

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
October 10, 2023**



Franklin, ss.

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

**GREETING:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Montague on Tuesday, October 10, 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 amend the Town of Montague Consolidated Personnel By-Law by adding Section XIII as follows, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

**Section XIII. Longevity**

A) Annual longevity payments will be provided in the following amounts for benefited, non-police employees who have completed the indicated years of service:

Five years	\$300
Ten years	\$500
Fifteen years	\$900
Twenty years	\$1,000
Twenty-five years	\$1,100
Thirty years	\$1,200

B) The payments authorized by this section shall be applied to the compensation of eligible employees retroactively as of July 1, 2023.

(Selectboard 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 \$3,100, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the FY2024 budgets for the following departments to accommodate the cost of longevity payments for non-police employees who have completed specified years of service, said appropriation to be contingent upon passage and approval of the bylaw amendment proposed in Article 1 of this Special Town Meeting Warrant; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Dollar Amount Increase</u>
122 Selectboard	\$ 800
135 Accountant	\$1,000
145 Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$ 300
420 DPW	\$1,000

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the COLA base for Montague Contributory Retirement System retirees from \$18,000 to \$30,000, effective July 1, 2024, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Montague Retirement Board 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 \$12,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable related equipment for MCTV and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$12,885.56, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Health 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 \$4,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing two signs for the Highland Woods green burial area, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Cemetery Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114, Section 23 to approve all policies and regulations promulgated by the Montague Cemetery Commission prior to the date of this meeting, copies of which are available at the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website at [https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/MCC Rules and Regulations Final Revised May 2023.pdf](https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/MCC_Rules_and_Regulations_Final_Revised_May_2023.pdf) ; and further to grant the Montague Cemetery Commission authority to promulgate additional policies and

regulations and to amend, revise and/or delete all such policies and regulations, subject to the approval of the Selectboard, without further approval at Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Cemetery Commission 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 \$500,000 for the purpose of constructing and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, park improvements on the Town's property located at Montague Center Park, Map 43, Lots 118, 119, 121, 122, & 123 which property is held by, managed and controlled by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Montague for public playground and recreation center purposes; and, further, subject to receipt and acceptance of the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities ("PARC") Grant, described hereinafter, to dedicate said property to park and active recreation purposes under the provisions of G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3 in perpetuity; provided, however, that such funds shall not be expended unless the Town is approved for a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities ("PARC") Grant from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for reimbursement of all or a percentage of the project cost, and to authorize the Parks and Recreation Commission, with the approval of the Selectboard, to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from any federal, state or other funds, and to enter into such grant agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation 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 \$7,566.81, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying a prior year unpaid bill of the Clean Water Facility, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission - CWF Request)

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose Clean Water Facility Do Not Use (DNU) Until 2064 Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B, and raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$68,100, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding said stabilization fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission - CWF 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 \$209,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the amount appropriated pursuant to Article 18 of the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated the sum of \$130,000 for the purchase and installation of a backup generator for the Clean Water Facility and all incidental installation costs to include but not be limited to the corresponding moving of transfer switches and fuel tank, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission - CWF 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 \$50,400, or any other amount, for the purpose of performing a local limits study in accordance with the Town's National Pollution Elimination Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit obligations requirements, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission - CWF 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 \$95,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing two pumping station generators, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission– CWF 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 \$99,900, or any other amount, for the purpose of securing professional consulting services to conduct analysis and reporting in support of collections system regulatory compliance, and for the development of updated local sewer regulations, including all related or incidental costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission– DPW Request)

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of securing professional consulting services to assess and develop plans related to the Town's wastewater collections system capacity, operations and maintenance, and high flow protocols, inclusive of a including all related or incidental costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission – DPW Request)


**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from Farren Care Center, Inc., or the current owner, the real property located at 340-350, and 356 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, and shown as Parcels 12-0-044, 12-0-044A, and 12-0-051, and being Lots B and C on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Montague Massachusetts Surveyed for The Farren Memorial Hospital” dated September 11, 1989, recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 79, Page 4, on such terms and conditions as the Selectboard shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town; 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.

(Selectboard Request)

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, Website, and Town Hall of the Town, at least fourteen days before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this document with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk fourteen days before said meeting.

Given under our hands this 25th day of September in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.


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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Lord

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

Franklin, ss    Montague, MA    September 26, 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 seven days before said meeting as within directed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy M. Bogush  
Constable of Montague