

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
March 2, 2023

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 in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Montague on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 6:30 P.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 \$10,000 or any other amount for the purpose of preparing a section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Cemetery Commission Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and further to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and pursuant to such acceptance to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the First Light easement payments to said Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund to the CWF Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Clean Water Facility Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, and establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund), effective March 3, 2023, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Trustee of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, § 20 to employ reputable and knowledgeable investment consultants to

assist in determining appropriate investments and pay for those services from the OPEB Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town 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 \$40,000 or any other amount for the purpose of supplementing the FY23 Reserve Fund Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Great Falls Farmers Market Manager with an annual stipend of \$4,000, 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 \$2,500 or any other amount for the purpose of funding a budget for the Great Falls Farmers Market for FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Hearing Officer with an annual stipend of \$2,500, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$625 for the prorated annual amount for the remainder of FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Building Inspector Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to and/or permanent and/or temporary easements for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, landscaping, and other appurtenances and/or facilities, to enable the Town to undertake the South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge Project and for any and all purposes incidental or related thereto, in, on and under certain parcels of land, and land adjacent to and within 200 feet of said parcels, and shown more particularly on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge No. M-28-026 in the Town of Montague, Franklin County," dated November 22, 2022, prepared by WSP USA Inc., said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended and/or incorporated into an easement plan; and, further (b) authorize the

Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$1,500 or any other amount for the purpose of sealing the concrete surface of the Unity Skatepark and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation 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 \$2,000 or any other amount for the purpose of conducting an architectural evaluation of what is known as “the Blacksmith Shop”, located at 12 Station Street, Map 43, Lot 119 in Montague Center to determine the feasibility for retention and restoration or demolition of the building located thereon, whether partial or total, and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation Request)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$35,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of supporting consulting and design costs associated with applying for and/or participating in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 to pay costs of replacing the screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility and appurtenances thereto, including but not limited to engineering, bidding, and construction, as well as all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(CWF 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 \$68,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a transit van, including the purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(CWF 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 \$80,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a pickup truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(DPW 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 \$100,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a one-ton dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(DPW 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 \$52,500 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a municipal inspection vehicle, including purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Building, Assessing, and Health Departments Request)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$230,000 or any other amount for the purpose of replacing the roof of the Colle building, located at 85 Avenue A, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Treasurer/Tax Collector to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

Given under our hands this 13 day of February in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

Matthew Lord

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectmen, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA February ____, 2023

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