** (C) (Thornless Honeylocust)  
(preferably 'Skyline', 'Shademaster' or the narrower 'Draves' aka Street Keeper® Honeylocust). 40-50' x 40-50'

**Heptacodium miconioides** (Seven Son Flower) +\* (A, B, C) **Only use single trunk specimens** 15-20' at maturity with a 10' spread.

**Liquidambar styraciflua 'Ward'** (Cherokee™ Sweetgum) \* (E) 60'x70'

**Maackia amurensis** (Amur Maackia) +\* (A) 25'-30' '

**Maclura pomifera 'White Shield'** (White Shield Osage Orange) +\* (A, B, C) 30' x 30'.

**Magnolia 'Galaxy'** (Galaxy Magnolia) \* (E) 30' x 20'.

**Magnolia x soulangeana** (Saucer Magnolia) + (E) **generally 25'x 25'**

**Malus 'Adirondack'** (Adirondack Crabapple) +\* (A, B, C). 18'x14'.

**Malus 'Sugar Tyme'** (Sugar Tyme Crabapple) +\* (A, B, C). 18'x16'

**Malus 'Donald Wyman'** (Donal Wyman Crabapple) +\* (B, C). 15' to 20' x 20 to 25'

**Platanus x acerifolia** (Planetree) \* (E). 80' x 80' is possible. Use only disease-resistant cultivars like 'Morton Circle' aka Exclamation!® or 'Bloodgood'.

**Prunus sargentii** +\* (Sargent Cherry) (A, B) 30'x30' The cultivar 'Columaris' is a narrow (to 20') vase shaped tree useful when width is an issue.

**Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'** (Kwanzan cherry) +\* (A, B) 25'x25'

**Prunus virginiana 'Canada Red'** (Canada Red Choke Cherry) \* (A, B, C). Purple leaves. 25-35'x18'

**Prunus x yedoensis** (Yoshino Flowering Cherry) (A, B) 25' x 25'

**Quercus** Oaks produce acorns, which can litter streets and if planted near fast traffic roads hit moving cars at high speed. Oaks also extend cleanup season as many leaves are retained until spring.

**Quercus bicolor\*** (Swamp White Oak) (E) About 50'x 50'

**Quercus palustris\*** (Pin Oak) (C, E) – 60'x40'

**Quercus rubra\*** (Red Oak) (E) 70'x60'

**Sophora japonica, now Styphnolobium japonicum** (Scholar Tree) \* (E). '60'x 60' at maturity. Regent' is the best cultivar as it grows fast enough to be useful.

**Syringa reticulata\*?** (Japanese Tree Lilac) (A, B). 20'x20' 'Ivory Silk', 'Summer Snow', and 'Regent' will perform best but mixed results under city conditions .

**Taxodium distichum** (Bald Cypress) \* (D, E) Preferred cultivars are 'Mickelson' aka Shawnee Brave® (50'x20') or 'Skyward' (20'x6')

**Tilia americana 'Redmond'** (Redmond Linden) \* (E).

**Tilia cordata x mongolica 'Harvest Gold'** (Harvest Gold Linden) \* (E) 40'x 30'.

**Tilia cordata** (Littleleaf Linden) \* (E) Greenspire® or 'Norlin' are good culitvars but there are many good selections. 60'x35'

**Ulmus davidiana var. japonica 'Discovery'** (Discovery Elm)\* (C, E). 40'x35'

**Ulmus 'Frontier'** (Frontier Elm) \* **(A, C, E)**. (35'x20')  
**Ulmus wilsoniana 'Prospector'** (Prospector Elm) \* **(E)** 40'x25'  
**Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'** (Triumph™ Elm) \* **(E)** 50'x40'  
**Zelkova serrata** (Japanese Zelkova) \* **(A, B for 'Musashino', C, E for the rest)**  
 Dwarf 'JFS-KW1' aka City Sprite® (24'x18'), Wireless® aka 'Schmidtlow' flat top that avoids power lines (24'x35') or use 'Musashino' tight upright column (45'x15') or 'Village Green' when space permits as it provides more shade (50'x50').

**KEY:**

Trees with no asterisk or plus sign are suitable for parks and open spaces and may not tolerate street conditions (drought, salt, compaction, limited root zone).

\* Trees that can tolerate street conditions (size, width, shade vs. sun, etc. still need to be considered). The width of the tree belt or size of a tree pit will greatly influence success on some if not all of these.

+ Trees suitable for use under power lines.

Mapping codes below established by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)

- A. Under utility lines
- B. In otherwise constrained canopy area (but not under utility line)
- C. In constrained root area
- D. In wetland or river area
- E. No constraints (park, front yard, wide tree belt (8 feet or greater))

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**Fruit trees**

The planting of edible fruit or nut bearing trees on municipal tree belts is prohibited in Montague, except by the permission of the Tree Warden. Fruit and nut trees can cause damage to personal property (e.g. automobiles) and their low-lying limbs can provide obstruction to easy passage of pedestrians on sidewalks. They are generally considered shorter lived and more pest prone than urban shade trees. Acknowledging the important resource (nutritious fresh food) and positive community associations and harvesting traditions that develop around fruit and nut trees, the use of edible fruit and nut bearing species at community gardens and certain parklands is acceptable, with the permission of the Tree Warden.

If fruit trees are to be planted the following should be used because they require less intensive pest control:

Apple varieties ('Baldwin', 'Raritan', 'Northern Spy', 'Fuji', 'Liberty', 'Honeycrisp', 'Red Delicious', and 'Gold Delicious')

Peach varieties ('Harcot')

Pear varieties ('Seckel')

**HANDOUT - ARTICLE 28. MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Montague, by adding a new section titled "Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw", as set forth in the handout titled "Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw", and authorize the Town Clerk to assign such numbering as is appropriate to bring said bylaw into conformance with the existing codification.

**Montague Public Tree Protection Bylaw**

1. Preamble

The Town of Montague recognizes that trees are an asset to the community and provide a healthier and more beautiful environment in which to live. Trees improve air quality and provide shade, wildlife habitat, and beauty. Trees store carbon, give protection from wind, glare and noise, and act as barriers and water quality protection. Public trees and landscaping are economically beneficial in attracting new residents, shoppers, visitors and industry. When properly chosen varieties are planted in appropriate settings, trees enhance property values, promote the economic viability of commercial districts, and enhance the desirability and sustainability of residential neighborhoods.

## 2. Intent and Purpose

This by-law is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting public trees pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. It is also enacted to encourage the planting of more public trees than are removed to compensate for tree losses and the time it takes for trees to mature.

## 3. Definitions

**Critical Root Zone (CRZ):** Defined by measuring outwards from the trunk a minimum of 1.25 feet for every inch diameter of tree trunk four feet above the ground. For any tree, a minimum of six feet must be protected around trees regardless of the trunk diameter.

**Public Tree:** Any public shade tree, tree in a municipal park, or tree on Town-owned land adjacent to or within 200 feet of any public building, but not including trees within State highways.

**Public Shade Tree:** All trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof including trees planted in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws and this Bylaw, shall be public shade trees; and when it appears in any proceeding in which the ownership of or rights in a tree are material to the issue, that, from length of time or otherwise, the boundaries of the highway cannot be made certain by records or monuments, and that for that reason it is doubtful whether the tree is within the highway, it shall be taken to be within the highway and to be public property until the contrary is shown.

**Right-of-Way:** All land within the boundaries of the public right-of-way as set forth by an order of the town laying out a public way. The public right-of-way may include not only the traveled surface of the public way but lands adjacent thereto, including sidewalks and the tree belt.

**Drip Line:** Drip line of a tree is the area defined by the outermost circumference of a tree's canopy, where water drips from and onto the ground.

**Hazardous Tree:** Any public shade tree which endangers persons travelling on a highway and any other public tree which presents a threat of injury or damage to persons or property.

## 4. Tree Warden

The Tree Warden is an elected position pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 106.

The duties and responsibilities of the Tree Warden shall conform to the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Care, control, and management of all public trees, shrubs and growths within the Town; ; and the care, control, and management of trees in public parks or open places under the jurisdiction of the park commissioners, if so requested in writing by the park commissioners; ;
- Expenditure of funds for public tree planting and maintenance consistent with this bylaw, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 and appropriations by Town Meeting.
- Enforcement of the provisions of this bylaw and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Preparation and maintenance of a current Public Tree Management Plan;
- Coordination with the Highway Department, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, Planning Board, and the Montague Tree Advisory Committee on matters related to urban forestry and public tree management;
- Develop regulations for the care and preservation of public trees; and
- Other responsibilities consistent with this bylaw and Massachusetts General Laws.

## 5. Cutting of Public Trees

No person other than the Tree Warden or the Tree Warden's deputy shall plant, prune, trim, cut above the ground, remove, or conduct any excavation within the drip line of, a public tree without first procuring written permission from the Tree Warden, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Sections 5 and 7 of this Bylaw.

The Tree Warden may not remove, permit the removal of, or cause to be destroyed any public tree measuring 1.5 inches in diameter, measured one foot from the ground, or more without a duly advertised public hearing as

specified in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, or if objection is given at or prior to the hearing in writing, without the additional approval of the Selectboard, unless that tree is determined to be a hazardous tree as defined herein.

The Tree Warden and their deputies, but no other person, may, without a hearing, trim, cut down or remove public trees, less than one and one half inches in diameter one foot from the ground, and bushes, standing in public ways; and, if ordered by the Selectboard or Highway Superintendent, shall trim or cut down trees and bushes, if the same shall be deemed to obstruct, endanger, hinder or incommode persons traveling thereon or to obstruct buildings being moved pursuant to the provisions of section eighteen of chapter eighty-five of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Utilities, as defined in section 14 of Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, shall be exempt from the requirements of this section with respect to any work done in accordance with an Annual Vegetation Management Plan or an Annual Hazardous Tree Removal Plan, provided that the work complies with said plan and the procedural requirements of said section 14 of Chapter 87.

In all cases, pruning and removal of public trees shall be done in accordance with the ANSI pruning standards, as may be amended from time-to-time.

An applicant who wishes to remove a non-hazardous public shade tree shall be responsible for the following expenses:

- Cost of advertising a hearing as specified in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87;
- Cost of removal of tree and stump, including hauling away of all debris, and proper filling of stump hole;
- Planting of sufficient replacement trees as described below;
- Cost of police traffic details, repair of street surface and road shoulder, protection and restoration of utility structures as may be required; and
- All other costs related to the removal and replanting.

All trees or tree parts (i.e. wood) removed from public trees are owned by the Town of Montague, with the exception of fallen leaves.

#### 6. Planting of Public Trees

No person except the Tree Warden may plant a public tree without written permission as described in Section 7.

No public trees, except those smaller species appropriate for planting under utilities, shall be planted within 10 lateral feet of an overhead electric utility wire.

Consistent with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, the Tree Warden may plant trees within 20 feet of the public right-of-way with the written consent of the adjoining land owner. Such trees shall not be considered public trees and the Property owner will own the tree immediately after planting and is responsible for the maintenance for the lifetime of the tree. The Tree Warden may require a one-time cost share for the expense of the tree.

Any public tree planted on property owned by the Town of Montague shall become the property of the Town.

#### 7. Permission for Pruning or Trimming Public Trees

The Tree Warden may, without a hearing, grant written permission to trim or prune portions of public trees.

In cases of emergency, the Tree Warden may, without a hearing, grant written permission to trim or excavate within the drip line of a public tree.



An emergency is defined as an unforeseen occurrence, which requires immediate action to avoid or reduce significant injury or damage to persons or property.

If the applicant proposes to trim or prune or excavate within the dripline of a public tree, and if, in the opinion of the Tree Warden, the proposed work will drastically affect the health, beauty, structural stability, or safety of the tree, the Tree Warden may consider the proposed work to have the same effect as the removal of the tree. In these cases, the Tree Warden may either order the removal of the tree, or allow the tree to remain, provided that it does not present an imminent hazard. In either case, appropriate replacement plantings must be provided by the applicant.

Nothing contained in this bylaw shall prohibit the Tree Warden from refusing to permit the cutting, trimming or removal of non-hazardous trees.

#### 8. Replacement of Public Trees

Public trees shall not be removed for a private purpose without suitable compensation to the Town for replacements. The value of existing public trees is to be calculated on an inch-by-inch replacement basis. Replacements shall be at least two-inch trunk diameter, nursery grown stock. The Tree Warden may, at their discretion, require larger replacements. For example, if an 18-inch diameter tree, measured four feet above grade is to be removed, the applicant must sufficiently reimburse the Town to provide for the purchase and planting of nine, two-inch diameter replacements. At the discretion of the Tree Warden, the applicant shall either:

- A. Arrange to plant suitable replacements using his/her own contractor, working to the Town's specifications, or
- B. Make a cash contribution to the Town to be used exclusively for the purchase and planting of replacements, and related expenses.

#### 9. Removal of Hazardous Trees

The Tree Warden may remove, without a public hearing, a tree that is determined by the Tree Warden, to be a Hazardous Tree. The Tree Warden shall maintain a photographic record of all hazardous tree removals.

The hazard determination shall be made based on an objective risk tree rating system such as the USDA Forest Service 12-point Risk Tree Rating system or the International Society of Arboriculture Hazard Tree Evaluation system. Hazardous trees shall be prioritized for pruning, removal, or otherwise minimizing the risk based on hazardous trees objectively presenting the most risk.

#### 10. Penalties and Enforcement

Any person who removes, or causes to be destroyed, a non-hazardous public shade tree without a duly advertised hearing, permission from the Tree Warden, and the approval of the Selectboard if an objection is made to the removal, shall pay a fine of up to \$500.

The following acts are prohibited with respect to Public Trees:

- Cutting, trimming, pruning, or damaging, or removing any part of a public tree, including roots within the drip line of the tree without or otherwise not in compliance with permission from the Tree Warden;
- Mutilating (e.g. driving in nails or screws), girdling, carving into, or topping a tree;
- Damage to the root system by trenching, digging, or other excavation;
- Tapping a publicly owned sugar maple;
- Removing any tree guard, tree stake, watering bag, or other device or material intended for the protection or to support the health of a public tree;

- Covering or obstructing any open land at the base of a public tree designed to permit access of air, water and fertilizer to the root system;
- Applying or sweeping road salt onto the CRZ of a public tree;
- Securing, fastening or running any rope, wire, holiday lighting, unprotected electrical installation, or other device or material to, around or through a public tree, or attaching any sign, poster, notice or other object to any public tree, except that the Tree Warden may authorize tying temporary signs to such trees as necessary;
- Causing or encouraging any fire or burning within the drip line of any public tree. This includes the grilling of food below a public tree, within the drip line, unless the grill is provided in a public park and is permanently installed under the tree;
- Paving over the tree belt and/or over the CRZ on public land;
- Parking a vehicle on the CRZ of a public tree;
- The application of chemicals including, but not limited to, pesticides and herbicides on public land.

This Bylaw may be enforced by the Tree Warden, Whoever violates any provision of this Bylaw may be penalized by a noncriminal disposition process as provided in G.L. c.40, §21D and the Town's non-criminal disposition by-law. If noncriminal disposition is elected, then the non-criminal fine for each such violation, if not otherwise specified, shall be:

First Offense:	\$100
Second Offense:	\$200
Third and	
Subsequent Offenses:	\$300

Each tree damaged shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

Whoever violates any provision of this Bylaw may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the district court. Except as may be otherwise provided by law and as the district court may see fit to impose, the maximum penalty for each violation or offense shall be three hundred dollars (\$300). Each tree damages shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

#### 11. Public Hazard and Abatement

Upon a determination by the Tree Warden that a private tree constitutes a public hazard, they shall give written order to the owner of the property upon which said hazard exists to remove, or otherwise mitigate the hazard posed by such tree. Any person aggrieved by an order of the Tree Warden made pursuant to this section may make a written request for a hearing. Said written request shall be received by the Tree Warden within five business days of receipt of the Tree Warden's order. After such hearing, the Tree Warden may affirm, rescind or modify the order. Failure to request a hearing or comply with such written order within fifteen days thereafter is a violation of this section, and the Tree Warden may assess monetary penalties as set forth above and/or seek enforcement through a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### 12. Interaction with Other Laws

This Bylaw is intended to further the objectives of and to act in concert with any existing federal, state, or local laws concerning public trees, including but not limited to the provisions of Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or restrict Town officials whatsoever from acting in accordance with such laws.

#### 13. Severability

Should any part or provision of this bylaw be declared invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the bylaw as a whole or any part thereof other than the part held to be invalid.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE AS PRINTED IN THE HANDOUT**

**ARTICLE 29. MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend Section 7 of Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, by creating a new Montague Tree Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, as shown in Article 29 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and to establish an annual spending limit of \$5,000 for said Montague Tree Fund revolving fund, and 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 Selectboard, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase the limit for that fiscal year only.

Section 7: Revolving Funds

- (c) 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 Expenses</u>
Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. SARA Title III Committee)	SARA Title III Comm	Fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills	For the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills
<b>Montague Tree Fund</b>	<b>Tree Warden</b>	<b>Fees received under the Public Tree Protection Bylaw</b>	<b>Tree planting and maintenance consistent with the Public Tree Protection Bylaw</b>

- (d) 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.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
October 16, 2021**

According to the foregoing warrant the legal voters met at the Franklin Count Technical School on Saturday, October 16, 2021 when the meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM when checker Wendy Bogusz announced the presence of a quorum. Seventy-One, (71), Town Meeting Members were in attendance while twenty-four, (24), were excused and twenty-five, (25), were no shows.

Due to COVID 19 the body met under a tent where staff, town meeting members and the public could meet while social distancing and wearing masks. The weather was partly sunny, warm and humid, but windy.

Moderator Chris Collins led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Officers Return was read and the Preliminary Motions were read and passed unanimously.

Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau swore in all new town meeting members and newly re-elected town meeting members from the June Town Election.

The meeting was adjourned without day at 12:25 P.M.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
October 16, 2021**

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 Franklin County Technical School outdoor tent, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 10:00 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 raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$13,367.33, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying a prior year bill of the WPCF, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(WPCF Request)

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$29,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2022 Dispatch Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Dispatch Request)

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,300, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2022 Finance Committee budget to allow for clerical assistance, including but not limited to take minutes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Finance Committee Request)

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of repaying the Town for part of the \$39,800 supplemental appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Airport Budget voted as Article 10 at the February 25, 2021 Special Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Airport Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$7,719.12, or any other amount, which represents the net premium paid to the Town upon the sale of the Town's \$1,812,000 DPW Facility Bond Anticipation Note dated September 23, 2020, to pay costs of the DPW facility authorized by the vote of the Town passed March 29, 2018, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project by such amount, as set forth in M.G.L. c. 44, §20 or any other applicable law, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Accountant 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 \$12,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable related equipment for MCTV, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Accountant Request)

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$135,000 or any other amount for the purpose of implementing the Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Director of Planning 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 \$200,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of completing the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Director of Planning and Town Administrator 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 \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding evidence-based substance abuse prevention programming with a focus on families and children, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard 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 \$114,382, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and setting up a robotic sewer camera, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (DPW Superintendent 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 \$200,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Finance Committee Request)

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the following sums, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	250,000
OPEB Trust Fund	250,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>500,000</b>

(Finance Committee Request)

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unused \$102,000 borrowing authority as voted pursuant to Article #28 of the May 17, 2016 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$385,000 for the purpose of abating hazardous and asbestos containing materials within the Strathmore Mill Complex, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Accountant Request)

Given under our hands this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman  
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Matthew Lord

Franklin, ss      Montague, MA      September 27, 2021

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 fourteen days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
October 16, 2021, 10AM  
MOTIONS**

**ARTICLE 1. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$13,367.33 for the purpose of paying a prior year bill of the WPCF, said sum to be raised from WPCF Retained Earnings.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 2. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$29,000 for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2022 Dispatch Budget, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 3. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,300 for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2022 Finance Committee budget to allow for clerical assistance to take minutes, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 4. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate \$12,000 for the purpose of repaying the Town for part of the \$39,800 supplemental appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Airport Budget, said sum to be raised from Airport Retained Earnings.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 5. MOVED:** that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,719.12 to pay the costs of the DPW facility authorized by the vote of the Town passed March 29, 2018, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project by such amount, as set forth in M.G.L. c. 44, §20 or any other applicable law, said sum to be raised from Fund Balance Reserved for Excluded Debt.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 6. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable related equipment for MCTV and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from PEG Access Funds.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 7. MOVED:** that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$135,000 for the purpose of implementing the Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 8. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of completing the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 9. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of funding evidence-based substance abuse prevention programming with a focus on serving families and children, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund.

**PASSED/TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 10. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$114,382 for the purpose of purchasing and setting up a robotic sewer camera, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 11. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from WPCF Retained Earnings.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ARTICLE 12. MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	250,000
OPEB Trust Fund	250,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>500,000</b>

**PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 13. MOVED:** That the Town vote to rescind the unused \$102,000 borrowing authority as voted pursuant to Article #28 of the May 17, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

**AMENDED ARTICLE:** That the Town vote to rescind the unused \$102,000 borrowing authority as voted pursuant to Article #28 of the May 7, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

**PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE AS AMENDED**

TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
TOWN ELECTION							
MONTAGUE, MA				Tuesday, June 22, 2021			
According to the forgoing warrant, the legal votes of the six precincts of the Town of Montague met in their respective polling places and cast votes for the following named offices of which the following is the total vote as returned by the Precinct Officers.							
<div><div>-</div><div>TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST</div></div>							
Turnout by precinct							
Precinct 1		126				10.21%	
Precinct 2		64				5.92%	
Precinct 3		63				6.62%	
Precinct 4		81				7.78%	
Precinct 5		40				4.18%	
Precinct 6		45				4.75%	
Total		419				6.74%	
SELECTBOARD, for THREE years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	113	55	53	69	29	41	360
write ins	2	3	1	0	1	0	7
BLANKS	11	6	9	12	10	4	52
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
MODERATOR, for THREE years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
CHRISTOPHER COLLINS	108	54	55	71	29	40	357
write ins	1	4	1	2	2	1	11
BLANKS	17	6	7	8	9	4	51
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
ASSESSOR, for THREE years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
ANN M. CENZANO	109	57	54	72	34	39	365
write ins	1	3	0	1	1	1	7
BLANKS	16	4	9	8	5	5	47
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419



ASSESSOR, for ONE year							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Ann Fisk	20	3	6	3	1		33
James Martineau		1					1
David Jensen	2	2					4
Deb Bourbeau		6	5	11	1	2	25
Chris Collins			1				1
Pam Hanold					1		1
Jon S. Nelson					1		1
Theresa Miner					1		1
Mike Nelson					1		1
Clifford Spatcher	2						2
Ron Belunas	1						1
Jean Coyne	1						1
Sam Lovejoy	1						1
BLANKS	99	52	51	67	34	43	346
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
BOARD OF HEALTH, for THREE years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL	46	19	21	30	7	10	133
MELANIE K. ZAMOJSKI	62	42	40	45	33	34	256
write ins	1	0					1
BLANKS	17	3	2	6		1	29
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for THREE years							Vote for THREE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
PATRICIA PERHAM	95	46	45	57	21	35	299
GRETCHEN WETHERBY	81	46	41	52	24	33	277
ELIZABETH SWIHART	70	36	30	45	28	27	236
KATHLEEN BERRY	50	21	26	29	8	15	149
write ins		0			2	0	2
BLANKS	82	43	47	60	37	25	294
TOTALS	378	192	189	243	120	135	1257
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for TWO years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
LYDIA IEVINS	105	56	47	68	33	39	348
write ins					2	1	3
BLANKS	21	8	16	13	5	5	68
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419

MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY, for FIVE years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JUDITH L. HASTINGS	110	56	52	69	32	39	358
write ins					2		2
BLANKS	16	8	11	12	6	6	59
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, for THREE years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
BARBARA D. KUKLEWICZ	110	59	55	70	32	39	365
write ins					1		1
BLANKS	16	5	8	11	7	6	53
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEM., (Non-Veteran) for THREE Years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Jeff Singleton		2					2
Charles Moore		1					1
Rich Kuklewicz			1				1
Mike Nelson					1		1
Mason Whiting						1	1
Ann Fisk	1						1
Jamie Berger	1						1
BLANKS	124	61	62	81	39	44	411
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEM., (Veteran) for THREE Years						Vote for ONE	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
ALBERT L. CUMMINGS, JR.	103	56	55	72	32	37	355
write ins		1			1		2
BLANKS	23	7	8	9	7	8	62
TOTALS	126	64	63	81	40	45	419
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years						Vote for not more than SEVEN	
PRECINCT 1							
LINDA ACKERMAN	106						
JUDITH LOREI	100						
MARLYN REYNOLDS	93						
CLIFFORD SPATCHER	92						

<b>MALCOM CLARK</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>PATRICK PEZZATI</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Susan Dorais</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Chris Pinardi</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Mike Naughton</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Joe Dagilus</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Josh Lively</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kathy Shermahorn</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Natalie Spatcher</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Ron Belunas</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chris Williams</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BLANKS</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>882</b>

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years**

**Vote for not more than SEVEN**

<b>PRECINCT 2</b>	
<b>STEPHEN CONSTANTINE</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>DEBORAH FRENKEL</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>JAMES MARTINEAU</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>DAVID JENSEN</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>MICHAEL KETCHAM</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>MEGHAN SMITH</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Michael Naughton</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Jennifer Tobey</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Josh Lively</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Robert Sojka</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BLANKS</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>448</b>

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years**

**Vote for not more than SEVEN**

<b>PRECINCT 3</b>	
<b>SHANNON MARTINEAU</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>CAROL GLOSKI</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>JOYCE PHILLIPS</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>RACHEL STOLER</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Mary Jane Prasol</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Walter Ramsey</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sharon Lamonakis</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BLANKS</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>441</b>

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for two years		Vote for not more than ONE
<b>PRECINCT 3</b>		
Susan SanSoucie	1	
BLANKS	62	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	
TOWN MEETING MEMBER, for THREE years		Vote for not more than SEVEN
<b>PRECINCT 4</b>		
DAVID THOMPSON	69	
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	64	
JENNIFER WARYAS	60	
David Harmon	10	
Eric Damkoehler	10	
Jay Limatainen	1	
James White	1	
Case Gallagher	1	
Robert Audley	1	
Nick Licata	1	
Maddox Sprengel	4	
James Dolan	1	
BLANKS	344	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>567</b>	
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years		Vote for not more than SEVEN
<b>PRECINCT 5</b>		
STANLEY DOBOSZ	34	
RICHARD RUTH	30	
BRIAN BROWNELL	29	
MARIA VICTORIA MAILLO DE AGUILERA	32	
Michael Nelson	2	
Colin Mitchell	1	
Jennifer Waryas	5	
Francia Wisnewski	2	
Joe Miner	1	
Mrs. Joe Miner	1	
Christopher Boutwell	1	
Patricia Perham	1	
Jeff Singleton	1	
Lisa Davol	1	

BLANKS	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280</b>

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for TWO years**

**Vote for not more than ONE**

<b>PRECINCT 5</b>	
Ruth Curry	1
Steve Hall	1
Stephen Cobb	1
Judith Hastings	1
BLANKS	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for ONE year**

**Vote for not more than ONE**

<b>PRECINCT 5</b>	
Ryne Hagar	1
Danny Dodge	1
Judith Hastings	1
BLANKS	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years**

**Vote for not more than SEVEN**

<b>PRECINCT 6</b>	
JAMES MUSSONI	34
LAURA HEISIG	41
JESSIE GRONEMAN	37
ANNABEL LEVINE	36
IAN TAPSCOTT	37
MARY K. MATTIACE	38
Kristin McLaughlin	3
Brent Pitcher	6
Fred Billiel	2
Fern Katz	1
BLANKS	80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>315</b>

This is a return of the total votes cast in the various precincts and returned to the Board of Registrars by the precinct clerks for the Town of Montague.

**BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Debra A. Bourbeau

Stanley Dobosz

Elizabeth Irving

Anne Stuart

**Weather: Sunny, high 70s**

**Voter turnout: 419 of 6213 6.74%**

**Attest:**

Debra A. Bourbeau, Montague Town Clerk

## GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF GILL

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE for THREE years**

**Vote for not more than ONE**

PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Valeria Smith	93	52	43	60	31	33	312
Write Ins		1	1	0	1	0	3
BLANKS	33	11	19	21	8	12	104
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>419</b>

### REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE for THREE years**

**Vote for not more than TWO**

PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Jennifer Waryas	12	2		2	5	3	24
Linda Emond		1					1
Wendy Bogusz		1					1
Kathy Lynch	1	3					4
April Reipold		2					2
Joanna Boody		2					2
Mistell Hannah		1					1
Jen Audley	1	1					2
Carrie Lapointe			1				1
Erik Kreps			1				1
J. Hastings			1				1
Chad Cadran	2		1	1			4
Arthur Girard			1				1
Leslie Cogswell				1			1
Michael Nelson				1			1
Emma McCumber					1		1
Ruth Curry					2		2
Ryne Hager					2		2
David Blair					2		2
Michael Naughton					2		2
Steve Cobb					1		1
Kathleen Berry					1		1

Melanie Ames Zamojski					1		1
Lydia levins					1		1
Denise Aiken						2	2
Jackie Lynch						1	1
Jessie Groneman						1	1
Jjm Martineau						1	1
Andrew Linderman	2						2
Francia Wisnewski	1						1
BLANKS	233	115	121	157	62	82	770
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>838</b>
<b>Attest:</b>							
Debra A. Bourbeau, Montague Town Clerk							

TOWN OF MONTAGUE																																			
TOWN ELECTION																																			
MONTAGUE, MA				Tuesday, September 21, 2021																															
According to the forgoing warrant, the legal votes of the six precincts of the Town of Montague met in their respective polling places and cast votes for the following named offices of which the following is the total vote as returned by the Precinct Officers.																																			
<div><div>TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST</div><div>Turnout by precinct</div><table><tr><td>Precinct 1</td><td>223</td><td></td><td>18.04%</td></tr><tr><td>Precinct 2</td><td>91</td><td></td><td>8.37%</td></tr><tr><td>Precinct 3</td><td>95</td><td></td><td>9.92%</td></tr><tr><td>Precinct 4</td><td>112</td><td></td><td>10.62%</td></tr><tr><td>Precinct 5</td><td>81</td><td></td><td>8.27%</td></tr><tr><td>Precinct 6</td><td>69</td><td></td><td>7.30%</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td>671</td><td>10.72%</td></tr></table></div>								Precinct 1	223		18.04%	Precinct 2	91		8.37%	Precinct 3	95		9.92%	Precinct 4	112		10.62%	Precinct 5	81		8.27%	Precinct 6	69		7.30%	Total		671	10.72%
Precinct 1	223		18.04%																																
Precinct 2	91		8.37%																																
Precinct 3	95		9.92%																																
Precinct 4	112		10.62%																																
Precinct 5	81		8.27%																																
Precinct 6	69		7.30%																																
Total		671	10.72%																																
SELECTBOARD, for TWO years							Vote for ONE																												
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL																												
Matthew Lord	99	9	27	36	13	9	193																												
Joanna Mae Boody	39	29	17	31	42	34	192																												
Mark E. Fairbrother	52	20	30	20	9	17	148																												
David E. Jensen	31	33	20	25	17	9	135																												
Write-In's	2	0					2																												
Blanks		0	1				1																												
TOTALS	223	91	95	112	81	69	671																												

Town of Montague  
Combining Balance Sheet  
Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>	<b>Enterprise Fund</b>	<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash	3,644,248	1,120,651	443,170	1,020,261	4,179,725	10,408,055
Receivables:						
Property Taxes	1,308,447					1,308,447
Excise Taxes	262,688					262,688
Tax Liens	313,820			171,387		485,207
Tax Foreclosures	277,549			1,261		278,810
Departmental/Other	101,974			189,664		291,638
Allowance For Abatements	(776,845)					(776,845)
Due Froms	654	96,895		5,662		103,211
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,132,535</b>	<b>1,217,546</b>	<b>443,170</b>	<b>1,388,235</b>	<b>4,179,725</b>	<b>12,260,504</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Warrants Payable	171,394	77,510	50,044	74,877		373,825
Accrued Payroll	123,713	12,448		17,086		153,247
Withholdings Payable	65,608					65,608
Due Tos	102,059					102,059
Other Liabilities	66,465	9,584		50		76,099
Deferred Revenue:	1,386,926			362,312		1,749,238
Notes Payable			3,580,000			3,580,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,916,165</b>	<b>99,542</b>	<b>3,630,044</b>	<b>454,325</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,100,076</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>						
Reserved For Cont. Approp.	553,543	1,118,004	(3,186,874)	466,287		(1,049,040)
Reserved For Expenditures	283,200			180,000		463,200
Reserved for Principal	7,719				184,628	192,347
Undesignated Fund Balance	2,371,908			287,623	3,995,097	6,654,628
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>3,216,370</b>	<b>1,118,004</b>	<b>(3,186,874)</b>	<b>933,910</b>	<b>4,179,725</b>	<b>6,261,135</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,132,535</b>	<b>1,217,546</b>	<b>443,170</b>	<b>1,388,235</b>	<b>4,179,725</b>	<b>12,361,211</b>



Town of Montague  
Combining Income Statement  
Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>	<b>Enterprise Fund</b>	<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b>Total Memo Only</b>
<b>Revenues</b>						
General Government	22,878,371	1,185,693			589,046	24,653,110
Public Safety	225,055	440,833			4,503	670,391
Education					1,110	1,110
Public Works	326,213	539,921	9,644	2,333,864	310	3,209,952
Human Services	85,836	609,084				694,920
Culture/Recreation	489	110,235			461	111,185
Intergovernmental			508,094	-		508,094
Miscellaneous				244		244
Transfers In	50,847	77,150	820	386,324	596,394	1,111,535
Total Revenues/OFS	23,566,811	2,962,916	518,558	2,720,432	1,191,824	30,960,541
<b>Expenditures</b>						
General Government	1,226,190	617,030	-		57,500	1,900,720
Public Safety	2,126,238	520,552			3,903	2,650,693
Education	11,987,724				2,750	11,990,474
Public Works	2,110,979	576,638	5,063,157	1,602,667		9,353,441
Human Services	248,352	641,742				890,094
Culture/Recreation	571,530	66,905				638,435
Debt	1,057,874			495,061		1,552,935
Intergovernmental	205,769			-		205,769
Miscellaneous	2,749,944			407,051		3,156,995
Transfers Out	858,978	847		-	251,710	1,111,535
Total Expenditures/OFU	23,143,578	2,423,714	5,063,157	2,504,779	315,863	33,451,091
Net Revenues - Expenditures	423,233	539,202	(4,544,599)	215,653	875,961	(2,490,550)
Beginning Fund Balance	2,793,137	578,802	1,357,725	718,257	3,303,764	8,751,685
Ending Fund Balance	3,216,370	1,118,004	(3,186,874)	933,910	4,179,725	6,261,135

Town of Montague  
Appropriation Analysis FY2021

Name	FY2021 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
GENERAL FUND								
Town Meeting	2,090				2,090	1,404	686	
Selectmen	192,014			6,000	198,014	189,784	8,230	
Finance Committee	1,000				1,000	280	720	
Reserve Fund	60,000		50,000	(68,500)	41,500		41,500	
Town Accountant	81,934				81,934	81,589	345	
Assessors	195,422				195,422	169,249	26,173	
Collector/Treasurer	239,560				239,560	223,198	16,362	
Town Counsel	90,000		(10,000)		80,000	51,028	28,972	
Information Technology	58,100		16,000		74,100	71,281	2,819	
Shared Costs	72,759		2,000		74,759	65,336	9,423	
Town Clerk	167,001				167,001	163,416	3,585	
Planning	121,187				121,187	119,134	2,053	
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,200				1,200	215	985	
MEDIC	5,000				5,000	4,815	185	
Building Utilities	141,320		(35,000)		106,320	85,460	20,860	
Police	1,705,537				1,705,537	1,650,532	55,005	
Dispatch	311,584				311,584	286,236	25,348	
Building Inspector	141,444				141,444	139,844	1,600	
Sealer of Weights/Measures	2,750				2,750	2,750	-	
Emergency Management	5,765				5,765	2,765	3,000	
Animal Control	20,414				20,414	20,141	273	
Forest Warden	1,710				1,710	1,710	-	
Tree Warden	20,285				20,285	19,260	1,025	
Education	11,987,724				11,987,724	11,987,724	-	
DPW	1,465,498				1,465,498	1,375,180	90,318	
Snow & Ice	278,050				278,050	161,279	116,771	
Solid Waste	598,886				598,886	564,292	34,594	
EV Charging Stations	7,000				7,000	3,228	3,772	
Cemeteries	7,000				7,000	7,000	-	

Town of Montague  
Appropriation Analysis FY2021

Name	FY2021 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
Board of Health	135,948				135,948	135,821	127	
Council on Aging	46,980				46,980	38,774	8,206	
Library	426,950				426,950	426,944	6	
Parks & Recreation	143,539				143,539	143,295	244	
Historical Commission	500				500	500	-	
War Memorials	1,300				1,300	792	508	
Debt Service	1,128,500				1,128,500	1,057,874	70,626	
State Assessments	94,593				94,593	94,593	-	
Other Intergovernmental	111,179				111,179	111,176	3	
Employee Benefits	2,298,057		(60,000)		2,238,057	2,116,133	121,924	
Insurance	96,000			12,500	108,500	108,176	324	
Transfers to Other Funds	221,964			637,014	858,978	858,978	-	
<u>Special Articles</u>					-		-	
#1 5/5/12 Repair 38 Ave A		12,099			12,099		-	12,099
#10 3/2/17 Stabilize Strathmore		3,352			3,352		-	3,352
#44 5/6/17 Millers Falls Comm.		954			954		-	954
#2 2/19/19 Town Hall Roofs		20,830			20,830		-	20,830
#13 5/3/14 AssessPro Software		4,750			4,750		3,796	954
#15 5/4/19 Hydroelectric Valuation		50,000			50,000		-	50,000
#12 6/13/20 Utility Valuation	16,250				16,250	16,250	-	
#27 5/5/18 Town Map Storage		3,902			3,902		-	3,902
#23 5/4/19 Electronic Tabulators		15,619			15,619	15,619	-	
#7 10/10/18 Subdivision Plans		3,500			3,500	2,641	-	859
#8 10/10/18 Technical Review		12,250			12,250		-	12,250
#25 5/4/19 In Park Signs		6,419			6,419	4,652	-	1,767
#15 6/13/20 Fix Walking Paths	37,260				37,260	18,200	2,970	16,090
#22 5/4/19 Police Equipment		14,282			14,282	5,799	-	8,483
#22 5/3/14 School Security		3,026			3,026	3,026	-	
#15 5/5/18 Hillcrest Entry		1,775			1,775	1,775	-	

Town of Montague  
Appropriation Analysis FY2021

Name	FY2021 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
#15 5/5/18 GFMS/TFHS BMS		72,000			72,000	72,000	-	
#16 5/5/18 Sheffield Intercom		30,000			30,000		-	30,000
#17 5/5/18 Hillcrest Intercom		25,000			25,000		-	25,000
#11 5/4/19 TFHS Sidewalks		76,670			76,670	76,670	-	
#13 6/13/20 Ctrl Office Canopy	10,000				10,000		-	10,000
#13 6/13/20 Hillcrest Roof	10,000				10,000	6,703	-	3,297
#13 6/13/20 GMRSD Bldgs Study	21,953	-			21,953	15,000	-	6,953
#20 5/4/19 DPW Discretionary		34,703			34,703	34,703	-	
#13 10/2/19 Town Hall Awning		1,011			1,011	1,010	1	
#15 6/13/20 DPW Equipment	80,000				80,000	69,889	-	10,111
#4 10/13/20 Shea Fire Alarm			4,000		4,000	3,825	175	
#8 9/25/01 Cap Burn Dump		113,415		50,000	163,415	139,000	-	24,415
#10 10/13/20 Burn Dump			82,000		82,000		-	82,000
#11 10/13/20 BOH PY Bill			40		40	40	-	
#15 6/13/20 Sr Ctr Chimney	10,000				10,000	9,300	-	700
#2 10/13/20 Sr Ctr Roof			50,000		50,000	800	-	49,200
#23 5/7/16 Carnegie Roof		2,505			2,505		-	2,505
#24 5/7/16 MC Library Roof		736			736	736	-	
#25 5/6/17 Carnegie Air Exchange		5,000			5,000		-	5,000
#26 5/6/17 Carnegie Roof		12,710			12,710	10,675	-	2,035
#27 5/6/17 Library Bldgs Study		45,000			45,000	9,000	-	36,000
#24 5/4/19 Carnegie Doors		10,000			10,000	9,000	-	1,000
#25 5/4/19 MC Library Moisture		22,050			22,050		-	22,050
#26 5/4/19 MF Library Moisture		5,600			5,600		-	5,600
#29 5/6/17 Unity Park Walkways		15,000			15,000		-	15,000
#11 10/2/19 Fieldhouse Roof		78,692			78,692	(680)	-	79,372
#3 10/13/20 MC Park Survey			5,000		5,000		-	5,000
Total General Fund	22,971,607	702,850	94,040	637,014	24,405,511	23,140,575	718,158	546,778

Town of Montague  
Appropriation Analysis FY2021

Name	FY2021 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
<u>AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND</u>								
Airport Commission	55,694		39,800		95,494	95,494	-	
Total Airport Enterprise Fund	55,694	-	39,800	-	95,494	95,494	-	-
<u>WPCF ENTERPRISE FUND</u>								
WPCF	1,585,763	-			1,585,763	1,480,091	105,672	
Highway Subsidiary	50,800				50,800	27,083	23,717	
Debt	520,551				520,551	495,061	25,490	
Employee Benefits	291,954				291,954	222,372	69,582	
Transfers to Other Funds	-				-		-	
<u>Special Articles</u>								
#7 10/29/14 Lab Software		20,000			20,000		-	20,000
#17 5/4/19 Composting Study		25,500			25,500		-	25,500
#18 5/4/19 Millers Falls I & I		2,613			2,613		-	2,613
#19 5/4/19 TS Pump Stations		11,800			11,800	11,512	-	288
#10 10/2/19 MF Infiltration		39,753			39,753		-	39,753
#7 3/5/20 Oil Tank/Vault	51,000	75,000			126,000	62,900	-	63,100
#14 6/13/20 Fine Bubble Diffuser	100,000				100,000	12,081	-	87,919
#14 6/13/20 Sludge Pump	40,000				40,000	40,000	-	
#5 2/25/21 Chlorination System			215,000		215,000	3,008	-	211,992
#6 2/25/21 De-Watering Press			70,000		70,000	55,177	-	14,823
	2,640,068	174,666	285,000	-	3,099,734	2,409,285	224,461	465,988

Town of Montague  
Special Revenue Fund Activity  
Year Ended June 30, 2021

Name	Balance 7/1/2020	Receipts	Expended	Balance 7/15/2021
Police Extra Duty	(37,150)	330,972	342,074	(48,252)
Ins Reimb < \$20K	40,799	56,119	95,142	1,776
Chapter 90	-	(22,339)	521,692	499,353
State Personnel Grant	(20,000)	20,000		-
Financial Planning Grant	15,000			15,000
Financial Policies Grant	20,000		20,000	-
ARPA Grant		429,769		429,769
Greenhouse Mobility		5,000	685	4,316
FlowerPower		3,682	3,682	-
Hydro Flower			537	(537)
Early Voting Grant	2,790			2,790
CTCL Grant		5,000	4,741	259
Community Compact Grant	19,943	(20,000)	(57)	0
Wetlands Protection	18,024	1,163	143	19,043
Agricultural Commission	6			6
River Culture Grant	14,449	3,820	8,988	9,282
ConComm SRRHMF Gifts	6,000	5,000		11,000
MVP Planning FY17	20,310			20,310
Green Communities	7,182	19,615	26,797	-
CDBG FCRHA	-	419,623	419,623	-
Complete Streets	(94,833)	94,833		-
MC Rd Flooding	(19,647)	19,647		-
Comm Dev Discretionary	53,732		5,043	48,689
Cultural District	5,785		4,406	1,379
Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge	(32,856)	77,150	13,582	30,712
Millers Riverfront Access	(18,196)	23,146	4,950	-
FRCOG Hazard Mitigation	(7,336)	7,336		-
Microgrid Grant	2,897		2,897	-
MassDOT Share Streets		35,300	35,222	78
Resurgent Places		6,400	4,053	2,347
GF Farmers Market		1,150	1,150	-
USDA Cruiser Grant		30,100	30,100	-
Dispatch Incentive Grant	(1,437)	25,313	23,877	-
911 Grant	(206)	462	255	-
Byrne Grant			29,810	(29,810)
K-9 Vehicle Donations	12,075			12,075
Comfort Dog	590	150	358	382
Drug Forfeiture	2,157	252	800	1,609
K-9 Donations	27,492	3,175	3,494	27,173

Town of Montague  
Special Revenue Fund Activity  
Year Ended June 30, 2021

Name	Balance 7/1/2020	Receipts	Expended	Balance 7/15/2021
EMPG Grant	-	5,552	5,552	-
Wood Bank	(1,132.98)			(1,132.98)
Memorial Tree	1,504		580	924
MF Tree Planting	250			250
Transportation Infrastructure	60	13	47	26
Eversource Flail Lease			24,372	(24,372)
Recycling Dividends Program	14,911	8,400	16,186	7,124
FAA CARES Grant	(3,710)	24,916	21,206	-
MIIA Safety Grant		5,477	5,477	-
COVID-19 FEMA/CARES		549,460	622,359	(72,900)
FRCOG COVID-19	379	1,506	379	1,506
FEMA COVID Vaccinations			7,278	(7,278)
State COA Grant	7,652	23,052	7,283	23,421
COA Memorial Gifts	7,958	4,673	4,443	8,188
Program Income	27			27
State Aid to Library	60,947	17,254	15,073	63,128
Library Traprock Grant	237		237	-
Library Preservation Grant		30,000		30,000
Library Donations	39,837	788	462	40,164
Skatepark Donation	2,114		(0)	2,114
Montague Center Park		5,295		5,295
Cultural Council	6,856	7,507	7,002	7,361
War Memorial Grant	9,898	145		10,043
PEG Access Funds		12,500	12,500	-
Battlefield Grant	-	11,171	11,171	-
<hr/>				
Total Fund 225	181,708	1,924,793	1,406,742	699,758
Sale of Cemetery Lots	3,800	-		3,800
Sale of Real Estate	139,206			139,206
<hr/>				
Total Fund 226	143,006	-	-	143,006
Recreation Revolving	(10,145)	25,575	20,460	(5,029)
<hr/>				
Total Fund 227	(10,145)	25,575	20,460	(5,029)
Colle Operations	282,875	103,264	59,443	326,697

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE**  
**CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**  
**6/30/2021**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>7/1/2019</u>	<u>Bonds</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Transfer</u> <u>In/Out</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>6/30/20</u>
MF Industrial Park	15,360					- 15,360
Canal District	(61,472)		111,525		136,581	(86,528)
Stabilize Strathmore	(175,988)		250,000		357,012	(283,000)
DPW Facility	1,530,632		10,465		2,859,415	(1,318,318)
Airport	49,192		146,569		1,710,148	(1,514,387)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,357,724</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>518,559</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,063,156</b>	<b>(3,186,873)</b>



TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
DEBT STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

	Outstanding 07/01/20	Issued FY2021	Retired FY2021	Outstanding 06/30/21	Interest FY2021
LONG TERM DEBT					
Water Pollution Control Facility	8,258,772		406,615	7,852,157	248,098
Town	11,507,590	5,785,000	931,049	16,361,541	409,772
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	19,766,362	5,785,000	1,337,664	24,213,698	657,870
SHORT TERM DEBT					
Tax Anticipation Notes	-	4,500,000	4,500,000	-	8,153
Bond Anticipation Notes		1,812,000		1,812,000	
Grant Anticipation Notes	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,550
Other Short Term Debt		1,518,000		1,518,000	
TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT	250,000	8,080,000	4,750,000	3,580,000	9,703

BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED

Long-term debt authorizations that have not been issued or rescinded as of June 30, 2021 are as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DPW Facility	2,858,762
Strathmore Abatement	385,000
Airport	1,518,000
	<u>\$ 4,761,762</u>

TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
REVENUE DETAIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

**GENERAL FUND**

General Revenue

Taxes (net of refunds)	
Personal Property	\$ 2,668,533
Real Estate	16,999,711
Tax Liens Redeemed	50,453
Tax Foreclosures	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	785,960
Boat Excise	1,362
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	155,020
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	8,860
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	6,319
Trailer Park Taxes	4,680
Meals Tax	48,185
Cannabis Sales Tax	-
Total Taxes	<u>20,729,083</u>

State Revenues

State Owned Land	229,400
Abatements to Veterans/Elderly	9,036
Unrestricted Local Aid	1,521,176
Court Fines	300
Comm MA Motor Vehicle Infractions	2,416
Other State Revenue	-
Veteran's Benefits (State Reimb)	<u>55,544</u>
Total State Revenue	<u>1,817,872</u>

Other

FCTS SRO Reimb	56,966
GMRSD SRO Reimb	25,125
Earnings on Investments	2,973
Miscellaneous Revenue	15,084
Kearsarge Rental	162,586
Cannabis Impact Fee	-
Premium from Sale of Debt	7,719
Transfers from Other Funds	50,847
WPCF Overhead to Town	<u>51,506</u>
Total Other	<u>372,806</u>

Departmental Revenue

Board of Selectmen	12,119
Board of Assessors	4,480
Treasurer/Collector	22,623
Town Clerk	23,498

TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
REVENUE DETAIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

**GENERAL FUND**

General Revenue, continued

Planning & Conservation	1,781
Zoning Board of Appeals	500
Dispatch	17,692
Building	146,149
Sealer of Weights & Measures	4,965
Dog Licenses	6,624
Hwy - Trash	322,535
Hwy - Other	3,285
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	393
Board of Health	23,630
Council on Aging - Gill Reimbursement	6,662
Libraries	489
Total Departmental Revenue	<u>647,050</u>
 Total General Fund Revenue	 <u><u>\$ 23,566,811</u></u>

**AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND**

Airport PILOTS	\$ 12,232
Rentals/Leases	27,377
Investment Income	29
Other Fees	68,930
Transfer from General Fund (Tax Share)	6,094
Total Airport Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 114,662</u></u>

**WPCF ENTERPRISE FUND**

Tax Liens Redeemed	\$ 3,444
Sewer Liens Redeemed	112,118
Interest & Demands	15,558
Industrial Sewer Fees	370,134
Residential Sewer Fees	1,709,956
Septage Fees	49,121
Bond Premiums	-
MA CEC Grant	-
Sewer Permits	105
Investment Income	3
Miscellaneous Receipts	212
Transfer from WPCF Stabilization Fund	124,560
Transfer from General Fund (Tax Share)	220,559
Total WPCF Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 2,605,770</u></u>

## **AIRPORT**

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, overseen by the Airport Commission, completed multiple projects in 2021 totaling over two million dollars. Most notably, the long awaited and successful purchase of Pioneer Aviation, a 10.4 acre privately held property located on the south-west corner of the airport. Other notable achievements in 2021 include the final phase of LED field lighting changeover, and for the first time ever becoming self funding. In 2021 the airport employed 5 people, consisting of an Airport Manager, Operations Manager, and 3 part time grounds maintenance team members. Despite the COVID related slowdown in aviation activity, the facility totaled 39,500 +/- operations, of which 37% directly related to flight training and another 18% was passenger arrival or departure related. The newly installed solar canopy, located in the administration office parking lot off Millers Falls Road generated 34.14 Mwh of clean, renewable energy. Our electric vehicle charging stations dispensed 337 kWh of free, clean energy to users in 2021.

The Pioneer Aviation purchase, completed on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 has proven to be extremely beneficial to the airport and the aviation community. As predicted and expected, all revenues met or exceeded forecasts, generating enough to support the daily operations of the airport. Fuel sales, a critical component of any airport, exceeded predictions for 2021. Property improvements since the purchase include LED lighting installation, weatherproofing and loading dock repairs on the warehouse, and modern upgrades to the flight training and pilot lounge areas. A new, computerized fuel dispenser was designed and ordered with an expected summer 2022 installation date.

With the addition of the Operations Manager position in 2021, the airport manager was able to transition from a hands on role to a critical support one. The duties of the manager now include the business management of Pioneer Aviation, revenue forecasting, and in depth grant writing, among many others. A critical duty is to continue the positive growth of both internal and external sales. Internal, being land leases, tie downs, and hangar space while external includes attracting new fuel and based aircraft customers. Over the summer of 2021 a large, targeted marketing campaign resulted in the addition of two new based aircraft from other airports, and the sale of \$9,800 in aviation fuel. Users look for clean, well maintained, cost effective services and facilities, this is why Turners Falls Airport continues to see steady growth.

The intern / co-op student position continues to benefit the airport. The program in its fourth year now has resulted in a drastic reduction to the workload of the airport manager. Some of the duties for the students and the Operations Manager include but are not limited to snow removal, painting, mowing, grounds upkeep, lighting system repairs and LED upgrades, public relations, aircraft fueling, trash removal, vegetation management, and pavement maintenance.

Currently the Turners Falls Municipal Airport is home to 41 aircraft, an increase from 39 based aircraft in 2020. The airport is the home to Fly Pioneer Valley, a long term business offering all aspects of flight training. R.B. Gray Aircraft Maintenance continues to support the flying community with top notch repairs and service. The airport continues to have a strong work study program with the Franklin County Technical School, located next to the airfield. The school has on many occasions provided the airport with quality and cost effective work to maintain and improve the grounds and systems. In addition, the airport employs several students full time as part of the co-operational education program. The Airport Commission thanks the citizens of the Town of Montague for the support as the airport continues to thrive. The entire airport team is looking forward to a successful 2022 as the airport will see the return on investment from the Pioneer Aviation property purchase.

**Airport Commission:** Gary Collins, David Brule, Seth Rutherford, Max Pellerin, Joe Mazeski

**Airport Manager:** Bryan Camden

## **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Listed below are figures taken from the FY2021 Tax Recapitulation Sheet.

Total Appropriations	\$27,159,664.39
Offsets to Cherry Sheet	14,161.00
State Assessments	94,593.00
Overlay for abatements/exemptions	146,208.05
Court Judgment and Debt Expense	0.00

**Total to be Raised** **\$27,414,626.44**

### **Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources**

Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$ 1,849,672.00
Local Receipts	1,637,121.00
Enterprise funds	2,680,146.00
Free Cash	602,742.90
Other available funds	943,117.79
	<b><u>\$ 7,712,799.69</u></b>

**New Growth:** \$ 404,142.00

### **Taxable Valuation**

Real Property	\$844,667,939.00
Personal Property	\$111,691,150.00
<b>Total Taxable Valuation</b>	<b><u>\$956,359,089.00</u></b>

**Total Exempt Valuation** **\$156,017,414.00**

**Total Tax Levy:** **\$ 19,701,826.75**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul J. Emery, Chairman  
Ann M. Cenzano  
Ann E. Fisk  
Montague Board of Assessors

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

The Building Department received a steady flow of permit applications for 2021. Despite rising construction costs and material shortages, the amount of issued permits for 2021 maintained at the average of the last five years. There was a slight decline in gas permits decreasing from 65 in 2020 to 47 in 2021. Home Occupation permits increased with 43 issued in 2021, up from 25 in 2020.

The online permitting system is continuing to be an important asset in achieving our goal of 100% customer satisfaction.

We continue to strive for quality and timely customer service.

The majority of the permits that were issued were for renovations to existing buildings. The most common permits issued were for new roofs, insulation and window upgrades, and solar photovoltaic installations.

### **INCOME FROM PERMIT FEES-2021**

Building Permits	396	\$69,853.00
Gas Permits	47	\$2,785.00
Plumbing Permits	77	\$10,285.00
Electrical Permits	<u>181</u>	<u>\$17,455.00</u>
Total Construction Permits		701 \$100,378.00
Annual Inspections	31	\$1,240.00
Home Occupation Permits	<u>43</u>	<u>\$630.00</u>
TOTAL		<u>775 \$102,247.00</u>

William Ketchen  
Inspector of Buildings

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) met frequently throughout 2021 to hear and evaluate capital requests, and issue recommendations for funding to the Selectboard, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting. As with all things, the pandemic required creativity to ensure work was prioritized and completed in a safe fashion. With limited exceptions, the committee's meetings continued to be held remotely, though exceptions were made for site visits to town facilities, including full committee visits to the Hillcrest Elementary School and Water Pollution Control Facility.

A summary of capital requests recommended and advanced to Annual and Special Town Meeting in calendar year 2021 appears below. Among the projects and acquisitions, the most significant was the purchase of the Pioneer Aviation facilities by the Airport, a project largely paid for through state and federal grants, as well as new revenue streams associated with ownership of aviation mechanics bays, aviation fuel depot, and other assets rented to flight school operator for commercial storage.

<b>Special Town Meeting February 25, 2021</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
Pioneer Aviation Land Purchase	\$1,450,000
Pioneer Aviation Fuel Tank Upgrade	\$68,000
Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge Replacement	\$77,150
Chlorination Conversion	\$215,000
De-watering Press (four-year lease - \$260,000)	\$70,000

<b>Annual Town Meeting May 22, 2021</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
Phase II Environmental Study of 500 Avenue A (former DPW)	\$32,500
Six-Wheel Dump Truck with Plow / Sander (lease option \$55k x 5)	\$250,000
DPW Discretionary	\$100,000
Hillcrest Façade Repair	\$55,000
Sheffield/Admin Façade Repair	\$45,000
Sheffield/Admin Fire Alarm Modernization	\$90,000
TFHS tennis court repair & re-surfacing (89.7% Montague share)	\$56,511
Building Assessment and Capital Plan Development	\$50,000
Project and Bid Cost Overruns Fund	\$25,000
Unexpected Survey and Engineering Fund	\$25,000
Unsafe Unhealthy Building Fund	\$25,000

<b>Special Town Meeting October 12, 2021</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Recommended Appropriation</b>
Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project – supplemental appropriation	\$135,000
5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Replacement – supplemental appropriation	\$200,000
Robotic Sewer Camera	\$114,382

The full slate of projects addressed through appropriations shows the Town increased commitment and capacity to address capital needs, including bridge replacement and roadway projects that required only supplemental appropriations due to our increased success attracting state and federal grants.

The CIC notes that the Town is making considerable headway relative to the backlog of capital projects in Montague, but that there are numerous requests on the horizon. Recently completed facility assessments of the three town-owned library branches and two town-owned elementary schools revealed millions in pending expenses and suggest major building projects may soon be needed. Likewise, the Town sewer and stormwater collection system, the focus of ongoing regulatory oversight and requirements, will also present major capital expenses.

The CIC is working to shift the Town from a reactive to proactive approach to capital improvement. In addition to the above referenced building assessments, the Town commissioned a comprehensive study of its culvert infrastructure, which was completed by the FRCOG in 2021. We have also worked with the Town administrator to support his successful pursuit of funding for studies of municipal building roof maintenance and repair needs, and a pavement condition study. Both will be completed in 2022. All of these data sources will contribute to development of the Town's Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan, which is expected to be completed in 2022 and maintained from that time forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Garrison, Chair  
Fred Bowman  
Jason Burbank  
John Martineau  
Steve Ellis



## **CEMETERY COMMISSION**

The Montague Cemetery Commission is a three-person commission with oversight of the town's eight municipal cemeteries. The Commission works with a few dedicated volunteers and is looking for more residents to get involved.

**Highland Cemetery.** Town meeting members voted to approve the acquisition of the Highland Cemetery at the 2021 Annual Town meeting. The cemetery and its holdings were donated by the Millers River Cemetery Corporation. Unlike the town's seven historic cemeteries in which graves are no longer sold, plots are available for purchase at Highland.

Cemetery Commission members worked with the former Highland Board to ensure a smooth transition to town ownership. We also updated the rules and regulations for Highland to align with the town's cemetery policies. Plans were developed to offer a green burial option in Highland, which should be available by Fall, 2022. Preparations include: cleaning up debris in the wooded section, clearing an area for green burial (phase I), creating a pathway, mapping, developing policies, and documenting practices for green burial.

**Headstone cleaning.** The careful and painstaking work of cleaning lichen and other organic debris from headstones began in 2020 and continued into 2021. 253 Farmacy staff volunteered to take their buckets of water and soft brushes to clean headstones in one section of Old South Cemetery following work in Burnham, East Mineral, and Town Cemetery. The work will continue into 2022 for the remaining cemeteries.

**Documentation.** We have augmented existing documentation by preparing detailed maps of cemetery layouts, with names and inscriptions. We are converting this information to a digital format so it is readily available. Work on this project will continue through 2022, as the addition of Highland Cemetery makes this an even bigger project.

**Burnham Cemetery.** It was brought to the Cemetery Commission's attention that a retaining wall had been collapsing into the yard of the abutting neighbor due to substantial overgrowth of trees. Commission members worked with DPW to assess the situation and find a workable solution. The DPW, pending special town meeting approval in 2022, agreed to contract for tree removal and conduct the work themselves to repair the wall. Thanks to the DPW!

Montague Cemetery Commission members:

Judith Lorei  
Annabel Levine  
Jeri Moran

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

The Gill Montague Council on Aging serves residents of Montague and Gill who are 55 years of age and older. The two towns fund the Council on Aging and Senior Center proportionately and the Council on Aging receives and administers annual formula grant funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs for both towns. Ongoing services provided through the Gill Montague Senior Center include fitness programs, arts and cultural programs, information sessions, referrals to local and state aging resources, food security programs, and opportunities and space for socializing. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and is staffed by one 17 hour per week Council on Aging Director and five volunteer receptionists. There is a Friends of the Gill Montague Senior Center volunteer group that advises on programming, raises funds for the Senior Center, and pays for programs and purchases which would not otherwise be funded by municipal budgets or grants. The Senior Center has been a meal site for Lifepath's congregate meal program three days per week and has had monthly brunches, pot-lucks, and pizza parties.

Most, if not all of the Senior Center programs were discontinued for the first six months of 2021 as the Center was closed to the public during the time when community Covid-19 case counts were at their highest. The Council on Aging's focus between January and June of 2021 became one of information and referral, primarily involving accessing initial and secondary vaccination appointments for those in the community who were unable to navigate the digital appointment system. The Council continued to provide resources to address food insecurity through partnerships with Lifepath and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. All food distribution events were held outside with Covid-19 precautions in place. The COA had entered into an agreement with *Foodcare By Nurses* in November of 2020 to offer monthly foot care clinics for over 25 seniors with maximum Covid-19 precautions in place. This program has since been expanded to serve more seniors. Volunteer tax preparers from AARP were able to meet the community's needs by reinventing their free program to meet with tax return clients by telephone and work in isolation at the Senior Center. The summer CISA Senior Farm Share took place in July and August and 40 Montague and Gill seniors participated. Community volunteers assisted in all of the food related programs.

In June of 2021, the Senior Center was reopened with precautions in place and most programs, excepting congregate meals, resumed a pre-pandemic schedule. The Council on Aging has continued to distribute Covid-19 test kits, KN-95 and procedure masks, digital thermometers, and hand sanitizer. When Covid-19 booster shots became available, the COA assisted seniors in accessing on-line appointments. The Council on Aging continued to assist seniors with applications for SNAP, Fuel Assistance, Brown Bag, and the Montague Wood Bank and to provide assistance with Medicare, Social Security, housing and transportation issues either directly or through referral. It is anticipated that all Senior Center programs, including meals, will be fully restored by the fall of 2022.

Roberta L. Potter, Director

## **CULTURAL COUNCIL**

The aim of the Montague Cultural Council is to increase the cultural vitality of our town by supporting activities that enrich the lives of residents of its five villages: Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, and Lake Pleasant. We are part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. Montague's cultural councilors are volunteers, appointed by the Select board for a 3-year term. Through its Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program, the Mass Cultural Council allocates funding to each LCC, and the LCCs distribute those funds in the form of grants for cultural programs.

The amount of funding each municipality receives is based on its population; Montague is classified in the lowest funding tier. We received 39 applications for grant funding in FY22 and had \$7,744 to distribute. In December, we voted to award grants to 23 applicants. Grants ranged in size from \$20-\$764 and were awarded to many worthwhile projects:

**Antenna Cloud Farm/Michi Wiancko**  
**Lisa McLoughlin**  
**Geoffrey Baker**  
**Carrie Ferguson**  
**Franklin County Pride, Inc.**  
**Local Access to Valley Arts (LAVA)**  
**Pamela Means at the Shea**  
**Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Inc**  
**Montague Community Band**  
**Montague Public Libraries**  
**Musica Franklin, Inc.**  
**Native Plant Trust, Inc.**  
**Michael Nix**  
**Piti Theatre Company**  
**Great Falls Books Through Bars**  
**John P. Porcino**  
**Montague Congo Church/Elizabeth Ryan**  
**Racial Justice Rising**  
**The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Inc.**  
**Roger L. Tincknell**  
**The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.**  
**The Montague Reporter, Inc.**

The application window for FY22 grants through the Local Cultural Council program was extended last year, opening in Sept and ending in November. We shifted to video/phone meetings and met in December and January to decide who would receive this year's funding awards. Please visit <https://www.mass-culture.org/montague> for details on the awards for the current grant cycle.

We work with applicants to understand how to meet the requirement that their events are physically accessible. In addition, this past year in keeping with local cultural councils throughout the state, maintained the need for programs which emphasize cultural/racial equity, social equity and inclusion in their content and/or as underrepresented creators. We will continue to encourage and support applicants to make their projects and events inclusive and relevant to the Montague community.

We look forward to continued collaboration with Suzanne LoManto of RiverCulture to publicize events, support artists and extend our reach throughout the five villages as we gradually see more events happening again.

As always, all are welcome to attend the cultural council meetings, and we encourage Montague citizens from all five villages to join the committee and help shape the direction of the town's cultural

programming. We hope to see you at some of Montague's many cultural events this year! Council meeting times can be found on the town calendar at [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net) and information about upcoming events can be found there, as well as on our facebook page and the Riverculture web page.

Cultural Council: Kathleen Lynch, Chair; Anne Harding, Treasurer; Kate Martineau, Secretary; Members: John Furbish, Betty Tegel, Rachel Teumim

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Winter of 2020-2021 was an icy winter to say the least. We started to use more salt in order to keep the roads cleaner from sand and in return that would give us less spring clean-up with the sweepers, so far, that plan seems to be working out great.

Last year's road projects, we were able to pave East Mineral Road and East Chestnut Hill. Crocker, Stevens, Burnett and Marshall Streets were all chip sealed. After not using All States for a long time we gave them another try since there has been improvements in the product. For instance, the oil now has a fiber in it to make the stone stick better to the surface and improve durability.

The DPW has been involved in getting all the sewer lines and catch basins plotted on the Geographic Information System (GIS), which is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information. We will soon be able to have all this information on our cell phones and computers including the iPad that we carry in the vector truck. We are still under the watchful eye of the DEP and EPA and will continue to clean and look for I/I in our sewer systems. As for trucks and new equipment we received a new sewer camera that can travel in a sewer line for 1000 feet recording video and much more. The new hook truck that was ordered in May of last year presently is at the vendor being built to include a plow, sander and dump body, we hope to pick it up sometime this summer. We are also working with the vector truck vender about the purchase of a new sewer vac truck.

Along with the usual road, building and other maintenance that we do, a couple of DPW's additional projects for the upcoming year will be to replace a collapsing wall at the Burnham Cemetery off South High Street and to put in drainage in the Carnegie Library driveway along with replacing and possibly adding a new handicapped parking place and repaving it.

Road work for the upcoming year will be to mill Turners Falls Road from Hatchery Road to Turnpike stopping at the four-way intersection at the fire station, then repave it. Also on the list is to mill High Street from Scotty's to Montague Street and repave it.

Thank you to the men and women that have dedicated their time to the town for the long hours of plowing and call in's during the weekend and/or in the middle of the night.

Tom Bergeron  
Superintendent  
Montague DPW

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

### **To the Residents of Montague:**

As your Emergency Management Director, I am responsible for providing management and coordination of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities within Montague. This is accomplished via hazard mitigation as well as preparation and response planning done in partnership with city/county agencies, regional and state level partners, non-profit entities, schools, and the private sector.

Your Emergency Management Team spent many hours this past year dealing with this Pandemic. Planning, Developing Safety Protocols, acquiring Personal Protective Equipment, COVID tests and recovering costs associated with this Pandemic.

As I write this report The COVID-19 Pandemic continues with an increase in positive cases. The good news is many of our residents are vaccinated and boosted protecting themselves from the severe effects of this virus.

So again, I ask you to be safe and cautious but enjoy your life.

Again this past year we had several severe weather events that caused significant damage throughout the Town especially in Millers Falls where we saw a significant rain event that caused damage to many streets and buildings. A coordinated effort between your Fire, Police, and Highway Departments, Eversource and Emergency Management worked extremely hard to restore power and make roads accessible again.

I would like to personally thank all who have dedicated their lives and time to serve their community it is appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted

John Zellmann  
Emergency Management Director

## **MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

- Met with Town Planner Walter Ramsey to discuss the projects in the Green Communities Grant Application.
- Continued to monitor utility bills and overall performance of HVAC system at new DPW building.
- Kept current on town matters that might be within MEC's purview through a member attending CIC meetings.
- Met with Town Planner Walter Ramsey to discuss solar siting and zoning considerations, pertaining to the protection of forested areas and other special natural resources from solar development.
- Submitted comment letter on proposed changes to biomass plant regulations to DOER and the chairs and vice chairs of the MA legislative Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, & Energy (TUE).
- Began reviewing a letter to state legislators supporting the Climate Bill, drafted by a member to bring to the Select Board.
- Delegated two committee members to meet with Montague Center Prudential District to support them in upgrading streetlights to LED technology.
- Researched and discussed question of building ventilation, how to support energy efficiency and air quality/health together.

Montague Energy Committee  
Jason Burbank  
Ariel Elan  
Pam Hanold  
Chris Mason  
Sally Pick  
Bob Rueter  
Tim Van Egmond

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is appointed by the Moderator of Town Meeting and in general, our role is to advise town staff, the Selectboard, and Town Meeting members about matters pertaining to the use of the town's financial resources. To fulfill that responsibility in 2021, we met regularly throughout the year. Here is an overview of what we did:

Early in the calendar year, we considered and voted recommendations for financial articles on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting that was held remotely on February 25, 2021. Because this warrant included requests associated with the Turners Falls Airport's acquisition of land, buildings, leases, and equipment that significantly expanded its operations and liabilities, we devoted a considerable amount of attention and time to evaluating that proposal.

From January through April 2021, we also met in joint session with the Selectboard to review and discuss Town department budget requests and special article requests for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). We invited department heads, boards, and representatives from the Gill-Montague Regional School District and Franklin County Regional Technical School to provide information and answer questions. We also met with the Capital Improvements Committee and reviewed their recommendations on capital requests.

Using our collective understanding of the town's short- and long-term needs and the town's financial management policies, we arrived at a balanced budget for FY22 that aimed to provide effective municipal programs and services to Montague's residents while assuring a financially sustainable future. We finalized that budget, voted recommendations on the articles proposed for Annual Town Meeting, and prepared a report on the budget and sent it to Town Meeting Members in advance of the Annual Town Meeting. The FY22 report and reports from prior years are available in the "Annual Budget Information" section of our area within the Town of Montague's website ([www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov)).

Montague's Annual Town Meeting was held on May 22, 2021, outdoors and a few weeks later than the usual date due to the ongoing pandemic. Town Meeting Members' votes established the FY22 budget that took effect July 1, 2021. The committee reorganized, keeping Jen Audley as chair and Greg Garrison as vice-chair, with Jennifer Waryas as clerk.

Through the summer and fall of 2021 we worked with consultants, town staff, and the Selectboard to complete a multi-year financial forecast and review and update the town's financial management and financial operations policies. As we recommended, the Selectboard adopted fifteen revised policies and held back three (Annual Budget Process, Capital Planning, and Reserves) for additional consideration in 2022.

We also considered and offered recommendations for articles on the warrant for the October 16, 2021 Special Town Meeting, including adjustments to the FY22 budget, capital requests, and allocations to the Capital Stabilization and OPEB Trust Funds. Then, as the calendar year wound up, we began laying the groundwork for the development of the FY23 annual budget.

We would like to express our gratitude to Steve Ellis, Carolyn Olsen, and Wendy Bogusz for their support and counsel over the course of many, many hours of online meetings, and to Montague Community Access Television for recording them for posterity.

Jen Audley, John Hanold, Fred Bowman, Greg Garrison, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Jennifer Waryas







## **FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL DOG SHELTER**

TO THE SELECT BOARD AND RESIDENTS OF MONTAGUE:

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter has been in operation since 2012. The shelter was started by Sheriff Christopher Donelan who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility. As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 22 of the 26 Franklin County towns.

During the course of 2021, the Regional Dog Shelter logged 157 canine intakes.  
*104 were brought in as strays, and 53 were Surrendered, Transferred or Returned adoptions to our facility.*

### **What happened to the dogs?**

-  80 were returned to their owners.
-  50 were adopted into new fur-ever homes.
-  9 were transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs.
-  10 were sadly euthanized by an attending veterinarian. Euthanasia is not something we take lightly and we do our best to explore all available options before choosing this course of action. Of these 10, (4) were owner intended euthanasia; (2) were medically compromised; (4) were euthanized for severe aggression towards people and other animals.

While we are primarily a dog facility with the addition of the Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Control Position the shelter assisted in the holding and transfer of 33 cats. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore all cats are transferred to an appropriate agency.

**Food Pantries:** During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Shelter has worked to supply pet food into local food pantries for residents who are in needed. If you are struggling to feed your pet, or know of a food pantry that could use dog/cat food please let us know!

**Rabies Clinics:** In 2021, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Turners Falls, Heath, and Shelburne Falls. Between these (3) clinics, a total of 86 pets were vaccinated against rabies.

**Dog Licensing:** Some Town Clerks have granted the ability for the shelter to issue a dog license for a dog that was brought in and not licensed. As Massachusetts General Law requires every dog be licensed and vaccinated for rabies before it can be released from the shelter. This ability has drastically reduced the time that an owned dog must stay at the shelter, if it was unlicensed upon intake.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today, during 2021 our volunteers logged 4,777 volunteer hours! Our volunteers assist the operation of the shelter by helping with Daily Kennel Chores, Foster Homes, Event Staffing and providing Enrichment specific to each dog's needs. We are always in need of new volunteers if you are interested in joining our volunteer team; please check out the volunteer application on our website.

**Did you know?** The overall average length of stay for a dog at our kennel is 30 days? During this time, all their costs and care are covered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2021 shows a decrease of 100 tons of recycling compared to 2020. District residents recycled just over 2,700 tons of paper and containers. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold for recycling primarily to domestic companies. For six months, the market revenue exceeded the processing fee so towns received revenue for their recycling tonnage.

The pandemic resulted in the cancellation of both 2021 Clean Sweep collection events.

We did hold our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2021. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. We adjusted our collection protocol to account for health and safety requirements during the pandemic. A total of 420 households participated in this event.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$94,000 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) or visit us at 117 Main St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*  
Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Vice-Chair*

Jonathan Lagreze, Colrain – *Chair*  
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield – *Treasurer*

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

We submit this annual report for 2020-21 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. As a reminder, the FY23 budget represents an October 1, 2021 count, which is always a year behind according to the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment submission of 546 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	26	Erving	28	Montague	95	Sunderland	6
Buckland	18	Gill	17	New Salem	13	Warwick	7
Colrain	27	Greenfield	123	Northfield	28	Wendell	7
Conway	10	Heath	9	Orange	82	Whately	13
Deerfield	30	Leyden	0	Shelburne	11		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 109 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2021. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing and landscaping to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2019 FCTS had approximately 50% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. In 2020, due to COVID-19 issues there were approximately 20% of our seniors on paid Coop. 2021 students are once again going back to work and taking advantage of paid Coop opportunities. FCTS offers excellent academic offerings with Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education courses to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science and Medical Assisting. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 14. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45- minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry standard competency guidelines.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Capital Skills Grants. FCTS has received more than 1.2 million dollars in grants over the last several years without using FCTS funds to enhance its Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, and Machine Technology vocational programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21<sup>st</sup> Century modernized CNC machines. In addition, FCTS will continue its partnerships with MassHire to explore new adult evening programs in the fall of 2022.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community on

an annual basis. FCTS has finished its second new home in Erving and is beginning a new home building project in Greenfield. In New Salem, FCTS students built a new pavilion for the Swift River Elementary School, in Greenfield, Landscaping and Horticulture (LH) is working with the Franklin County Fair Grounds planting new trees and beautification projects. In Montague LH is working with the Montague Planning Department on the Millers trail modification. Plumbing and Electrical students are working at the new Conway DPW putting in new radiant floors and plumbing students are busy installing new bathroom and kitchen units, while electrical students continue to wire the entire facility. Welding worked on the recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair. Culinary Arts cooks meals for the Montague Housing Authority and regularly serves the local Community Senior Center and Chamber of Commerce.

Auto Collision Repair is working with the Turners Falls Police Department turning a marked police vehicle into an unmarked vehicle. Auto Technology continues to support community vehicles for all member towns. In addition, the Auto Technology program has saved member towns a substantial amount of money by maintaining the school's vehicle fleet. Many of our school vehicles are used for our various construction jobs within Franklin County and also provide for athletic transportation, which significantly reduces our overall transportation costs and allows FCTS to not require athletic user fees. FCTS Auto Technology and Collision Repair program are very appreciative of the donated vehicles which provide our students with real world experiences. The newly established Veterinary Science program has provided vaccinations for the Franklin County Sheriff's Animal Shelter by supporting their grooming needs.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz  
School Committee Chairman

Mr. Richard J. Martin  
Superintendent-Director

## **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SERVICES TO MONTAGUE IN 2021**

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, Cooperative Public Health, Cooperative Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. Partnership for Youth provides substance use and chronic disease prevention; The Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and health officials

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to shape the ways we did business in 2021, and while the attention of some staff remained focused on pandemic response, our typical work did not stop, nor did our mission to serve the interests of citizens, municipalities, and the region as a whole. We've included some of that work here, and *FRCOG's 2021 Annual Report*, published this spring, will further summarize our regional efforts. The following pages list services specific to Montague.

### **COVID Response and Recovery**

FRCOG engaged in regional and municipal COVID response and recovery in numerous ways, including:

- Maintained up-to-date regional websites; developed and distributed community education messages; provided mask order and social-distancing signage for use at town facilities, non-profits, and businesses.
- With partners in the Franklin County Regional Vaccination Collaborative, coordinated 140 regional vaccination clinics administering nearly 32,000 doses of vaccine.
- Advocated for the needs of rural communities and local public health; facilitated information sharing on COVID case trends, new state guidance and initiatives, and sharing of best practices

### **Climate Resilience**

- Developed green infrastructure best management practices to manage stormwater for two sites as part of the Franklin County Sustainable Stormwater Pilot Project.

### **Economic Development**

- Provided technical assistance to identify state and federal economic development grant opportunities.
- Updated a sited development profile for marketing of Canal District.
- Provided to support to EPA for removal action at 11 Power Street/Railroad Salvage site.
- Participated in Rapid Recovery Plan financial team report.
- Completed a data request from a resident.
- Completed the National Register Nomination for Millers Falls

### **Finance and Municipal Services**

- Montague contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; heating and vehicle fuel; elevator maintenance; fire alarm and fire extinguisher services; dog tags and licenses; and water treatment chemicals.
- Staff assisted the town with a construction bid for Council on Aging building roof replacement, a Complete Streets project and a Shared Streets project.

### **Land Use and Natural Resources**

- Provided technical assistance related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects.
- Developed a Pollinator Action Plan for Montague as part of the Regional Pollinator Action Plan for Franklin County, including potential revisions to the town's zoning bylaws, to create and protect pollinator habitat.
- Assisted the town planner to prepare a successful grant application for \$33,000 for a Community One Stop planning grant to initiate a master planning process.
- Provided technical assistance to the town planner and Planning Board to evaluate the potential for adopting Smart Growth Overlay Districts in Turners Falls.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal officials on the Abandoned & Distressed Properties toolkit developed by the FRCOG.

## **Public and Community Health**

- Conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Gill-Montague Regional School District administrators on results from 136 students, representing 90% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade district classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided training, technical assistance, and evaluation for the evidence-based LifeSkills substance use prevention curriculum in the Gill-Montague Regional School District.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the new, evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.
- Provided resources for advancing racial justice in school districts/schools to the school district.
- Provided training/stipends to parent leaders — “PEER Ambassadors” — to provide outreach to other parents on positive parenting, youth substance use prevention, and mental health resources, and more.
- Provided technical assistance on best practices in using cannabis impact fees to support youth health.
- Gave 897 Flu and 77 COVID vaccinations at CPHS flu clinics, COVID pop ups, and home visits. Among these, 16 Montague residents received flu vaccines.
- **Training and Education**
- The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Montague public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Support:**

Bi-Weekly Coordination Roundtables – 1-3  
BIPOC Communities Vax Conversation - 3  
Public Health After-Action Conference - 1

### **Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education:**

Funding Water & Sewer Infrastructure - 2  
Receivership Training - 10  
Select Board 101 - 1  
Town Administrators Meeting – 1  
American Rescue Plan Overview -1

### **Public Health & Community Awareness:**

Public Health Excellence Grant Session - 2  
3-in-1 Food Safety Training Certification - 3

### **Planning, Conservation & Development:**

Diversifying Rural Housing Opportunities - 5  
Review of MA’s Model Floodplain Bylaw - 2  
Rental Zoning, Building & Sanitary Codes - 2

Additionally, staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication

## **Transportation**

- Participated in launching the Northern Tier Rail study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield and Boston.
- Began an inventory of outdoor recreation assets in town.
- Inventoried and assessed culverts on all municipally maintained roadways.
- Assisted the town with implementation of projects through the MA Complete Streets Program.
- Continued to assist the Route 2 Task force related to safety improvements along the corridor.
- Provided a bicycle repair station to the town for installation as part a Shared Street and Spaces Project.
- Wrote a successful nomination application to designate the Mohawk Trail as a National Scenic Byway. Designation was approved in February, 2021.
- Conducted traffic counts on Avenue A, Main Street, Federal Street, and West Main Street by town request.
- Conducted traffic counts on Center Street, Greenfield Road, Turnpike Road, Unity Street, and Third Street for the Regional Traffic Counting Program.
  - Conducted turning movement counts and a traffic signal warrant analysis for the intersection of Miller Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard.

**ANNUAL REPORT  
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION (May)</u>
Jane Oakes, Chair	2022
Heather Katsoulis	2022
William Tomb	2023
Cassie Damkoehler, Vice Chair	2023
Timmie Smith	2024
Nicholas Licata	2022
Jennifer Waryas	2024
John Irminger	2022

**Superintendent's Report**

The Gill-Montague Regional School District vision is to be ***“A community that empowers every student for continuous learning, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment”***. Examining instructional data from across all schools, consulting with district staff, students, and families, as well as examining research related to pandemic learning loss, the District Administrative Team developed a 3-year long-term strategic plan. The research foundation for our approach to post-pandemic improvement strategy has been the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's *Acceleration Roadmap*, which can be found through the following link: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/roadmap/>. The pandemic has resulted in substantial disruptions to student learning for more than a year. In order for our students to recover from lost learning opportunities, we are committing to the following priorities in the development and implementation of the district and school-based annual strategic plans: foster a sense of belonging and partnership among students and families; continuously monitor students' understanding; ensure strong grade-appropriate instruction, with scaffolding to provide access to new content and skills. What follows are the long-term strategic goals.

**Strategic Plan Goals:**

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**– Our schools will welcome and engage families as active partners to support the academic and social-emotional development of students

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT** – Staff will welcome and engage students as active partners in their learning, who take pride in their efforts, and make positive contributions to the school

**GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT**- Educators will regularly monitor the impact of instruction on student learning and will make adjustments to maximize student growth and achievement

**GRADE-APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION**-Educators will deliver grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning

**INCLUSION & EQUITY**-Educators commit to creating an inclusive and equitable school environment that provides relevant and accessible educational opportunities, embodies social justice practices, and affirms all students' cultures and identities.

**Student Enrollment:**

Total student enrollment has gone from 947 in 2015 to 842 in 2021. The distribution of student enrollment across the district in the fall of 2021 was as follows:

Gill Elementary (Grades K-6)	115
Hillcrest Elementary (Grades Pre K-1)	145
Sheffield Elementary (Grades 2-5)	207
Great Falls Middle School (Grades 6-8)	191
Turners Falls High School (Grades 9-12)	<u>184</u>
Total:	842

**Finances:**

In May, 2021, the citizens of Montague, and in June, 2021, the citizens of Gill, showed their support for the district with their approval of a FY22 Budget that reflected a 2% increase in local assessments from the prior year. The general fund budget for FY22 was \$ 21,597,185, a 1.4% increase from the FY21 budget of \$21,300,387.

**Gill-Montague Regional School District – General Fund  
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources, and Expenditures and Other Uses – Budget and  
Actual  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021 (Unaudited)**

<b>FY21</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual Amounts</b>	<b>Variance with Final Budget Positive/(Negative)</b>
<b>Revenues and Other Sources:</b>				
Assessments to member towns	12,527,890	12,527,890	12,527,890	(0)
Tuition	1,088,800	1,088,800	1,088,670	(130)
Intergovernmental	7,474,697	7,474,697	7,499,608	24,911
Investment Income	6,000	6,000	7,638	1,638
Miscellaneous	0	0	20,598	20,598
Other Sources	203,000	203,000	181,302	(21,698)
		0		
<b>Total Revenues and Other Sources</b>	<b>\$21,300,387</b>	<b>\$21,300,387</b>	<b>\$21,325,705</b>	<b>\$25,318</b>
			25,318	
<b>Expenditures and Other Uses:</b>				
Administration	642,851	652,768	628,930	23,838
Instruction	9,615,725	9,805,913	9,620,237	185,676
Other School Services	1,367,774	1,384,410	1,215,408	169,002
Operation and maintenance	1,826,690	1,977,412	2,009,150	(31,738)
Fixed charges benefits	4,843,853	4,463,165	4,392,420	70,745
Community Services	25,563	25,563	24,446	1,117
Capital Equipment	-	145,697	145,662	35
Debt Service	196,626	196,626	182,451	14,175
Special education tuitions	216,673	216,673	122,002	94,671
School choice/charter	2,564,632	2,432,160	2,523,714	(91,554)
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	<b>\$21,300,387</b>	<b>\$21,300,387</b>	<b>\$20,864,420</b>	<b>\$435,967</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditure and other uses</b>				<b>\$461,285</b>

The surplus in funds at the end of FY21 is a direct reflection of the pandemic. During the pandemic, we struggled to fill vacant positions resulting in a surplus in the instructional and benefits accounts. In addition, a surplus in the Other School Services line is a due to reduced transportation costs while students participated in distance learning. We were also able to bring a couple of Special Education Out of District Students back to In-District learning resulting in a savings in the Special Education tuitions line.



## Gill Elementary School, 2020-2021

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2020-2021 progress at Gill Elementary School.

### Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Gill Elementary School during the 2020-2021 school year may be found below:

- Due to the Covid Pandemic, students participated remotely in learning until the spring of 2021. The Pandemic also impacted the enrollment, as a number of families decided to homeschool their students.
- The Gill School served a K-6 grade span, with one classroom per grade level.
- Average class size was 15 students.
- Gill School continues to be a non-Title I school.
- Average daily attendance rate was 95.5%.
- There were 111 students enrolled during the school year.
- The low income rate for 41.5%
- The overall special education population was 23.5%. There was one English Language Learners enrolled.
- Student Race and Ethnicity: 90% of the school is white, with 1.8% African-American, 5.9% Hispanic, and 2.5% Multi-Racial.
- Nearly half of the Gill student enrollment consists of students from surrounding towns in School Choice.

Kindergarten	12 Students
First Grade	15 Students
Second Grade	19 Students
Third Grade	18 Students
Fourth Grade	20 Students
Fifth Grade	16 Students
Sixth Grade	18 Students

### Staff

For staff, we had teachers in the following classrooms: kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade and 6th grade. We also had a special educator, a reading interventionist, five full-time special education paraprofessionals (three serving in a 1:1 capacity), and a full-time paraprofessional in the kindergarten room. We had a principal and administrative assistant. We had a custodian, school nurse, and one cafeteria worker. We shared our specials teachers with Sheffield Elementary School and Hillcrest Elementary School and had a different specialist every day; our specials consisted of art, music, physical education, library, and science. We also had an SLP who worked four days a week, an adjustment counselor who was here two days a week, an OT and PT who each work one day a week, and a school psychologist and team chair that are shared among district schools for IEP needs.

### School Accountability Status

For the 2020 school year, the Gill School was designated as **Not Requiring Assistance** and **Making Moderate Progress Towards Targets**. Students did participate in the 2021 MCAS testing administration, however they were issued a shortened version of the tests in ELA and mathematics.

### **Family School Engagement**

Historically, there has been a strong family and community level of engagement at the school with a multitude of school-sponsored events. Given the challenges brought on the pandemic, nearly all events have had to be canceled during most of the 2020 school year. Fortunately, the PTO was able to sponsor limited fundraising events to benefit the school.

### **Building Improvements**

Gill School continued to work with the town of Gill and has successfully installed a functioning and useable water system. Significant upgrades were completed on the HVAC system as well as an upgrade to the electrical system. Over the course of the 2021 summer, asbestos floors were removed and newer floors installed. This is part one of a project to replace all of the existing floors, with the remainder of the non-asbestos tiled floors to be replaced in the summer of 2022.

### **Overview of School Improvement Goals 2020-2021:**

The Gill Elementary School Council identified five focal areas for the Gill Elementary School Improvement Plan. The Gill School Council, created in response to the Education Reform Act of 1993, revised the Gill School Improvement Plan in the summer and early fall of 2020 and submitted it for approval to the School Committee in October 2021. Each area continues to be reviewed and revised accordingly taking into account current district initiatives, student and staffing needs, and an assessment of the current plan. The School Improvement Plan is closely aligned with the School Improvement Plans at the other elementary schools as well as the District Improvement Plan. The dedicated assistance of the Gill Parent Council/PTO, the Gill School Community, and the many volunteers who generously give their time to the school are acknowledged with deep appreciation. The school community also very much appreciates the strong support of the town to fund the school's programs and building updates.

### **Gill Elementary School- School Improvement Plan 2021/2022**

#### **Goal 1: GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT-**

**Educators will regularly monitor the impact of instruction on student learning, provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning, and make adjustments to maximize student growth and achievement.**

**Initiative A:** Literacy data meetings will be held three times a year to review student literacy data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.

**Initiative B:** Educators will meet in grade level teams to review implementation of Wit & Wisdom curriculum, make adjustments to ensure access for all students, and monitor student progress on Wit & Wisdom assessments.

**Initiative C-** Educators will utilize a variety of resources to focus on social-emotional learning and development.

#### **Measurable Outcomes**

1. Notes from data meetings will provide evidence of use of data, organized tiered approaches and strategies, and appropriate instructional groupings. Progress monitoring data will provide evidence of student progress and documentation of benchmark data.
2. Grades K-2, and 3-6 Team Time agendas and notes will include evidence of professional collaboration around Wit & Wisdom instruction, adjustments to practice, and assessment data.
3. Social-emotional instruction will be incorporated consistently within classroom schedules.

#### **Goal 2: INCLUSION & EQUITY**

**Educators commit to creating an inclusive and equitable school environment which provides relevant and accessible educational opportunities, embodies social justice practices, and affirms all students' cultures and identities.**

**Initiative A:** GMRSD will provide three professional development workshops: Brave Elementary Educators Talk about Race for elementary staff during Early Release days on October 20, December 8 and March 9.

**Initiative B:** Gill staff will organize and utilize a Diverse Books Collection for use in all classrooms. Titles will focus on a range of topics to promote social justice and social-emotional growth.

**Initiative C:** Develop and administer a school climate survey for school staff and families.

**Goal 2 Measurable Outcomes:**

1. Participation in the three workshops and identification of actionable next steps based on post-workshop surveys.
2. Staff will build and organize the Gill Elementary Diverse Book Collection, and utilize it throughout the school year.
3. Surveys will be completed by April and will be used to identify actionable next steps for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Goal 3 Student Engagement**

**Staff will welcome and engage students as active partners in their learning, who take pride in their efforts, and make positive contributions to the school community.**

- **Initiative A:** Student work and projects will be showcased on bulletin boards and display cases throughout the school.
- **Initiative B:** Staff will implement the “100 Mile Club” challenge for all grade levels.
- **Initiative C:** Students will be encouraged to contribute to the school newsletter and to present at Whole School Meets.

**Goal 3 Measurable Outcomes**

1. Bulletin boards with displays will be visible throughout the school year and refreshed on a regular basis.
2. 70 % of students will participate in the “100 Mile Club” challenge.
3. Published newsletter samples and participation in the Whole School Meets.

**Goal 4 Family Engagement**

**The district will welcome and engage families as active partners to support the academic and social-emotional development of all students.**

- **Initiative A:** Staff will create slideshows to introduce families to classroom expectations, curriculum, programs, and how to help at home.
- **Initiative B:** Staff will plan and hold monthly Whole School Meets with invitations to family and community members.
- **Initiative C:** Create a Story Walk featuring a book that supports social-emotional learning. This story walk will be set up on campus at Gill Elementary School and stakeholders invited to visit.
- **Initiative D:** Staff will contribute on a rotating basis to the weekly school newsletter.

**Goal 4 Measurable Outcomes:**

1. 100% of teachers will contribute to the Open House Slideshow.
2. Documentation of Whole School Meets attendance, agendas, and other artifacts.
3. 50% of Gill families will participate in the Story Walk; participation will be measured by collection of postcards/raffle tickets.
4. Published school newsletters with monthly submissions from general education teachers, specialists, nurse, counselor, and other service providers.

**Hillcrest Elementary School, 2020-2021**

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2020 - 2021 progress at Hillcrest Elementary School.

**Student Data**

Statistics describing the student population served by Hillcrest Elementary School during the 2020-2021 school year may be found below:

- Hillcrest Elementary School served grades PK, K & 1 with 3 preschool classes, 3 kindergarten classes, 3 first grade classes, a Therapeutic Special Education Classroom and a Special Education Classroom serving students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- There were 120 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
  - African American 2.5%
  - Asian 0.8%

- Hispanic 24.2%
- Native American 0%
- White 65%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
- Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 7.5%
- 53.3% of the students were Economically Disadvantaged
- English Language Learners made up 15.8% of our student population.
- 20.0% of our students had Educational Disabilities

### **Overview of School Improvement Goals 2020-2021**

**Goal 1. Improve mathematics teaching and learning through implementation of the Bridges Program**

**Goal 2. Improve literacy teaching and learning through implementation of the GMRSD literacy plan**

**Goal 3. Improve and expand school-wide focus on teaching for diversity**

**Goal 4. Improve professional knowledge of social-emotional learning (SEL).**

### **Sheffield Elementary School, 2020-2021**

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2020-2021 educational progress for Sheffield Elementary School.

#### **Student Data**

Statistics describing the student population served by Sheffield Elementary School during the 2020-2021 school year may be found below:

- The Sheffield School served a 2-5 grade span, with 3 classrooms each for grades 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Average class size was 18 students.
- Average daily attendance rate was 93.1%.
- There were 234 students enrolled during the school year.
- 100% of children received free or reduced price lunch.
- English language learner population was 12 %
- The overall special education population was 32.1%. Two substantially separate programs for children with significant disabilities exist in the school; a therapeutic program for children with emotional disabilities and a resource room program for children with developmental disabilities. Sheffield Elementary practices inclusion as well as pull-out for children with special needs.

We test grades 3, 4 and 5 for **MCAS**. Our results are as follows:

Sheffield is not requiring assistance or intervention and we have Substantial progress toward targets.

**Overview of School Improvement Goals 2020-2021:** The 2020-2021 school year the Sheffield School Council identified four main focal points for the Sheffield Elementary School Improvement Plan.

**Goal 1:** Improve mathematics teaching and learning through implementation of the Bridges program

**Goal 2:** Improve literacy teaching and learning through implementation of the GMRSD Literacy Plan.

**Goal 3:** Improve and Expand School Wide Focus on Teaching for Diversity.

**Goal 4:** Improve Professional Knowledge of Social Emotional Learning.

## **Great Falls Middle School, 2020-2021**

At Great Falls Middle School, we provide a welcoming, nurturing, and academically challenging learning environment for our enrollment of approximately 200 students in grades six through eight. The philosophy that guides our educators is to empower and inspire our early adolescent learners by guiding them in their development as they recognize their strengths and interests, and begin to find their value and place in the local and global community. Through our middle school programming model, we deliver a structured, supportive, and intentionally designed transition to secondary school in the Gill Montague District. The grade level team structure offers a cohesive group of educators who collaborate on a daily basis to organize curriculum, programming, and to respond to student needs. Within this structure, the teachers on each grade level are provided with common planning time and the ability to flex the schedule according to student and program needs. This meeting time also provides the opportunity for reflection on our practices, so that we may respond with improvements to our instruction and programmatic design.

Our middle school incorporates Developmental Design (DD), which is a program model for middle grades education. The philosophy and practice of DD includes dedicated time for teachers to lead small groups in the *Circle of Power and Respect* (CPR) as they develop supportive relationships, a positive culture, and attend to social-emotional teaching and learning. The CPR's meet on a daily basis, and in addition to this, Great Falls Middle School also utilizes an all-school, morning meeting twice a week to build community. Like Turners Falls High School, our aim is to increase our implementation of Restorative Practices, and thereby, teach our students to understand how their behavior impacts the people around them.

We know that when students are involved in school activities, they have a greater degree of success. To this end, Great Falls Middle School offers and encourages students to become involved in the great variety of extra-curricular activities that we offer as a means of becoming invested in the school, and exploring interests beyond the classroom. Great Falls Middle School offers concert band, chorus, yearbook, as well as Student Council and the Gender Sexuality Alliance. In addition, many students participate in our theatrical performances and our inter-scholastic athletics program which includes soccer, cheer, volleyball, golf, basketball, swimming, baseball, softball, tennis, and track.

As we invited our students back to the school for daily in-person instruction in the Fall of 2021, we worked hard to build community within and beyond the building. Some of the events that we held for Great Falls Middle School are listed below.

- New Family Orientations: prior to school opening, families had the opportunity to meet the new administrators, teachers, and other students while getting familiar with the school building.
- On the last day of the first week of school, the annual "Great Falls Challenge" field day was held. During this event, students are organized into mixed-grade teams and they race to answer questions about school facts, figures, and expectations.
- We are fortunate to have the support of "Friends of Great Falls Middle School" who are active in fundraising, and organizing community events. This year the "Friends of GFMS" held a Back to School Staff Breakfast. This event offered teachers time to relax for food and conversation with their colleagues.

As we opened school in the Fall of 2021, we recognized that after so much time in remote learning, our students would have particular needs. In order to prioritize these needs, we included them as goals in our School Improvement Plan and they are listed below the TFHS report.

## **Turners Falls High School, 2020-2021**

Turners Falls High School is a four-year, comprehensive high school with a wide array of offerings, and during the 2020-2021 school year, we enrolled approximately 200 students. Although we are a small school, at TFHS we are proud of the amazing array of academics, programs, and activities that we are able to offer. In addition to typical core content classes in English, mathematics, science, and social

studies, TFHS provides a diverse set of elective courses, including three world languages (Latin, Spanish, and French), business and technology education (including graphic arts, digital filmmaking, television studio production and a Maker Lab with 3D printing), health education, physical education, art, and music. During the 2020-2021 school year, TFHS became an Innovation Pathways school recognized by DESE. Healthcare and Social Assistance was the first pathway we implemented, and we are intending on implementing Manufacturing in Fall of 2022. We also offer ten Advanced Placement courses through which students may simultaneously earn college credit and meet TFHS graduation requirements. To enhance our students' learning, we partner with Greenfield Community College to provide students with dual enrollment opportunities.

At Turners Falls High School, we pride ourselves on knowing all of our students. This empowers our dedication to promoting a caring atmosphere, building a strong sense of community, and to student learning and experiences. Our students participate in a great variety of leadership opportunities including Student Council, National Honor Society, MIAA Student Ambassadors, and Student Government. Each Tuesday, the entire TFHS community gathers for morning meeting to deliver news, to celebrate students, and to acknowledge accomplishments. On Thursdays, students participate in an Advisory that includes team building, upstander/anti-bullying curriculum, and academic check-ins. The Advisory group and their Advisor stay together for four years in order to meet our goal of having long-lasting relationships with teachers in our school. The curriculum for our Advisory block is teacher driven with a focus on the academic and social-emotional well-being of our students.

### **End of Year Athletics Report 2020-2021, and Fall of 2021**

During the 2020-2021 School Year in the midst of COVID and complicating factors, we were able to offer:

Field Hockey  
Golf  
Volleyball  
Swim  
Basketball  
Track and Field  
Baseball  
Tennis

Football - Played Co-op with Greenfield and the team won the FCAD title

Softball - Won 10th State Title beating Amesbury 5-4 on July 1

During the Fall of 2021, we offered:

Golf  
MS Soccer  
Field Hockey

Volleyball: Lost in the Western Mass Semifinals Football: Co-op with Greenfield

Girls Soccer: Co-op with Franklin Tech

Boys Soccer: Co-op with Franklin Tech

Other notable accomplishments and news include:

- Over 90% of student/athletes made the Honor Roll
- Established the Athletic Leadership Council and Helping Hands as recognized clubs
- ALC worked to hand out 24 Thanksgiving Baskets and 26 Holiday Meals during December as well as LARGE "everyday" food baskets
- Installed a "state of the art" Softball Backstop with the help of townspeople and a generous donation from Greenfield Savings Bank
- Added Red Ball Field Clay mix to all of our baseball and softball fields
- Had 3 female's students named as MIAA Student Ambassadors, and they attended virtual conferences with students from across the state.

At Turners Falls High School, we have a great appreciation of the community's support of our many activities, athletic events, fundraisers, concerts, and field trips, as well as the help of the many volunteers who assist our school.

Our priorities are built upon our mission and philosophy, which are then transformed into goals for our School Improvement Plan. These goals for both schools are listed here.

Welcoming and engaging students in support their academic and social-emotional development.

- Administering three social-emotional health diagnostics to our students so that they may identify those who would benefit from counseling groups.
- Implementing Circle of Power and Respect meetings at GFMS each morning to build community and to deliver social-emotional curriculum.

Engaging students and families as active partners in the learning process, who take pride in student efforts, and make positive contributions to the school community.

- Parent/guardian/student surveys administered to gain feedback from community members on how we might improve our school

Monitor the impact of instruction on student learning and make adjustments to maximize student growth and achievement.

- Conducting quarterly diagnostics of student learning and using the data to inform instruction
- Develop and implement formative assessments, then review the resulting data, and plan instructional adjustments to have a positive impact on student learning and achievement.

Delivering grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning

- Educators will work with the administration and District personnel to meet the goals of the DESE Roadmap which allows educators to continue to deliver grade level instruction while providing scaffolding to support students where they have gaps in their learning.
- Collaborative meetings to share methods and strategies aimed at high expectations for all students.

Creating an inclusive and equitable school environment

- Staff members have formed a Racial Justice Group aimed at engaging in critical conversations about race and racism.
- We have had staff members trained by Quabbin Mediation, so that they may recognize when they are bystanders, analyze situations, and evaluate the consequences for everyone involved.

<b>Contributors to the Annual Report</b>
Brian Beck, Superintendent of Schools
Joanne Blier, Director of Business and Operations
Lisa Desjarlais, Principal, Gill Elementary School
Melissa Pitrat, Principal, Sheffield Elementary School
Sarah Burstein, Principal, Hillcrest Elementary School
Christopher Barnes, Principal, Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School

## **BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

The 2021 Annual Report of the Montague Board of Health is herewith submitted to the Honorable Select Board and the Citizens of Montague for the calendar year ending December 31, 2021.

As the Board of Health continued to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 which saw near global lockdowns including partially or fully closed educational, retail and food establishments throughout the town. Montague was able to adapt and function to hold events including the return of the Soap Box Derby after a hiatus, Barbes in the Woods and The Great Falls Festival along with a few new businesses which brought not only life back to the town but vendors and people again.

In the office we continued to complete and meet routine duties including but not limited to septic, housing, complaints, wells, burial permitting and all the permitting for events and businesses while taking on many new and expanded duties in the COVID-19 healthcare world. The COVID-19 and Flu vaccine management and sharps program along with providing and scheduling residents for vaccine appointments through the state website. Disseminated COVID-19 information, fliers as changes and mandates occurred, test kits from DPH while keeping the community informed of the ever-changing needs during the pandemic. The Board of Health continued to try and find the balance between internal expectations and needs and those of the public health needs, wants, confidentiality and expectations while providing the best possible outcome for our residents whenever possible.

**Al Cummings** continues his role on the Board of Health as the Chair. Al's willingness to be available to serve the community of Montague has led to him coming into the office to be available and a dynamic team player in helping with the work flow. Al is also on the Soldier's Memorial Trustee's Committee and on the Parks and Recreation Board for the Town of Montague. Outside of his work with Montague, Al is Treasurer for the Greenfield Moose Lodge #997 and enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren whenever possible.

**Melanie Ames Zamojski MSN, RN** is in her first year on the Board and is serving as Secretary. Melanie and her family have lived in Montague for 20 years. Her extensive nursing experience includes nursing at a Regional Trauma Center, local community hospital and most recently she has worked as a COVID-19 contact tracing nurse in Franklin County. She is currently an Associate Professor of Nursing at Greenfield Community College. She and her family enjoy camping, hiking, and walking our Field Spaniel, Ben on the Canal Trail.

**Michael Nelson** works full time as a public health emergency preparedness planner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Michael donates considerable time and expertise to Montague's emergency preparedness program. Michael is the coordinator of the popular Great Falls Festival held annually in October and is the president of the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

**Daniel Wasiuk**, Director of Public just finished his second full year with Montague. He has met the continuing challenges head on including extensive COVID-19 meetings, community updates and various stages of the vaccine roll out. Daniel comes to Montague with a wealth of knowledge from his previous jobs in the towns of Greenfield and Northampton, Massachusetts as well as working and traveling the country for National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) as a Food Safety Auditor/Consultant, Food Assessments and Studies. Daniel's skill base of planning and management has been an asset to both the welfare of the community and the Montague Board of Health as a whole. Daniel graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a degree in science. Daniel enjoys the Pioneer Valley and the outdoors in general. In his free time, you can find him in the mountains or in the woods taking in the scenery with family and friends.

**Anne E. H. Stuart** is in her eleventh year with the Board of Health and continues to be a dedicated staff member with a keen sense of what needs to get done without hesitation. Anne continues to excel and be instrumental in the running of the department with her attention to detail in the handling of various permits, complaints and situations that are a daily occurrence here in the office. Anne exceeded in going above and beyond to help our residents with the COVID-19 Pandemic both in person, over the phone and



through various communication line to meet their needs. Anne along with Daniel had a year filled with continued COVID-19 meetings and community education, PPE distribution and engagement. The addition of bringing Public Health nursing back to the community through the partnership with Town Nurse Cheryl Volpe RN, BSN has led Anne to be able to put her diverse skills to work to help with Flu Clinics and State MIIIS & Prepmo reporting on behalf of Montague. Anne holds a BFA in Interior Design and Architecture from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In Anne's free time she is devoted to various profit and non-profit boards in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.

**Cheryl Volpe, RN, BSN** Cheryl's presence, knowledge, and expertise has shown to be an invaluable asset to the town and its residents. She remains exceedingly flexible and is current with her knowledge, education, and skill set in both general nursing best practices and the constant evolving landscape of public health. She has been continuously available for Montague residents, business owners and town employees as they have navigated their way through the Pandemic. Cheryl has an extensive military, emergency preparedness, and public health nurse background with experience at the hospital, local government, and community levels. In her free time, you can find her with her feet in the sand enjoying some sunshine.

**Kathleen Burek** continues to serve as the Animal Inspector. Kathy's knowledge about animals and her commitment to the job of Animal Inspector is greatly appreciated. The role of preventing a case of human or animal rabies in town cannot be overstated-that is what Kathy does, it is not an easy job. Kathy as she did the barn animal census saw a decrease in barns but a large increase in the number of animals as folks turned their attention to home and pets during the pandemic. In her free time Kathy enjoys her family and animals including a dog, chickens and makes award winning cheese!

**The following is a partial list of the responsibilities of the Board of Health:**

Ensuring minimum standards for human habitation are met (safe, clean housing).

- Remediation of all sources of filth and disease risk
- Protecting groundwater by overseeing the location of septic systems and private drinking wells
- Ensuring safe food through inspectional services and investigation of complaints
- Investigate nuisances that may affect human health and safety
- Inspect and enforce the law regarding semi-public and public swimming pools
- Investigate all reported animal bites and scratches, and maintain a rigorous rabies prevention program
- Permit and/or inspect body artists, food establishments, schools, septic system installers, funeral directors, beaver, septage haulers, trash haulers, recreational camps for children and mobile/manufactured home, and many other duties as necessary to protect public health.

**2021 REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Beaver trapping permit	02
Burial Permits	40
Complaints (non covid-19)	56
Complaints Covid -19	203
Emergency Preparedness Meetings Attended	36
Temporary Food Permits and Inspections	46
Farmers Market	08
Other Temporary Food Events	06
Mobile Food Vendor	06
Total Food Establishment Inspections (Brick and mortar)	90
Annual Food Establishment Permits Issued (Brick and mortar)	45

Funeral Director License	02
Hoarding Complaints	04
Perc Tests	07
Pumping/Hauling License	07
Records Searches for Public	51
Residential Kitchen Permits	01
Septic Installers Permits	09
Septic plan review and installation	40
Inspections	
Septic Tank Pumping reports	162
Title Five Reports Reviewed	38
Tobacco Permits	09
Trailer Park License	02
Trash Hauler Permits	05
Well Permits	04

#### Animal Quarantines 2021

Humans bitten by  
animals **14**  
Humans bitten by  
Bats 2

Animals with bites of  
unknown origin **14**

#### Burial Agent 2021

Barn Animal Census  
**2021**

**56** Barns **1552** barn  
animals counted

2021	January - December		Totals
	Female	Male	
January	3	2	5
February	1	1	2
March	3	4	7
April	1	1	2
May	1	1	2
June	1	4	5
July	2	1	3
August	0	1	1
September	2	3	5
October	1	0	1
November	1	2	3
December	3	1	4
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>40</b>

As you can expect where events and other annual Board of Health duties didn't happen in 2021 other responsibilities were expanded and many continued with the focus being the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Board of Health had to prepare to educate, enforce, and respond to numerous questions, concerns & complaints throughout the community.

The dissemination of information through the Board of Health office continued through various media platforms (electronic & print), signage throughout the villages, to be current was challenging at times, but helped to inform the greater community to keep them abreast of the ever-evolving landscape of the COVID-19 situation. Anne spent many hours registering residents for covid vaccine appointments and fielding a plethora of calls from both residents and businesses regarding vaccine, masks, test kits return to work and general operating COVID-19 protocols. Daniel and Anne continued a continuity of services by not only handling the pandemic needs but the daily operations of the Board of Health office. Having a

Public Health nurse continues to be a valuable resource both for the board members, staff, residents and business owners in the town. Cheryl continues to inform and respond to their questions and needs as they arise.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Daniel and Anne worked with both the local businesses as well as corporate headquarters to coach their employees on the current phases of the pandemic and provide literature and guidance where it was appropriate. Ongoing assistance happened to ensure compliance with specific safety and prevention protocols that were required to be instituted by public and private entities led to on-site inspections with businesses.

#### **Board of Health Members**

Albert Cummings, Chair  
Melanie Ames Zamojski, Secretary  
Michael Nelson, Member

## **MONTAGUE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The Montague Historical Commission, under MGL 40 Section 8d has as its charge to “conduct researches for places of historic or archaeological value, cooperate with the state archaeologist in conducting such researches and other surveys...for the purpose of protecting and preserving such places, it may make recommendations as it seems necessary to the selectmen...”

### **The Commission is charged with:**

- Maintaining the integrity of the town’s historic districts
- Contributing to community awareness and maintaining interest in Montague’s historical heritage and promoting preservation of those assets
- Serving to provide an historical perspective as mandated under the MGL as a partner with other town boards and committees
- Advising and guiding the town in all matters pertaining to the proposed demolition, exterior renovation, or relocation of historical assets, the commercial excavation or disturbance of soil in what is deemed to be in proximity of an historical site.

During the year 2021, the Historical Commission has actively participated as a member of the Advisory Board of the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, which oversees historical, cultural, and archaeological research and field work on the site of the May 19, 1676 Falls Fight.

In addition, the Historical Commission has monitored and advised proponents in various projects such as the construction of a new cell tower on Rte 63, the renovations of the Cutlery Block and the Crocker building, future renovations of the Montague Center Library, Canal Street District Plan, and the re-use vs demolition of the Farren Hospital buildings.

The Board of Selectmen charged the Commission with providing historical archival information to the public concerning the Falls Fight of 1676. This task was completed and all pertinent information can be found on the town’s webpage.

### **Commissioners:**

David Brule, Chair and Secretary

Chris Clawson

Ed Gregory

Suzanne LoManto, Vice-Chair

## **MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

2021 was a year of transition for the Montague Public Libraries (MPL).

Though the COVID-19 pandemic continued to dictate the boundaries of safe and responsible library services, the widespread availability of vaccines in the early spring allowed MPL to slowly expand services beyond phone reference and curbside pick-up. The library opened to patrons for half-hour appointments in February of 2021 and opened unrestricted to all in mid-June. Patrons visiting the library were required to wear masks and encouraged to practice social distancing through the duration of the year.

Flooding in the Carnegie Library's basement in December 2020 and January 2021 led to some reorganization of that space. In April, the carpet was removed and the floor painted. In the interest of preventing future flooding events and entry of any moisture into the Carnegie basement, a number of minor repairs were carried out over the course of the year and larger plans, addressing the Carnegie's driveway and basement interior, were studied, quoted, and submitted for capital improvement funding. The Montague Center Library had a concrete apron installed along the foundation of the building's east side and recommendations were made for additional repairs to that building's masonry and corbelling.

Long-time library director and former children's librarian Linda Hickman announced her plan to retire in June of 2021. The position was posted in July. Caitlin Kelley was hired in late September and began her tenure as director on October 18th. In December, Millers Falls' library assistant Melinda Georgeson stepped down, but continues to work for the libraries as a substitute. Taelour Cornett, who had been a substitute, was hired to take her place.

A Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant for a town-wide preservation assessment and collection identification was received in 2020 and implemented in late summer of 2021. Preservation specialist Samantha Couture was hired to review the collections and holding conditions of local history materials housed by the Montague Public Libraries, Montague Town Hall, and Montague Historical Commission. As stated in her final report, "(t)he assessment will provide information, resources, and suggested priorities to the collecting institutions, so the Town may successfully create a comprehensive preservation plan and implement improvements to collection management, building structure, and storage and housing."

Following Couture's preservation guidance, by mid-October library staff had:

- Removed 40 pictures from frames and rehoused them in boxes with lining paper.
- Rehoused 50 postcards into buffered sheets in binders for patrons to use.
- Removed 300 photos from map drawers and rehoused them into sleeves in photo boxes.
- Put more than 150 documents into unbuffered, labeled folders and then put the folders into labeled boxes.
- Taken 50 historic maps and put them into the map drawers and flattened them. Labels were added to each drawer.
- Inventoried collections at 3 library branch locations as well as at the Historical Society. I

In November, Taelour Cornett, who in addition to being a part-time employee is also a trained archivist, defined an action plan for completing the preservation and organization of the MPL collections and was hired as a consultant to carry out that work over the course 2022.

The last months of the year saw the implementation of Kanopy, a video streaming service, and both Baker and Taylor's Automatically Yours program, which allows for streamlined book ordering, and Sustainable Shelves program, which allows MPL to re-sell or recycle discarded materials. Both the non-fiction and fiction collections at the Carnegie Library were heavily weeded and re-organized to make the best use of limited space. Although circulation continues to be lower than pre-pandemic levels, it has rebounded healthily from last year's numbers.

The staff of the Montague Public Libraries have adapted, pivoted, and proven their flexibility through two years of the COVID pandemic and again through a management transition. Their dedication to providing excellent service to the Montague community is something to be celebrated.

<b>2021 Circulation Stats</b>	<b>Carnegie</b>	<b>Montague Center</b>	<b>Millers Falls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adult Printed Material	17,815	8,125	1,570	27,510
YA Printed Material	2,012	814	183	3,009
Children's Printed Material	10,020	6,409	1,063	17,492
Adult/YA Audio	1,032	186	26	1,244
Adult/YA Video	14,946	1,941	3,594	20,481
Children's Audio	278	84	11	373
Children's Video/DVD	1,568	388	339	2,295
Downloadable Audio				5,066
Downloadable Video				43
e-books and magazines				6,626
Usage of electronic collections				11,375
Kanopy (12/5-12/31)				77
Misc. (includes passes)	97	22	9	128

**TOTAL CIRCS:** 85,395

<b>2021 C/WMARS Consortium ILL Stats:</b>	<b>2021 Non-Consortium ILL Stats:</b>
<i>Items Received, total:</i> 14,498	<i>Items Received:</i> 243
TF 10,092	TF 175
MC 3,525	MC 55
MF 881	MF 13
<i>Items Sent, total:</i> 12,522	<i>Items Sent:</i> 134
TF 7,818	TF 89
MC 2,719	MC 24
MF 1,985	MF 21
<i>Items sent between Montague Libraries:</i> 1,668	

## Montague Public Libraries - Youth Programs Statistics 2021

### Highlights:

The year began with a Winter Reading Program for all ages. Patrons chose between logging their reading online or with paper logs. Virtual programs included two animal-related programs, two storytellers, an escape room, and a teen art exhibit.

Monthly Take-and-Make craft bags continued to be very popular and a new activity bag was added: Grab & Go STEAM - Bags, offered twice each month, included science, technology, engineering, art, and math activities for children grades K-4th. The bags contained most of the materials and instructions needed for the hands-on activities. Throughout the year, several crafts were offered, with the most popular being the Valentine Card and Gingerbread House Take-and-Make.

In early spring, a self-led Life-Size Candyland StoryWalk and game was installed on the Carnegie Library lawn, in an effort to bring the library to young patrons, while most families weren't yet comfortable to enter the libraries when they were open by appointment. During fall and early summer, youth programs were held outdoors, under a tent that was rented from June to the end of September. Local families and library

staff enjoyed reconnecting face-to-face. The annual Halloween and Fairy House Parties, happened outdoors. Families had options of activities spread out over the Carnegie Library lawn, including an obstacle course, scavenger hunt, photo booth, craft bags and coloring packets to-go. For the Fairy House Party, young patrons had the option to take a bag home or build a fairy house on the library lawn. The Turners Falls Fire Department brought their ladder truck to educate children during Fire Prevention Week. Each child went home with fire safety materials and a plastic firefighter helmet.

The Carnegie Library welcomed two different classes as well. The Hillcrest English Language Learner class visited to do research on animal habitats and the Turners Falls Middle School's Life Skills class visited to learn how the library works. Outreach programs included virtual school visits to elementary grades, to read a book to students and to talk about the library. More visits occurred in May to share details about the Summer Reading Program.

Summer Reading Program: The summer kicked off with a magic show and ended with the annual puppet show at Peskeompskut Park. Three Bilingual StoryWalks were offered during the summer at Peskeompskut Park, coinciding with the days the Great Falls Farmers Market occurred. The Youth Services Librarian and Children's Programs Assistant collaborated by sharing a table with Montague Catholic Social Ministries at the Farmers Market once a month from June to October.

#### **TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: 167**

#### **TOTAL ATTENDANCE ALL PROGRAMS: 5,566**

Programs Funded Primarily by MPL:	Sessions - 124	Attendance - 4,802
Programs Funded by MPL AND Outside Sources:	Sessions - 4	Attendance - 131
Programs Primarily Funded by Outside Sources:	Sessions - 13	Attendance - 161
Outreach Programs:	Sessions - 26	Attendance - 472

#### **Programs Primarily Funded by MPL:**

##### *Ongoing Programs:*

Story Time (in-person):	Sessions - 15	Attendance - 185
Story Time (virtual):	Sessions - 37	Attendance/households viewed - 1,821
Music & Movement (in-person):	Sessions - 16	Attendance - 559
Music & Movement (virtual):	Sessions - 28	Attendance/households viewed - 1,321

##### *Themed Programs:*

Halloween Party:	Attendance - 86
Fairy House Party:	Attendance - 25
Turners Falls Fire Dept. Visit:	Attendance - 33

##### *Self-directed Programs:*

Spring Take-and-Make Craft: 62  
 Fall Take-and-Make Craft: 20  
 Dec Take-and-Make Craft: 149  
 Valentine Take-and-Make: 73  
 Spring StoryWalk: 25  
 Apr Take-and-Make Craft: 75  
 Bilingual Story Walks: Sessions: 3 Attendance: 35  
 Class Visits to the Library:  
 Hillcrest ELL Class Research Project: 5  
 Turners Falls Middle School Life Skills Visit: 5

##### *Winter Reading Program (self-directed reading program):*

Signed Up: Children - 17 Teens - 4  
 No Strings – Wintermaiden (virtual): 22  
 Wild Tales (virtual): 14  
 Who Lives Where? (virtual): 21

Teen Escape Room (virtual, self-led): 4  
Teen Virtual Art Exhibit: 11

*Summer Reading Program (self-directed reading program):*  
Signed Up: Children - 45 Teens – 4

Various Take-and-Make Craft Bags: 120  
Kick-Off Magic Show: 52  
Sidewalk Safari Scavenger Hunt: 10

TOTAL Programs Primarily Funded by MPL: TOTAL Sessions - 124 TOTAL Attendance - 4,802

**Programs Funded by MPL AND Outside Sources:**

Grab & Go STEAM Bags: Sessions(dates offered) - 4 Bags taken - 131

TOTAL Programs Funded by MPL AND Outside Sources: TOTAL Sessions - 4 TOTAL Attendance - 131

**Programs Funded Primarily by Outside Sources:**

Montague Cultural Council Funded Programs:

Motoko: Asian Folktales: (live virtual) - 12 (video recording) - 32 households viewed

The Friends Funded Programs: No Strings Marionettes in Summer at Peskeomskut Park: 129

TOTAL Programs Funded Primarily by Outside Sources: TOTAL Sessions - 13 TOTAL Attendance - 161

**Outreach Programs:**

Great Falls Farmers Market: Sessions - 4 Attendance - 58

Hillcrest Elementary: Sessions - 6 Attendance - 107

Sheffield Elementary: Sessions - 10 Attendance - 200

Gill Elementary: Sessions - 6 Attendance - 107

TOTAL Outreach Programs: TOTAL Sessions - 26 TOTAL Attendance – 472

**Montague Public Library Trustees:**

Polly Billiel  
Nancy Crowell  
David Harmon  
lydia ievins  
Karen Latka  
Margot Malachowski  
Tricia Perham  
Liz Swihart  
Gretchen Wetherby



**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY CABLE INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021**

Montague Community Cable Inc., Home of Montague Community Television  
34 Second Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, Phone (413) 863-9200, [www.montaguetv.org](http://www.montaguetv.org),  
[infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com)

**Montague Community Cable Incorporated (MCCI)** is the Access Management Organization (AMO) awarded the contract by the town to run Montague Community Television (MCTV).

**MCTV's mission** as the public access provider for Montague, Gill and Erving, is to make the tools of modern electronic mass communication easy and convenient to use. We encourage all citizens, organizations and institutions in Montague and the broadcast viewing area to produce and be involved in quality programming by and for this community. We also offer the community a range of production services to record local meetings and events- from full equipment, staffing and production to simple technical assistance-including all necessary training. MCTV is committed to providing a professional and welcoming environment where Montague citizens may obtain hands-on training in video production. While MCTV's first focus is the town of Montague, it actively engages in networking with other local PEG Access stations in the Franklin/Hampshire region to increase producer reach and viewer choices.

**Content:**

Despite the ongoing effects of Covid, we were still able to get 246 new programs produced and uploaded to Vimeo. Currently there are over 2278 videos posted on that site. A variety of producers have contributed their time and skills in the creation of their own shows or participation in covering of Station Manager identified events of interest. Most active producers this year were Hannah Brookman, Kat Obrien, Tayler Morgan Jones, Abby Rusk

In 2021, MCTV continued to cover local events, but also collaborated with organizations and individuals to enhance or host of cultural events:

Soapbox Derby  
Barbes In The Woods 2  
Fashion Show  
Selectboard Candidates Forum

Description of facility and equipment use:

2021 stats:	Equipment Reservations: 158	Facilities Reservations: 62
	2021: 246 Videos Uploaded to Vimeo	Public: 95 Videos
	Government: 151 Videos	

Despite Covid our local vs out of town content that was being broadcast remained consistent with 2021 stats. Thankfully we have a vast reservoir of local content to utilize for programming that spans fifteen years.

**Weekly Programming Breakdown:**

Local: 136 Hours      Out of Town: 33 Hours

**Outreach:**

MCCI has employed a wide range of outreach strategies and activities over our years of service. Through it all, we made a lot of new friends but didn't see much of a return in the form of video content or increased participation. Currently, we continue to send out our weekly news blasts and share our station news with The Montague Reporter, but we focus most of our outreach energy on networking and sending our crews out to record meetings and events. MCTV's collaboration with the following entities resulted in local content for our community.

Town of Montague	Selectboard
Finance Committee	Town Clerks Office
Zoning Board of Appeals	Planning Board

DPW  
 Montague Tree Advisory Committee  
 Fire Department  
 Greenfield Media  
 Shea Theater  
 Cielito Lindo  
 Food Bank of Western MA  
 Nova Motorcycles  
 Nina's Nook  
 Black Lives Matter Movement Turners Falls  
 National Spiritual Alliance  
 WestMass Brass Band  
 Great Falls Discovery Center  
 Eggtooth Productions  
 Montague Community Band  
 Franklin Regional Transit Authority  
 Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 Senior Center  
 Brick House  
 Fab Fashion  
 Lovelights  
 Montague Reporter  
 Holy Trinity-All Church  
 Rendezvous  
 Skeleton Crew Theater

Parks and Recreation  
 Police Department  
 Riverculture  
 Greenfield Savings Bank  
 Carnegie Library  
 Nolumbeka Project  
 Root Yoga  
 253 Farmacy  
 Friends of the Coffeehouse  
 Musica Franklin  
 Young Shakespeare Players East  
 Greenfield Community College  
 Gill Montague Regional School District  
 Montague Congo Church  
 Montague Catholic Social Ministries  
 Franklin County Chamber Of Commerce  
 Northfield Mountain Recreation  
 Looky Here  
 Opioid Task Force  
 Franklin County Varsity Sports  
 Rod & Gun Club  
 Montague Bookmill  
 Salasin Center  
 Great Falls Harvest

## **TRAINING**

The standard AMO approach to training local producers- 6 to 8 weeks on a set schedule covering everything from lighting to editing- doesn't serve our community. That being said MCTV can provide the full range of technical support and training for local meeting and events. Some producers will require no training at all. Others we tailor our training and support to meet the individual producers needs.

## **FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

One of our first and best deliberations, upon regaining the Montague public access contract, was to secure the services of a business manager, The Brick House' Michael Bosworth. He installed high quality, financially conservative business practices for us that have been fundamental to our robust sustainability. During the years of our collaboration, we adopted sound accounting practices; established clear and secure purchasing procedures; engaged an auditing and tax accountant with specialization in non-profits; and mandated a minimum liquidity standard whereby we maintain a balance of operating funds never lower than the equivalent of two months operating expenses. We also have a long standing and regular relationship with a local bookkeeper of high repute. The organization-wide adherence to these practices and investment in these intrinsic relationships has enabled us, over the years, to accrue a six month operating cushion in addition to a substantial reserve.

In accepting the PEG Access assignment from Montague, MCCI embraced a fiduciary responsibility to the Town and citizens of Montague. Central to meeting that responsibility is financial transparency in managing MCTV's resources. Pursuant to our contract with the Town, MCCI submits quarterly financial reports and a complete annual report. These documents, our budget, our profit and loss statements, our balance sheet and all our board minutes are available to the public on our website at [Montagutv.org](http://Montagutv.org). We also share our tax return and independent financial audit with the Town each year. The following yearly financial reports show that MCCI is healthy, sustainable and continues to apply our founding practices.

## **CAPITAL ASSET AND EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT**

In addition to providing unobstructed access to our financial trail, MCCI's fiduciary responsibility to the Town and to our community includes responsible and productive capital asset and equipment management. When developing any capital plan or committing any capital resources, we seek Town input. We don't proceed with any capital plan unless it has been reviewed and approved by the CAC.

### **MCTV 2021 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING**

Selectboard Meeting 1/4/21	Finance Committee Meeting 1/6/21
Selectboard Meeting 1/19/21	Finance Committee Meeting 1/13/21
Selectboard Meeting 1/25/21	Finance Committee Meeting 1/27/21
Selectboard Meeting 2/1/21	Finance Committee Meeting 2/3/21
Selectboard Meeting 2/8/21	Finance Committee Meeting 2/10/21
Selectboard Meeting 2/22/21	Finance Committee Meeting 2/17/21
Selectboard Meeting 3/8/21	Finance Committee Meeting 2/24/21
Selectboard Meeting 3/15/21	Finance Committee Meeting 3/3/21
Selectboard Meeting 3/22/21	Finance Committee Meeting 3/10/21
Selectboard Meeting 3/29/21	Finance Committee Meeting 3/17/21
Selectboard Meeting 4/5/21	Finance Committee Meeting 3/24/21
Selectboard Meeting 4/12/21	Finance Committee Meeting 3/31/21
Selectboard Meeting 4/19/21	Finance Committee Meeting 4/14/21
Selectboard Meeting 4/26/21	Finance Committee Meeting 4/28/21
Selectboard Meeting 5/3/21	Finance Committee Meeting 5/19/21
Selectboard Meeting 5/10/21	Finance Committee Meeting 6/9/21
Selectboard Meeting 5/17/21	Finance Committee Meeting 7/7/21
Selectboard Meeting 5/24/21	Finance Committee Meeting 7/21/21
Selectboard Meeting 6/7/21	Finance Committee Meeting 7/28/21
Selectboard Meeting 6/14/21	Finance Committee Meeting 8/4/21
Selectboard Meeting 6/28/21	Finance Committee Meeting 8/11/21
Selectboard Meeting 7/12/21	Finance Committee Meeting 8/23/21
Selectboard Meeting 7/26/21	Finance Committee Meeting 9/8/21
Selectboard Meeting 8/9/21	Finance Committee Meeting 9/15/21
Selectboard Meeting 8/23/21	Finance Committee Meeting 9/22/21
Selectboard Meeting 8/30/21	Finance Committee Meeting 9/29/21
Selectboard Meeting 9/7/21	Finance Committee Meeting 10/6/21
Selectboard Meeting 9/13/21	Finance Committee Meeting 10/27/21
Selectboard Meeting 9/20/21	Finance Committee Meeting 11/10/21
Selectboard Meeting 9/27/21	Finance Committee Meeting 11/17/21
Selectboard Meeting 10/4/21	Finance Committee Meeting 12/8/21
Selectboard Meeting 10/12/21	Finance Committee Meeting 12/15/21
Selectboard Meeting 10/18/21	GMRSD Meeting 1/12/21
Selectboard Meeting 10/25/21	GMRSD Meeting 1/26/21
Selectboard Meeting 11/1/21	GMRSD Meeting 2/9/21
Selectboard Meeting 11/8/21	GMRSD Meeting 2/23/21
Selectboard Meeting 11/15/21	GMRSD Meeting 3/9/21
Selectboard Meeting 11/22/21	GMRSD Meeting 3/23/21
Selectboard Meeting 11/29/21	GMRSD Meeting 4/13/21
Selectboard Meeting 12/6/21	GMRSD Meeting 4/27/21
Selectboard Meeting 12/13/21	GMRSD Meeting 5/19/21
Selectboard Meeting 12/20/21	GMRSD Meeting 5/25/22
Special Town Meeting 2/25/21	GMRSD Meeting 6/8/21
Special Town Meeting 10/16/21	GMRSD Meeting 6/22/21
Annual Town Meeting 5/22/21	GMRSD Meeting 7/13/21
STRPB Meeting 11/18/21	GMRSD Meeting 7/27/21
STRPB Meeting 11/22/21	GMRSD Meeting 8/10/21
Selectboard Candidates Forum 9/16/21	GMRSD Meeting 8/24/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/4/21	GMRSD Meeting 9/14/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/19/21	GMRSD Meeting 9/28/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/1/21	GMRSD Meeting 10/12/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/16/21	GMRSD Meeting 10/26/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/1/21	GMRSD Meeting 11/9/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/15/21	GMRSD Meeting 11/23/21
Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/29/21	GMRSD Meeting 12/7/21

Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/12/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/26/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/10/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/17/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/24/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/1/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/7/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/14/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/21/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 7/6/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 7/19/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/2/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/9/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/16/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/30/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/13/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/27/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/12/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/25/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/8/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/22/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/6/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/13/21 Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/20/21 Gill Annual Town Meeting 6/26/21	GMRSD Meeting 12/21/21 Airport Commission Hearing 1/19/21 AC Purchase Pioneer Aviation Hearing 1/21/21 Board of Health Meeting 4/21/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 1/7/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 1/14/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 2/11/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 3/4/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 3/11/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 3/18/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 3/25/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 4/8/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 4/15/21 Police Equity and Use of Force 4/22/21 Police Community Engagement 1/6/21 Police Community Engagement 1/13/21 Police Community Engagement 1/27/21 Police Community Engagement 2/3/21 Police Community Engagement 2/10/21
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## **MCTV 2021 LOCAL PROGRAMMING**

49 <sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Festival	Abdul Baki New Releases
8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Nolembeka Festival-Tribal Singers	Emily Young Ghost Hunting in Gill
Bad News Jazz In Erving	Fabrics Cool-Crispina Part 1
Barbes In The Woods-Arooj Aftab	Fabrics Cool-Crispina Part 2
Barbes In The Woods-Berkshire Bateria	Fabrics Cool-Last Dance Part 1
Barbes In The Woods-BigYuki	Fabrics Cool-Last Dance Part 2
Barbes In The Woods-Garth Stevenson	Fabrics Cool-My Favorite Things Part 1
Barbes In The Woods-Kaletta and Super Yamba	Fabrics Cool-My Favorite Things Part 2
Barbes In The Woods-Liraz	Fabrics Cool-Swansons World
Barbes In The Woods-Los Compleanos	Fabrics Cool-Tailoring With Janet Part 1
Barbes In The Woods-Mamie Minch	Fabrics Cool-Three in One
Barbes In The Woods-Shirine Saad	Fourth At Unity Park-1951
Barbes In The Woods-Son Rompe Pera	Gangdam Style Jack Trombi
Bitter Sweet Feast	GMRSD Nurses Cove Final
Buckingham Rabbits-Saturday Afternoon Show	Gus Bierthday Extravaganza Cece Woods
Christmas In July	Haunting and Hoax Adeline Riley
Day Of Remembrance	Hide and Seek Forgetfulness Kaylin Voudrin
Exploded View-Maintance and Repair	Lucky You
Fab Four Sidewalk Runway Fashion Show	Meet The Dairy Goats Haley Randall
Fanfare Brass Christmas in Monson	TFHS Awards Ceremony
Fanfare Brass Ensemble in Hatfield	TFHS Graduation Ceremony
Farmers Market	TFHS vs Amesbury Championship Softball Game
Focus Locus-The Lovelights	TFHS vs Athol GJV Basketball
Franklin County Fair	TFHS vs Franklin Tech JV Volleyball
Free Afternoon With Nina Rossi	TFHS vs Franklin Tech V Volleyball
Great Falls Festival	TFHS vs Frontier BJV Basketball
Home Body and Holy Basil	TFHS vs Frontier BV Basketball
Honoring The Land, Protect Our Trees and Water	TFHS vs Frontier JV Volleyball
Huevos II/Apie/Bridge of Flowers	TFHS vs Frontier V Volleyball
Importance of Being Earnest	TFHS vs Greenfield V Volleyball
In Open Studio with John Landino	TFHS vs Hopkinton GJV Basketball
John Doe Window Dressing #3	TFHS vs Hopkinton GV Basketball
Lovelights at Winton Prouty	TFHS vs Mahar BV Basketball
Nolumbeka Festival-Mishoon Project	TFHS vs Mahar GJV Basketball
Northern Roots	TFHS vs Mahar GV Basketball
Paper Bag Bandit At Home Episode One	TFHS vs Mahar JV Volleyball
Paper Bag Bandit At Home Episode Two	TFHS vs Mahar V Volleyball
Play On	TFHS vs Pioneer BJV Basketball
Salvation Army Band-Manchester Citadel	TFHS vs Pioneer BV Basketball
She Said	TFHS vs Pioneer JV Volleyball
Skeleton Crew Theater	TFHS vs Pioneer V Volleyball
Soapbox Derby	The Drag Sisters-Back Where We Belong
Spinner Park Sculpture Rededication Ceremony	The Last Tribe
Still Romantics	The Mole and Do It Now
Stuffed Animal Playing Soccer	Tundi Opera at Peske Park
Swanson Trash Rich Fashion Show	Urgent Unity You and Me
The Best of Summer	What You Need To Know About Covid Vaccine

## **MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and the Citizens of the Town of Montague. I hereby submit the Annual Report of the Montague Housing Authority for the year ending December 31, 2021.

Regular monthly meetings of the Montague Housing Authority Board were held the second Friday of the month, to transact routine business of the authority. The monthly meeting usually starts at 9:00 AM, unless is change for some reason.

In 2020 Montague Housing Authority has total of 4603 applications. 3447 applications are applying for family housing, chapter 200-1, and 1156 application are applying for Elderly/Younger Disabled housing, chapter 667-1,2,3. (This total amount is including 263 for elderly and 893 for Handicapped). In 2021 we able to Lease/House 1 unit of 3 bedrooms apartment to chapter 200-1 family housing, and 4 units of 1 bedroom to chapter 667-1 and 2, Elderly/Handicapped. All the elderly applicant is local from Town of Montague and one for the family is not local.

Montague Housing Authority has four developments all State-Aided Public Housing. Montague Housing Authority's Elderly/Handicapped chapter 667-1,2,3 housing has a total of 80 apartments at three different sites. Family Housing, chapter 200-1 has 30 apartments one site.

In 2021 Montague Housing Authority continue received a funding/award from DHCD for Capital Improvement, Project #192044, Masonry Repointing and Chimney Rebuilding, at Keith Apartment 667-2 and Hilcrest Home Apartment 200-1 and Project #192068, Back Door Replacement at Sunrise Terrace Apartment, chapter 667-1. Project #192066, phase 3 Force Account, Unit renovation on turnover at Sunrise Terrace Apartment, 667-1, project includes replacement of kitchen cabinet, flooring, bathroom, and removal of asbestos.

On behalf of the Montague Housing Authority and our Board of Commissioners, I want to express my sincere thanks, and appreciation to all who have supported our housing needs.

Montague Housing Authority Board of Commissioners  
Stanley Zera, Chairman  
Paula Girard, Vice Chairman  
Judith Hastings, Treasurer  
Karen Casey-Chretien, Asst. Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

Bellamine Dickerman  
Executive Director

## **MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Recovery....that is the first word that comes to mind when thinking about 2021. While not a full recovery, by any means, we were still able to make some sizeable steps towards normalcy. The year began with understandable casualties (Youth Basketball, Annual Sawmill River 10k Run, Bluefish Swim Team), but we were still able to offer these services in a modified fashion. Youth Basketball was reduced to a weekly skills clinic-type program during the months of February and March. A small group of stalwart children showed up every week, and despite the sparse numbers, they were able to hone their skills and still have fun. The Bluefish, like basketball, was primarily a skills development program as league competition was canceled. Thankfully, our entire roster of swimmers participated in this program, which proved to be essential to maintain their level of fitness and stroke refinement. The Sawmill Run was the most unique of the three winter programs, as it was fully virtual. Participants were simply asked to run their own 6.2-mile course, then log in their results on-line. We did not have a lot of “runners”, but those who did seemed to appreciate the opportunity (as well as the participation medal we sent them).

The spring was a little more “normal” for us. The first major event of the season, Peter Cottontail’s EGGstravaganza operated in a drive-thru format, where families drove into Unity Park and were given bags of toy and candy-filled eggs for their children. People were asked to remain in their vehicles as volunteers passed them the gift bags, then they waved to Peter as they exited the park. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity, and we hope that we will return to our traditional in-person EGGstravaganza in 2022. We were also able to operate our Tee Ball and Rookie Baseball programs in almost full measure, except when it came to the mask mandate. Nevertheless, we still had over forty Tee-Ballers and over twenty Rookies who participated in the program. The children never complained and just seemed to love being outside playing with their friends.

The summer proved to be another positive step forward. We were able to offer our Summer Camp, and it was a major success. We served almost sixty kids a week between the ages of 5 to 12 and operated at over 90% capacity. These were some of the best numbers we have had in a few years, and we certainly look forward to 2022. MPRD also partnered with RiverCulture to sponsor the Movies in The Park series at Peskeompskut Park. We showed a total of four movies over the summer, and it has become a nice tradition this time of year. The Friends of Sheffield also help provide snacks, and we are already looking ahead to see what great films we can show in ‘22. Without question the biggest story of the season (and the year) is the return of the Montague Soap Box Races, which was held on September 19 at Unity Park. Over thirty racers of all ages built and designed their own custom-made carts and raced down Unity Hill. A few hundred spectators were on hand and enjoyed what will be a great tradition for years to come. The success of the event would not have been possible without our partnership with Nova Motorcycles and Northeast Soapbox Races.

Despite the obstacles throughout 2021, our ability to offer a full array of quality programs and services would not have been possible without the generosity of many wonderful partners and supporters in our fine community. Therefore, we would like to thank Greenfield Savings Bank, The Montague Elks, The Turners Falls Athletic Club, RiverCulture, The Franklin County House of Corrections, and the Gill-Montague Regional School District for their support.

If there was anything meaningful that we could take from 2021, it would be the amazing resiliency of the children who participated in our programs. They participated in full vigor while wearing masks, and never once complained. The kids went about their business of just being kids and enjoyed the opportunity to play and learn with one another. During this entire ordeal, they have displayed a positive spirit that needs to be acknowledged, celebrated and should be a reminder that we will all be stronger when this is over.

In closing, we would be remiss if we did not take a moment to acknowledge the Department of Public Works for maintaining our parks and facilities, and our volunteers for the time, effort and passion they invested in our programs in 2021. Their community spirit contributes significantly to the success of our department, and we simply could not function without them. Finally, we would like to thank our patrons for their interest and enthusiasm in Montague Parks & Recreation programs and services. We look forward to brighter days in 2022 and hope you will continue to take this journey with us.

Parks & Recreation Department Staff  
Jonathan J. Dobosz, Director, CPRP, CPO  
Jennifer L. Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper

Parks & Recreation Commission  
Dennis Grader, Chair  
Barbara Kuklewicz, Vice Chair  
Albert Cummings, Secretary



## **Planning & Conservation Department**

Department Staff: Walter Ramsey, AICP- Town Planner and Conservation Agent  
Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Planner/ Director of RiverCulture

The Montague Planning and Conservation Department is responsible for 1) Land use planning 2) Natural resource protection and 3) Advancing economic and community development activities identified in Town Plans. The primary function of the Planning Department is to manage regulatory processes for development proposals submitted to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. As part of that process the Planning Department evaluates development proposals for their contribution toward community planning goals as documented in Montague Comprehensive Plan and other local strategic plans. The Department is also actively engaged in programs and projects that help the community achieve its planning goals.

The Department provides technical support to the RiverCulture Steering Committee, Montague Selectboard, and the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC). The Department represents the Town and its interests at both the regional and state level through a variety of projects and planning initiatives such as the regional brownfields program and the regional economic development strategy (CEDS). The Department manages the RiverCulture Program, The Turners Falls Cultural District, the Green Communities Program, Complete Streets Program, and the Municipal Vulnerabilities Preparedness Program.

2021 was the beginning of a long road to post pandemic economic recovery for the community while advancing long-range objective and important physical projects. Strategically important properties in the Industrial Park, Sandy Lane and downtown were sold and or permitted for development which will ensure continued commercial growth in line with established community plans.

The highlights of 2021 included project development and management of the following projects:

- Completed the Burn Dump Capping and Solar Project which turned an environmental liability for the Town into a clean-energy generator and revenue source.
- Completed FY21 Complete Streets Grant to construct .8 miles of sidewalk on Montague St. and Turnpike Rd. to connect neighborhoods to schools and senior living facilities.
- Administered the Small Bridge Grant to replace the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge.
- Developed a Downtown Turners Falls Rapid Recovery Plan that identifies 8 action projects to help downtown recover from the Covid emergency measures.
- Drafted 2022 update to the MEDIC Economic Development Plan.
- Completed the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant to improve pedestrian connections to Unity Park at Second Street.
- Awarded construction contract for the Canal District Gateway Improvement Project- a project identified in the 2013 Downtown Livability Plan. Construction to occur in 2022.
- Acquired funding for three comprehensive plans beginning in 2022: Downtown Parking Management Study, Comprehensive Plan Update, and a Canal District Master Plan.
- Sold 25 Sixth Street (Former St. Annes Rectory) to Fastlights. Issued a successful RFP for 500 Avenue A.

## **PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board maintains the Comprehensive Plan, prepares zoning bylaws and zoning map amendments for Town Meeting acceptance, administers Subdivision Regulations, approves site plans and issues special permits for industrial and commercial development and common driveways. The Planning Board meets monthly and is staffed by Walter Ramsey, AICP-Town Planner and the Planning Clerk. The Planning Board's business included:

### **Four (4) Special Permits/ Site Plan Approvals**

- Special permit and site plan approval to allow a cannabis cultivation facility within the Historic-Industrial District at 36 Canal Road
- Amended special permit to allow a detached accessory dwelling unit at 530 Federal Street
- Site plan approval for a new 4,800 square foot vet science building at Franklin County Tech School on Industrial Boulevard
- Site plan approval for a new 27,700 square foot bus maintenance and operation facility at Sandy Lane
- 

### **Five (5) "Approval Not Required" (ANR) Subdivision Plans Endorsements**

**Zoning Amendments:** Zoning bylaws are continually revisited based on changing demands, unmet needs, and evolving technology and markets.

Battery energy storage facilities- The Board initiated a petition for a bylaw amendment to regulate battery energy storage facilities. The bylaw was developed in anticipation of the proliferation of battery storage technology in response to renewable energy initiatives at the state and federal level. Petition was initiated in 2021. Town Meeting approval expected in 2022.

40R Smart Growth Overlay Zoning - The Planning Board initiated a petition to amend the Zoning Bylaws to adopt a Smart Growth Overlay District pursuant to MGL Ch40R. The district is intended to incentivize the creation of new housing units in Turners Falls by permitting dense development wherein at least 20% of units are affordable. The district includes two sub-districts: A) Griswold Mill, comprising parcels 03-027 and 03-089 and B) First Street comprising parcels 04-0031 and 04-024. Adoption expected in 2022.

### **Planning Board Members in December 2021**

Ronald Sicard (Chair)

Frederic H. Bowman (Vice Chair, CIC Rep)

Elizabeth Irving (FRCOG Rep)

Robert Obear

George Cooke

Matt Lord – Associate Member

## **Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, which regulates work in or near surface waters and wetlands. The Commission also works to support the protection of important natural resources areas through land conservation. The Commission meets monthly and is staffed by Walter Ramsey- Conservation Agent and the Conservation Clerk. The Commission's business included the following:

### **Wetlands Administration:**

The Commission issued the following permits under the Wetlands Protection Act:

- Seven (7) Requests for Determination of Applicability
- One (1) Notice of Intent : Eversource distribution line replacement along North Leverett Road

### **Open Space:**

The Commission conserved 35 acres owned by Karl W. Garbiel through an Agriculture Preservation Restriction. This prime farm land is located at Greenfield and Ferry Road, was secured with a local contribution of \$32,000 from the Waidlich Conservation Fund and a \$10,000 from Franklin Land Trust.

### **Conservation Commission Members in December 2020:**

Mark Fairbrother (Chair)

Justin Fermann (Vice Chair)

Donna Francis

Sean Werle

Anthony Reiber

Toby Carter

Margeaux Reckard

Resigned: Alexander Peterkin, Laurie Reid, Den Henson

## **Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation**

The Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation was created for the purpose of acquiring and holding real property and financial assets to be developed in the public interest of the town. The MEDIC has authority to conduct development activities within areas of the town only as designated by the "Economic Development Plan" adopted by Town Meeting in 2013. The EDIC is a seven-member commission comprised of people with expertise in certain areas defined by general law and appointed to three-year renewable terms by the Board of Selectmen.

The EDIC generally advances economic development in 4 areas of Montague: 38 Avenue A, The Airport Industrial Park, Sandy Lane Industrial Area (behind transfer station), and the Canal District of Turners Falls.

The Town Planner serves as the Coordinator of the MEDIC. The MEDIC meets quarterly. In 2021 the MEDIC developed a 2022 update to its Economic Development Plan, was involved with facilitating the sale of 2 lots, continued negotiating with the selected developer of 38 Avenue A, capping the burn dump to allow future industrial expansion, and advancing infrastructure plans and site redevelopment in the Canal District.

Lots authorized to be sold by MEDIC in 2021

### **180 Industrial Boulevard**

Assessors Map 17 Lot 58

Sold to: River Bluff Group LLC (Flower Power LLC)

Sale Date 7/1/2021

Sale Price: \$157,500

Purpose: Construct 100,000 square foot cannabis cultivation facility to employ 40+

### **0 Sandy Lane**

Assessors map 21 Lot 149

Sold to: Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Sale Date 8/6/2021

Sale price: \$125,000

Purpose: Construct 27,700 square foot vehicle maintenance and operations facility to employ 30+

### **Members as of December 2021**

James Mussoni (Vice Chair).....	General
Linda Ackerman (Treasurer).....	Finance
Richard Ruth (chair) .....	Industrial Development
John Furbish.....	Low/Moderate Income
Ella Ingraham.....	Municipal Government
VACANT.....	General
VACANT.....	Real Estate

## **Battlefield Grant Advisory Board**

The Battlefield Grant Advisory Board is a consortium of 5 neighboring towns and 4 tribal historic preservation offices that have partnered with the Town and the National Park Service to conduct a comprehensive study of the extent and context of a 1676 conflict on Montague/Gill/Greenfield soil during King Philip's War. An additional purpose is to engage local officials, landowners and the interested public to locate and encourage the protection of the battlefield. Due to the Covid -19 emergency, the Battlefield Advisory board suspended its meetings during the greater part of 2021. The Advisory Board resumed monthly meetings in September of 2021.

The Town began work on a grant in the amount of \$ 81,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program to conduct a second phase of archaeological investigation that was identified in the first phase. Work began in 2019 and was completed in October 2020. When the Advisory Board resumed public meetings in September of 2021, it reviewed the findings and conclusions, and determined to file for another grant to finish the archaeological field work in 2022. The Phase II Site Identification and Evaluation Project (GA-2287-18-007) was started and completed by the University of Connecticut Research Team headed by Kevin McBride, principal investigator hired by the Town.

The 2004 reconciliation ceremony between the Town of Montague and the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and the NPS ABPP grants have focused a great deal of public attention on the historical significance of the Great Falls Battlefield. Significantly, these efforts have gained the support and participation of neighboring towns of Gill and Greenfield where much of the battle and the colonial approach and retreat, took place. At the same time, on-going discussions between some Town officials, the NPS, and multiple tribal officials about promoting cultural tourism and establishing self-guided walks, kiosks, and signage that could be a part of a cultural landscape park, have proceeded.

The monthly Grant Advisory Board meetings are always well attended by at least 15 people. Local newspapers have covered the process with great interest. The public meetings have contributed greatly to bringing together the 5 Historical Commissioners and 4 Tribal representatives in the on-going efforts to educate and heal.

### **Board members in 2021:**

David Brule, coordinator  
Kit Carpenter, Gill  
Joe Graveline, Northfield  
Doug Harris, Indigenous consultant  
Rich Holschuh, Elnu Abenaki  
Liz Coldwind Santana Kiser, Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians  
Roger Longtoe, Elnu Abenaki  
John Nove, Deerfield  
Walter Ramsey, project administrator  
Bettina Washington, THPO Aquinnah Wampanoag

## **RiverCulture Program and Steering Committee**

Suzanne LoManto, Director of RiverCulture, [riverculture@montague-ma.gov](mailto:riverculture@montague-ma.gov)  
RiverCulture Steering Committee: Eileen Dowd (Chair), Tammy Kretcham, Lilith Wolinsky and Kristi Bodin.

RiverCulture was established in 2006 with a grant from the Mass Cultural Council to foster art and culture in downtown Turners Falls. When that grant was sunsetted in 2018, Town Meeting members voted to incorporate the program into the Department of Planning and Conservation with responsibilities in all five villages of Montague. Supervision and guidance is provided by the Montague Town Planner and the RiverCulture Steering Committee, appointed by the Select Board.

The Director of RiverCulture implements the goals and activities of the program, provides management for Town placemaking projects, facilitates the MCC Turners Falls Cultural District Grant, and acts as a liason between the Town and Shea Theater Board.

**RiverCulture works to:** Foster art and culture; Enhance quality of life; Establish art and culture as a highly visible element of our identity; and cultivate an environment that attracts new businesses, residents, investment, cultural partners and visitors to Montague.

**RiverCulture accomplishes this by:** Serving as a central sounding-board for the Arts; Participating in economic development initiatives; Grant writing, Building partnerships across municipal, public, private, and non-profit sectors; Supporting and promoting cultural events, Developing cross-marketing strategies, Building a social media presence; and maintaining a website: [www.riverculture.org](http://www.riverculture.org)

### **Highlights:**

Turners Falls Rapid Recovery Plan  
Spring planting coordination on Avenue A  
Summer Park Series (June-August): movies, music, theater and family activities at Peskeompskut and Unity Park  
Pocumtuck Homelands Festival Homelands, co-chair  
Spinner Park landscaping, rededication, and opening family event  
Millers Falls Trail Extension Coordinator  
Migrations Festival at the Great Falls Discovery Center  
Downtown Holiday campaign coordination

### **2021 Grants:**

Turners Falls Cultural District Grant (\$7500)  
This Mass Cultural Council grant supports the creative economy of downtown. Funding is spent on events, artist support, advertising, public art and other incentives to increase business and enhance quality of life.

The Peskeompskut Audio Tour (To be Completed June 2022)  
RiverCulture, the creative economy program of Montague, was awarded a \$20,000 grant from Mass Humanities through the Expand Mass Stories Initiative. The self-guided audio tours will use smart phone technology to connect listeners to personal, historic and interpretive narratives by Indigenous and Industrial Era storytelling partners. Stories will be accessed along the bike path, beginning at Unity Park and continuing through the 19th century canal district. Initially eight stories will be housed on the STQRY app platform.

Mass Humanities/Smithsonian: Museum on Main Street, co-chair (Exhibition 2/23)  
Through a partnership with the world's largest museum complex, Mass Humanities has announced that the Great Falls Discovery Center will host "Crossroads: Changes in Rural America," a traveling exhibit produced by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. The exhibition offers small towns a chance to examine the local changes that affected their fortunes over the past century.

RiverCulture, Friends of the Discovery Center, DCR staff and other partners will receive extensive training from the Smithsonian in addition to \$10,000 to develop complimentary programming. "Crossroads" will be on exhibition for six weeks starting in February, 2023.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	
18,873	15,329	15,108	Calls for Service
3300	2000	2,366	911 Emergency Calls
381	258	296	Persons arrested by the Police
330	181	214	Persons were male, 14 were juveniles
51	77	82	Person were female, 2 were juveniles
531	295	368	Victims of crime
52	50	66	Restraining orders served (209a & 258E)
0	5	8	Alarm by-law tickets
59	47	74	Registered Sex Offenders

**TOTAL REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS OVER \$1,000 IN VALUE**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
115	103	112

**TOTAL REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS UNDER \$1,000 IN VALUE**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
34	19	26

**TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLES ACCIDENTS**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
149	122	138

**INJURED PERSONS**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	
15	12	9	Operators
5	1	2	Passengers
1	1	0	Pedestrians
1	3	1	Bicyclist
3	0	1	Motorcyclists
0	0	0	Fatalities
<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Injuries</b>

**MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1165 (Fines \$2,685.00)	474 (Fines \$1,380.00)	642 (\$2,730.00)

**FIREARMS REGISTRATION: PERMITS TO CARRY**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
226	219	<b>153</b>

**PARKING TICKETS ISSUED**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
442 (\$8,680.00)	397 (\$7,900.00)	297 (\$6,010.00)

**HOUSE CHECKS WHILE PEOPLE WERE AWAY**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
99	19	19

**SUMMONS SERVED**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
109	19	65



**Annual Statement for the MONTAGUE RETIREMENT SYSTEM for  
The Year Ended December 31, 2021**

<b>Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>2021 End Balance</b>	<b>2020 End Balance</b>	<b>2019 End Balance</b>
1040 - 1049 Cash	235,633.25	259,210.29	157,091.49
1100 - Short Term Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
1180 - Fixed Income Sec (book value)	0.00	0.00	0.00
1170 - Equities	0.00	0.00	0.00
1101 - Pooled Short Term Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1172 - Pooled Domestic Equity Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1173 - Pooled International Equity Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1174 - Pooled Global Equity Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1181 - Pooled Domestic Fixed Income Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1182 - Pooled International Fixed Income Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1183 - Pooled Global Fixed Income Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1193 - Pooled Alternative Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
1194 - Pooled Real Estate Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1195 - Pooled Domestic Balanced Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1196 - Pooled International Balanced Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1198 - PRIT Cash	170,019.11	170,022.13	170,448.34
1199 - PRIT Fund	61,651,912.71	51,941,402.10	46,898,008.60
1891 - Principal Adjustment Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Fixed Inc Sec	0.00	0.00	0.00
1398 - Accounts Receivable	16,109.42	15,697.02	12,229.32
2020 - Accounts Payable	(932.28)	(2,972.47)	(1,731.85)
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,072,742.21</b>	<b>52,383,359.07</b>	<b>47,236,045.90</b>
<b>Funds:</b>			
3293 - Annuity Savings Fund	7,054,417.73	7,315,802.66	6,835,104.87
3294 - Annuity Reserve Fund	3,629,285.63	2,943,844.34	3,031,627.73
3295 - Military Service Fund	6,538.34	2,215.79	2,213.58
3296 - Pension Fund	345,201.11	200,588.72	36,440.38
3298 - Expense Fund		0.00	0.00
3297 - Pension Reserve Fund	51,037,299.40	41,920,907.56	37,330,659.34
<b>Total Assets at Market Value</b>	<b>62,072,742.21</b>	<b>52,383,359.07</b>	<b>47,236,045.90</b>

<b>Receipts</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>1. Annuity Savings Fund:</b>				
(a) 4891 - Members Deductions		773,654.14	764,713.02	733,386.18
(b) 4892 - Transfers from Other Systems		274,244.57	93,186.98	79,661.46
(c) 4893 - Make Up and Redeposit Payments		10,375.29	39,030.04	15,154.21
(d) 4900 - Member Payments from Rollovers		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) Investment Income CR to Members A/C		8,409.18	8,349.85	12,854.74
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,066,683.18</b>	<b>905,279.89</b>	<b>841,056.59</b>
<b>2. Annuity Reserve Fund:</b>				
Investment Income Cr to Annuity Res. Fund		87,731.50	85,979.03	86,062.04
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>87,731.50</b>	<b>85,979.03</b>	<b>86,062.04</b>
<b>3. Pension Fund:</b>				
(a) 4898 - 3(8)c Reimburse from Other Systems		155,734.08	152,092.70	147,692.98
(b) 4899 - Rec'd from State for COLA & Survivor Ben.		4,379.81	11,278.00	11,828.16
(c) 4894 - Pension Fund Appropriation		2,171,331.00	2,064,003.00	1,961,980.00
(d) 4840 - Workers Compensation Settlement		3,000.00	0.00	6,600.00
(e) 4751 - Recovery of Pension from Reinstatement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(f) 4841 - Recovery of 91A Overearnings		5,106.86	0.00	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,339,551.75</b>	<b>2,227,373.70</b>	<b>2,128,101.14</b>
<b>4. Military Service Fund:</b>				
(a) 4890 - Contributions Received from Municipality		4,320.33	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Credited		2.22	2.21	2.21
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,322.55</b>	<b>2.21</b>	<b>2.21</b>
<b>5. Expense Fund:</b>				
(a) 4896 - Expense Fund Appropriation		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Cr to Expense Fund		405,340.34	342,204.33	346,499.59
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>405,340.34</b>	<b>342,204.33</b>	<b>346,499.59</b>
<b>6. Pension Reserve Fund:</b>				
(a) 4897 - Federal Grant Reimbursement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) 4895 - Pension Reserve Appropriation		0.00	0.00	0.00
(c) 4822 - Interest not Refunded		0.00	192.07	276.89
(d) 4825 - Misc. Income		0.00	25.00	0.00
(e) Excess Investment Income		10,001,355.33	5,395,490.15	6,362,412.10
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,001,355.33</b>	<b>5,395,707.22</b>	<b>6,362,688.99</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>13,904,984.65</b>	<b>8,956,546.38</b>	<b>9,764,410.56</b>

<b>Disbursements</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>1. Annuity Savings Fund:</b>				
(a) 5757 - Refunds To Members		28,926.55	34,479.28	99,546.59
(b) 5756 - Transfers to Other Systems		97,028.61	7,491.48	129,411.01
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>125,955.16</b>	<b>41,970.76</b>	<b>228,957.60</b>
<b>2. Annuity Reserve Fund:</b>				
(a) 5750 - Annuities Paid		604,389.65	556,373.76	523,056.57
(b) 5759 - Option B Refunds		0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>604,389.65</b>	<b>556,373.76</b>	<b>523,056.57</b>
<b>3. Pension Fund:</b>				
(a) 5751 - Pensions Paid Total		2,853,148.22	2,649,199.13	2,557,298.72
Regular Pension Payments		2,301,513.93	2,152,176.89	2,064,562.75
Survivorship Payments		151,783.45	144,112.44	152,428.22
Ordinary Disability Payments		4,167.96	4,014.96	3,866.40
Accidental Disability Payments		395,682.88	348,894.84	336,441.35
Accidental Death Payments		0.00	0.00	0.00
Section 101 Benefits		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) 5755 - 3(8)(c) Reimbursements To Other Systems		226,768.14	219,485.23	209,340.41
(c) 5752 - COLA'S Paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
(d) 5753 - Chapter 389 Ben Increase Paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,079,916.36</b>	<b>2,868,684.36</b>	<b>2,766,639.13</b>
<b>4. Military Service Fund:</b>				
(a) 4890 - Return to Municipality for Members who withdrew their fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>5. Expense Fund:</b>				
(a) 5118 - Board Member Stipend		23,100.00	23,100.00	23,100.00
(b) 5119 - Salaries & Benefits		59,283.28	52,257.02	49,496.15
(c) 5304 - Management Fees		280,919.62	226,754.50	227,905.67
(d) 5305 - Custodial Fees		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) 5307 - Investment Consultant Fees		0.00	0.00	0.00
(f) 5308 - Legal Fees		2,915.62	2,418.74	7,340.62
(g) 5309 - Medical Expenses		25.00	0.00	0.00
(h) 5310 - Fiduciary Insurance		2,555.00	2,395.00	2,336.00
(i) 5311 - Service Contracts		22,300.00	21,500.00	20,800.00
(j) 5312 - Rent Expense		0.00	0.00	0.00
(k) 5315 - Professional Services		0.00	0.00	0.00
(l) 5316 - Actuarial Service		0.00	0.00	0.00
(m) 5317 - Accounting Services		5,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
(n) 5320 - Education and Training		900.00	0.00	1,470.00
(o) 5589 - Administrative Expenses		6,451.82	7,276.41	6,316.75
(p) 5599 - Furniture and Equipment		1390.00	1,454.36	621.87
(q) 5719 - Travel		0.00	48.30	2,112.53
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>405,340.34</b>	<b>342,204.33</b>	<b>346,499.59</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>4,215,601.51</b>	<b>3,809,233.21</b>	<b>3,865,152.89</b>

<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>2021 End Balance</b>	<b>2020 End Balance</b>	<b>2019 End Balance</b>
<b>Investment Income Received From:</b>			
(a) Cash	1,411.36	2,303.78	1,374.88
(b) Short Term Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
(c) Fixed Income Securities	0.00	0.00	0.00
(d) Equities	0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) Pooled Funds	1,320,141.90	1,061,701.19	1,186,447.89
(f) Commission Recapture	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>4821 – TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>1,321,553.26</b>	<b>1,064,004.97</b>	<b>1,187,822.77</b>
<b>Plus:</b>			
4884 - Realized Gains	4,383,501.65	2,264,436.73	2,202,271.00
4886 - Unrealized Gains	6,132,783.20	8,579,471.02	5,347,629.99
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Fixed Inc Sec Cur Yr	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Less:</b>			
4823 - Paid Accrued Interest – Fixed Income Securities	0.00	0.00	0.00
4885 - Realized Losses	0.00	304,462.58	0.00
4887 - Unrealized Losses	1,334,999.54	5,771,424.57	1,929,893.08
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>NET INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>10,502,838.57</b>	<b>5,832,025.57</b>	<b>6,807,830.68</b>
<b>Income Required:</b>			
Annuity Savings Fund	8,409.18	8,349.85	12,854.74
Annuity Reserve Fund	87,731.50	85,979.03	86,062.04
Expense Fund	405,340.34	342,204.33	346,499.59
Military Service Fund	2.22	2.21	2.21
<b>TOTAL INCOME REQUIRED</b>	<b>501,483.24</b>	<b>436,535.42</b>	<b>445,418.58</b>
Net Investment Income	<b>10,502,838.57</b>	<b>5,832,025.57</b>	<b>6,807,830.68</b>
Less: Income Required	<b>501,483.24</b>	<b>436,535.42</b>	<b>445,418.58</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME TO THE PENSION RESERVE FUND</b>	<b>10,001,355.33</b>	<b>5,395,490.15</b>	<b>6,362,412.10</b>

**REPORT OF TREASURER'S CASH AS OF JUNE 30, 2021**

**BANK ACCOUNTS INTEREST BEARING**

UniBank	972,905.44	
Easthampton Savings Bank - ARPA Funds	429,778.51	
Greenfield Savings Bank - Airport	<u>63,325.17</u>	1,466,009.12

**BANK ACCOUNTS NON-INTEREST BEARING**

Greenfield Savings Bank - Park & Rec.	10,021.56	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank - Sewer	976,719.34	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank	<u>2,943,283.06</u>	3,930,023.96

**INVESTMENTS**

MMDT	332,266.04	
Greenfield Savings - Sewer	10,027.37	
SRBT	826,708.63	
Unibank - DPW Facility Account	456,151.28	
UniBank	<u>10,897.58</u>	1,636,050.90

**CONSERVATION FUND**

Balance July 1, 2020	52,650.19	
Investment Income	396.81	
Disbursements from Fund	40,000.00	
Balance June 30, 2021		13,047.00

**STABILIZATION FUND**

Balance July 1, 2020	1,066,479.70	
Investment Income	2,054.57	
Added to Fund	61,507.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2021		1,130,041.27

**GILL MONTAGUE EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND**

Balance July 1, 2020	77,783.76	
Investment Income	761.41	
Added to Fund	39,185.00	
Balance June 30, 2021		117,730.17

**FRANKLIN TECH EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND**

Balance July 1, 2020	98,498.32	
Investment Income	1,040.60	
Added to Fund	68,000.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2021		167,538.92

MONTAGUE SEWER CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2020	127,008.17	
Investment Income	144.09	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund	<u>124,560.47</u>	
Balance June 30, 2021		2,591.79

TOWN OF MONTAGUE CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2020	303,909.65	
Investment Income	6,846.02	
Added to Funds	1,252,115.04	
Disbursements from Fund	<u>127,150.00</u>	
Balance June 30, 2021		1,435,720.71

MSCP PI TRUST

Balance July 1, 2020	27.24	
Investment Income		
Added to Funds		
Disbursed from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2021		27.24

CANNABIS IMPACT FEE STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2020	-	
Investment Income	723.94	
Added to Funds	234,674.83	
Disbursements from Fund	-	
Balance July 1, 2021		235,398.77

Eileen M. Seymour  
Treasurer

**REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2021**

**2015 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			5,377.74
Receipts	400.01		
Net Receipts		400.01	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>4,977.73</u>	<u>5,377.74</u>

**2016 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			5,944.09
Receipts	695.74		
Net Receipts		694.74	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>5,248.35</u>	<u>5,944.09</u>

**2017 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			6,850.76
Receipts	1,648.23		
Net Receipts		1,648.23	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>5,202.53</u>	<u>6,850.76</u>

**2018 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			11,682.88
Receipts	3,376.59		
Net Receipts		3,376.59	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>8,306.29</u>	<u>11,682.88</u>

**2019 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			21,691.26
Add'l Commitment			<u>107.19</u>
Total Commitment			21,798.45
Receipts	11,295.31		
Refunds	<u>397.15</u>		
Net Receipts		10,898.16	
Abatements		515.28	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>10,385.01</u>	<u>21,798.45</u>

**2020 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			126,066.65
Add'l Commitment			<u>79,145.61</u>
Total Commitment			205,212.26
Receipts	180,641.24		
Refunds	<u>5,809.87</u>		
Net Receipts		174,831.37	
Abatements		5,343.33	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>26,565.57</u>	<u>205,195.51</u>

**2021 MOTOR VEHICLE**

Commitment Balance			629,091.01
Receipts	612,499.70		
Refunds	<u>3,372.85</u>		
Net Receipts		609,126.85	
Abatements		7,969.91	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>157,547.13</u>	
			<u>629,091.01</u>

**2015 BOAT EXCISE**

Commitment Balance			408.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>408.00</u>	
			<u>408.00</u>

**2016 BOAT EXCISE**

Commitment Balance			413.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>413.00</u>	
			<u>413.00</u>

**2017 BOAT EXCISE**

Commitment Balance			40.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>40.00</u>	
			<u>40.00</u>

**2018 BOAT EXCISE**

Commitment Balance	0.00		164.00
Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>164.00</u>	
			<u>164.00</u>

**2019 BOAT EXCISE**

Commitment Balance			70.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>70.00</u>	
			<u>70.00</u>

**2020 BOAT EXCISE**

Commitment Balance			1,540.00
Receipts	1,362.00		
Net Receipts		1,362.00	
		25.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>153.00</u>	
			<u>1,540.00</u>

**INTEREST & CHARGES ON ABOVE****\$65,181.09**

Eileen M. Seymour, Tax Collector



## REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

### **2016 REAL ESTATE**

Commitment Balance			0.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>

### **2017 REAL ESTATE**

Commitment Balance			0.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Tax Title		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>

### **2018 REAL ESTATE**

Commitment Balance			46,259.05
Receipts	32,514.83		
Net Receipts		32,514.83	
Tax Title		13,744.22	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>46,259.05</u>

### **2019 REAL ESTATE**

Commitment Balance			141,310.35
Receipts	82,284.91		
Refunds	<u>405.98</u>		
Net Receipts		81,878.93	
Abatements		405.98	
Credit Adjustment-Norwood Hardship		15.00	
Tax Title		18,244.53	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>40,765.91</u>	
			<u>141,310.35</u>

### **2020 REAL ESTATE**

Commitment Balance			692,864.23
Receipts	509,234.56		
Refunds	<u>400.75</u>		
Net Receipts		508,833.81	
Abatements		212.60	
Omitted Assessment Correction-Komosa		2,966.28	
Payment Correction - Komosa		3.88	
Tax Title		57,657.67	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>123,189.99</u>	
			<u>692,864.23</u>

**2021 REAL ESTATE**

Commitment Balance			7,960,763.80
Add'l Commitment			8,726,519.17
Omitted Assessment			<u>7,344.65</u>
Total Commitment			16,694,627.62
Receipts	16,333,689.02		
Refunds	<u>54,495.50</u>		
Net Receipts		16,279,193.52	
Abatements		10,125.95	
Exemptions		57,667.43	
Credit Adjustment		3.48	
Tax Title		54,427.50	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>293,209.74</u>	
			<u>16,694,627.62</u>

**2015 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			61.82
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Abatements		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>61.82</u>	
			<u>61.82</u>

**2016 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			2,586.87
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>2,586.87</u>	
			<u>2,586.87</u>

**2017 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			2,328.62
Receipts	71.64		
Net Receipts		71.64	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>2,256.98</u>	
			<u>2,328.62</u>

**2018 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			2,792.57
Receipts	41.78		
Net Receipts		41.78	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>2,750.79</u>	
			<u>2,792.57</u>

**2019 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			142,875.87
Receipts	120.47		
Net Receipts		120.47	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>142,755.40</u>	
			<u>142,875.87</u>

**2020 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			315,601.48
Receipts	10,814.99		
Refunds	<u>0.01</u>		
Net Receipts		10,814.98	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>304,786.50</u>	
			<u>315,601.48</u>

**2021 PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commitment Balance			1,410,868.62
Add'l Commitment			<u>1,603,675.56</u>
Total Commitment			3,014,544.18
Receipts	266,417.20		
Refunds	<u>2415.98</u>		
Net Receipts		2,661,761.22	
Abatements		14,933.84	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2021		<u>337,849.12</u>	
			<u>3,014,544.18</u>

**INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE****\$99,105.90**

Eileen M. Seymour  
Tax Collector

# SEWER USER FEES AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

<b><u>2021 SEPTAGE FEES COLLECTED</u></b>		49,121.00
<b><u>2021 INDUSTRIAL USE FEES</u></b>		
Committed prior to June 30, 2021		272,971.95
Committed after June 30, 2021		<u>184,508.82</u>
		457,480.77
Collected prior to June 30, 2021		265,582.86
Collected after June 30, 2021		<u>29,756.88</u>
Outstanding Balance		162,141.03
<b><u>2015 SEWER USE FEES</u></b>		
Commitment Balance		0.00
Receipts	0.00	
Refunds		
Net Receipts	0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021	<u>0.00</u>	
<b><u>2016 SEWER USE FEES</u></b>		
Commitment Balance		0.00
Receipts	0.00	
Net Receipts	0.00	
Tax Title	0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021	<u>0.00</u>	
<b><u>2017 SEWER USE FEES</u></b>		
Commitment Balance		0.00
Receipts	0.00	
Net Receipts	0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021	<u>0.00</u>	
<b><u>2018 SEWER USE FEES</u></b>		
Commitment Balance		1,374.48
Receipts	0.00	
Net Receipts	0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2021	<u>1,374.48</u>	
<b><u>2019 SEWER USE FEES</u></b>		
Commitment Balance		7,773.96
Receipts	1,254.97	
Net Receipts	1,254.97	
Outstanding June 30, 2021	<u>6,518.99</u>	
<b><u>2020 SEWER USE FEES</u></b>		

Commitment Balance		214,435.93
Sewer Not Liened to RE		<u>291.53</u>
Total Commitment		214,443.36
Receipts	178,008.23	
Receipts - Sewer Not Liened	284.10	
Refunds	<u>-2,444.64</u>	
Net Receipts		175,847.69
Abatements		4,818.14
Tax Title		25,722.00
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>8,339.63</u>

### **2021 SEWER USE FEES**

Commitment Balance		885557.12
Add'l Commitment		<u>882941.10</u>
Total Commitment		1768498.22
Receipts	1608968.00	
Refunds	<u>13452.02</u>	
Net Receipts		1595515.98
Abatement		20205.30
Courtesy Waiver		20.00
Sewer Billing Error		2416.96
Outstanding June 30, 2021		<u>150339.98</u>

### **INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE**

**\$22,420.80**

Eileen M. Seymour  
Tax Collector

## **Veterans' District Annual Report CY21**

**Mission Statement:** To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

2021 was a trying year for many. Our office remained fully open and fully staffed during all of 2021. We felt we would see more veterans and their dependents due to other services being closed or restricted and this proved true. We filed more VA claims and more VA health care applications than any other year that we have been in existence. The following are some brief highlights for the district during the past year:

- District now brings in \$1793282.18 in Federal and State money **per month** from all sources (VA, State Reimbursements, State Annuities and sales). Compare this to \$58000 in expenses per month.
- Our office requested and sponsored a COVID vaccine clinic courtesy of the VA and Kringle Candle in Bernardston
- We created the State's first dedicated VA Telehealth center for veterans to use for their Telehealth appointments if they do not wish to travel far or do not have the skill set or technology to do at home. This is being emphasized by the VA after lessons learned from COVID.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers. Deputy Chris Demars is now a Certified National Service Officer, allowing us to directly submit VA paperwork, helping to speed up these claims. Finally, Brian Brooks, Veteran Service Officer, is currently the Massachusetts Marine Corps League Commandant, representing Marine Veterans across Massachusetts.
- As District Town Halls and Senior Centers are slowly re-opening we are returning to our normal outreach locations (call for latest times and places)
- We project a level funded Fiscal Year 23 budget while continuing to expand services in 2023

Timothy Niejadlik, Director  
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

## **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY**

The Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) currently services residences and commercial/ industrial businesses, in Turners Falls, Montague City, Montague Center, Lake Pleasant, and the Riverside section of Gill. As there are no pump stations or gravity mains that connect from Millers Falls to the treatment facility, all residents and businesses located on that collection system are serviced by the Town of Erving Wastewater Treatment Facility. In addition, WPCF staff operate and maintain eight remote pump stations and four grinder pump stations.

Financial support is based on Enterprise Funding where the users of the system pay based on the volume of water used. The sewer rates increased 4.3% for FY 2022. Operational, capital expenditure and debt service expenses are supported by the sewer users with the Town paying an annual Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) surcharge.

The facility's average design flow is 1.83 million gallons per day (MGD) and presently treats an average of 0.83 MGD. The facility currently operates a conventional activated sludge treatment model, which uses primary settling tanks for the separation of settleable solids, aeration tanks for biological degradation, and secondary clarifiers for the separation of sludge from treated wastewater.

In June 2020, the Town was issued two separate administrative orders per EPA, from a previous 2019 inspection of the facility and accompanying collection system. During 2020 and 2021 the Town was able to comply with 10/11 action items, with one item in progress for 2022. The facility has a strong working relationship with its regulatory agencies, and continues to work diligently to satisfy the requirements of both its presiding local and federal departments

The facility has acted as the general contractor for large projects such as the new screw press installation, and the chlorine conversion project. In doing so, the facility has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars on capital project costs. The facility has also taken advantage of multiple grant opportunities, receiving grants for lighting, heat pumps, new blowers, pump station pump replacements, and asset management planning, with other grant applications pending approval.

The facility has an unbelievably talented, hard-working staff, who come with many exceptional talents such as carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, and laboratory experience. The WPCF takes pride in its highly skilled and motivated personnel, who have been essential to the efficient operations of the facility.

The WPCF places priority in protecting the environmental public health of its residents. Without proper treatment, pathogens and diseases such as *E. coli*, cholera, dysentery, Hepatitis A, and salmonella would become extensive and widespread. The facility is also constantly looking for ways to create a smaller carbon footprint, especially as it pertains to mitigating the effects of climate change and human health.

The facility would like to send a special thank you to all of the departments, committees, boards, and residents it works with throughout the year. Our forward progress wouldn't be possible without your continued support.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals is the Town's final arbitrator of land use issues. It hears and decides requests for Special Permits and Site Plan Review. They decide upon conditional uses for activities such as, signage, multi-family construction, earth removal and some commercial uses of land. It is empowered to vary the terms and requirements of our Zoning Bylaws under certain prescribed conditions such as hardship and unique circumstances where the strict application of the By-laws is unfair or unanticipated. The Board is also the last local appeal body for land use decisions of the Inspector of Buildings and of Sub-division decisions of the Planning Board.

The Board of Appeals is a volunteer board appointed by the selectmen consisting of 5 full member positions and 3 associate member positions. For 2021 the Board had 5 members and 1 associate member.

The Board had 6 hearings and collected \$325.00 in application fees for 2021.

William Ketchen  
Zoning Enforcement Officer