

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town of Montague

Massachusetts



FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2024

THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard is pleased to submit its annual report to the Town of Montague for the calendar year 2024. The year was marked by transitions of staff in key leadership positions; Town Admin Steve Ellis retired and was succeeded by Walter Ramsey around July 1. Chris Nolan-Zeller joined as the Assistant Town Administrator. Additionally, several important hires were overseen, bringing talented new leadership to our DPW and Accounting Office, following staff retirements.

The Town continued to maintain a strong financial position, with substantial and diversified reserve account balances and a solid AA bond rating. The Selectboard continued to balance the need for ongoing investments in the Town's personnel and physical infrastructure that are required to deliver public services with the need to moderate tax and sewer rate increases; maintaining excess capacity/spending from taxation at \$1.2M below the tax levy limit. The Town also completed a comprehensive 6-Year Capital plan to support project and budget planning in the coming years.

The Selectboard Office focused on advancing several priority projects in 2024:
Farren Property Redevelopment: The property came into the town's possession and predevelopment work commenced including the development of a community supported vision plan for village center housing.

Strathmore Mill/ Canal District Revitalization: The Town obtained \$10M in funding to remove the Strathmore Mill complex and repurpose the land for riverfront open space. Additionally, The Board continued implementation and administration of \$2.4 M in ARPA funds and over 3\$M in other external grant funds which funded important community initiatives. As per its long-term strategic vision, the Selectboard Office continued to deepen its engagement with state government, regional and local agencies with the goal of better positioning the Town to receive external project funding, and to influence policies and programs that affect life and costs for our residents. This includes continued engagement with the FRCOG Executive Council, the Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization and Franklin Regional Transportation Authority.

The Selectboard and its staff continued to work to be as responsive as possible to the ongoing requirements of a community that expects and deserves a high level of service. There is a myriad of issues of concern to residents on a day-to-day basis and it is the Board's expectation that the Town will be as responsive as possible to those reasonable concerns. As always, we wish to thank our many partners on town and district staff; on boards and committees; and the many businesses, agencies, and individuals who regularly engage the Selectboard Office with the goal of making Montague a fabulous place to live, work, and visit. You are deeply appreciated.

Finally, we thank you for your interest in these highlights of the Selectboard's activity in 2024 and we likewise encourage you to read the reports of the Town's many other boards and departments.

SELECTBOARD STAFF

Rich Kuklewicz, Chairman
Matthew Lord, Vice Chair
Chris Boutwell, Clerk

Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator
Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator
Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant
Angie Amidon, Administrative Assistant

**Town of Montague
ELECTED Officials**

Board/Committee/Position	Term End
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	3 YEARS
ANN CENZANO	05/18/2027
ANN L. FISK	05/20/2025
REBECCA SABELAWSKI	05/19/2026
BOARD OF HEALTH	3 YEARS
MELANIE AMES ZAMOJSKI	05/18/2027
MICHAEL M. NELSON	05/19/2026
RACHEL A. STOLER	05/20/2025
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE - MONTAGUE	3 YEARS
LORI-LEE ADAMS	05/18/2027
CAROL JACOBS	05/18/2027
CLIFFORD SPATCHER	05/19/2026
WENDY THOMPSON	05/20/2025
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 YEARS
PAMELA G. ALLAN	05/18/2027
NANCY L. CROWELL	05/20/2025
LYDIA IEVINS	05/19/2026
MARGOT G. MALACHOWSKI	05/20/2025
JAMES G. MARTINEAU	05/19/2026
PATRICIA PERHAM	05/18/2027
WILLIAM C. QUALE	05/20/2025
MIRYAM VESSETT	05/19/2026
GRETCHEN W. WETHERBY	05/18/2027
MODERATOR	3 YEARS
JOHN DEMPSEY	05/18/2027
MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY	5 YEARS
KAREN M. CASEY-CHRETIEN	05/16/2028
WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV	05/15/2029
PAULA E. GIRARD	05/20/2025
JUDITH L. HASTINGS	05/19/2026
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION	3 YEARS
ALBERT CUMMINGS	05/20/2025
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	05/18/2027
JEFFREY C. SINGLETON	05/19/2026
SELECTBOARD	3 YEARS
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	05/20/2025
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	05/18/2027
MATTHEW R. LORD	05/19/2026

TREASURER – TAX COLLECTOR	3 YEARS
EILEEN M. SEYMOUR	05/20/2025
TRUSTEE, SOLDIER’S MEMORIAL, NON-VETERAN	3 YEARS
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	05/19/2026
SCOTT R. HYMAN	05/18/2027
TRUSTEE, SOLDIER’S MEMORIAL, VETERAN	3 YEARS
LORI-LEE ADAMS	05/19/2026
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS	05/18/2027

**Town of Montague
APPOINTED Officials
Calendar Year January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**

Board/Committee/Position	Term End
ADMINISTRATOR	
STEVE ELLIS Retired	06/30/2024
WALTER F. RAMSEY Contract Appointed 7/1/2024	06/30/2027
AIRPORT COMMISSION	3 YEARS
DAVID BRULE	06/30/2025
GARY COLLINS	06/30/2026
JOSHUA LIVELY	06/30/2026
JOSEPH M. MAZESKI	06/30/2027
SETH RUTHERFORD	06/30/2025
AIRPORT MANAGER	1 YEAR
BRYAN CAMDEN	06/30/2025
AIRPORT OPERATIONS MANAGER	1 YEAR
LUKE TIMBERLAKE	06/30/2025
ALTERNATE BUILDING INSPECTOR	1 YEAR
DAVID E. JENSEN	
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	3 YEARS
WALTER F. RAMSEY Promoted	06/30/2024
CHRISTOPHER J. NOLAN-ZELLER Contract Appointed 06/26/24	06/26/2027
AUCTION PERMIT AGENT	1 YEAR
WENDY BOGUSZ	06/30/2025
KATHERN F. PIERCE	06/30/2025
BATTLEFIELD GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
MARK ANDREWS	06/30/2025
TIM BLAGG	06/30/2025
DAVID BRULE	06/30/2025

KIT CARPENTER	06/30/2025
JOE GRAVELINE	06/30/2025
RICH HOLSHUH	06/30/2025
ROGER LONGTOE SHEEHAN	06/30/2025
JOHN NOVE	06/30/2025
ELIZABETH SANTANA KISER	06/30/2025
BETTINA WASHINGTON	06/30/2025
BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR	
RYAN PAXTON	EMPLOYEE
CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
KRISTI A. BODIN	06/30/2026
JASON BURBANK	06/30/2027
RYNE HAGER	06/30/2027
RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2027
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
JASON BURBANK	06/30/2026
ARIEL ELAN	06/30/2026
GREGG GARRISON	06/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	06/30/2025
MARLYN H. REYNOLDS	06/30/2027
CEMETERY COMMISSION	1 YEAR
JAMIE FULLER	06/30/2025
AMBER KORBY	06/30/2025
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE	06/30/2025
JUDITH LOREI	06/30/2025
MARY K MATTIACE	06/30/2025
JO-ANN PRESCOTT	06/30/2025
JAMES C. SIMPSON	06/30/2025
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	3 YEARS
JOSHUA ANDERSON	06/30/2026
TOBIAS CARTER	06/30/2025
MARK FAIRBRTOHER	06/30/2026
JUSTING T. FERMANN	06/30/2027
MARGAUX RECKARD	06/30/2026
ANTHONY REIBER	06/30/2027
SEAN WERLE	06/30/2025
CONSERVATION COMMISSION – ASSOCIATE MEMBER	1 YEAR
ALBERT N. AVERILL	06/30/2025
CONSTABLE	1 YEAR
WENDY BOGUSZ	6/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS	6/30/2025

COUNCIL ON AGING	1 YEAR
LINDA ACKERMAN	06/30/2025
DEBRA ANN BOURBEAU	06/30/2025
ELSIE GILMAN	06/30/2025
MARY HILDRETH	06/30/2025
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2025
COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR	
ROBERTA L. POTTER	EMPLOYEE
CULTURAL COORDINATOR	
SUZANNE LOMANTO	EMPLOYEE
CULTURAL COUNCIL	3 YEARS
JASPER ADAMS	06/30/2026
DEBORAH RUTH FRENKEL	06/30/2025
KATHLEEN LYNCH	06/30/2025
MARGARET (MAGGIE) HOMES MARTIN	06/30/2025
JAMES MUSSONI	06/30/2025
DIRECTOR OF ASSESSING	
KAREN TONELLI	EMPLOYEE
DPW OFFICE MANAGER	
BRANDY L. PATCH	EMPLOYEE
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	
TOM BERGERON Retired	06/30/2024
SAM URKIEL Appointed	07/29/2024
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION	3 YEARS
LINDA ACKERMAN	06/30/2026
HOHN FURBISH	06/30/2027
ELLA J. INGRAHAM	06/30/2026
JAMES MUSSONI	06/30/2025
RICHARD R. RUTH JR.	06/30/2025
ROBERT STEINBERG	06/30/2027
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS	06/30/2026
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	1 YEAR
JOHN ZELLMANN	06/30/2025
ENERGY COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
JASON BURBANK	06/30/2025
DAVID DEMPSEY	06/30/2025
ARIEL S. ELAN	06/30/2025
PAMELA F. HANOLD	06/30/2025
SARAH (Sally) PICK	06/30/2025

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	
WENDY M. BOGUSZ	EMPLOYEE
F. C. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2	1 YEAR
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL SR.	06/30/2025
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2025
FINANCE COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
DORINDA C. BELL-UPP	06/30/2025
FREDERIC BOWMAN	06/30/2027
JOHN T. HANOLD	06/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	06/30/2027
JENNIFER WARYAS	06/30/2026
FRANCIA E. WISNEWSKI	06/30/2026
FOREST WARDEN	1 YEAR
RICHARD SAWIN JR.	06/30/2025
FOREST WARDEN – DEPUTY	1 YEAR
KYLE COGSWELL	06/30/2025
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – PLANNING	1 YEAR
ELIZABETH IRVING	06/30/2025
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - COUNCILOR	1 YEAR
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2025
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – COUNCILOR, ALT	1 YEAR
WALTER F. RAMSEY	06/30/2025
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – PLANNING BOARD – SELECTBOARD REP	1 YEAR
MAUREEN POLLOCK	06/30/2025
FRANKLIN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD	1 YEAR
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2025
JEFFREY C. SINGLETON (APPOINTED DESIGNEE)	06/30/2025
GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR	1 YEAR
JOHN LETOURNEAU	06/30/2025
JEFFREY M. BACHE (ALTERNATE)	06/30/2025
GILL-MONTAGUE TRANSIT AUTHORITY	2 YEARS
CAROLYN OLSEN	06/30/2026

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	1 YEAR
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE	06/30/2025
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	3 YEARS
CHRIS CLAWSON	06/30/2025
EDWARD P. GREGORY	06/30/2025
JANEL F. NOCKLEBY	06/30/2025
JENNIFER (JEN) VIENCEK	06/30/2027
MASS IN MOTION INITIATIVE	1 YEAR
EILEEN DOWD	06/30/2025
CAITLIN KELLEY	06/30/2025
EILEEN MARIANI	06/30/2025
RYAN PAXTON	06/30/2025
MAUREEN POLLOCK	06/30/2025
ROBERTA L. POTTER	06/30/2025
ROY ROSENBLATT	06/30/2025
PLANNING AND CONSERVATION AGENT	
MAUREEN POLLOCK	EMPLOYEE
PLANNING BOARD	3 YEARS
GEORGE COOKE	06/30/2027
SAMUEL THOMAS GUERIN	06/30/2026
ELIZABETH IRVING	06/30/2027
ROBERT OBEAR	06/30/2026
RON SICARD	06/30/2025
REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC)	1 YEAR
JOHN ZELLMANN	06/30/2025
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	3 YEARS
WENDY M. BOGUSZ	06/30/2027
STANLEY DOBOSZ	06/30/2027
ELIZABETH IRVING	06/30/2027
RETIREMENT BOARD	3 YEARS
STEVEN F. ELLIS	05/20/2027
RIVERCULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
SUSAN BLAUNER	06/30/2027
JONATHAN DOBOSZ	06/30/2027
CAITLIN KELLEY	06/30/2027
SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
DORINDA BELL-UPP	06/30/2025

SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION PLANNING BOARD DISTRICT REGIONAL AGREEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE	
DORINDA C. BELL-UPP	UNTIL FINISHED
MATTHEW R. LORD	UNTIL FINISHED
TAX TITLE CUSTODIAN	1 YEAR
EILEEN M. SEYMOUR	06/30/2025
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	
CAROLYN OLSEN Retired	09/19/2024
ANGELICA DESROCHES Appointed	08/19/2024
TOWN CLERK	
KATHERN F. PIERCE	EMPLOYEE
TOWN COUNSEL	1 YEAR
KP LAW, PC	06/30/2025
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
WILLIAM CODINGTON	06/30/2025
DAVID DETMOLD	06/30/2025
CHARLES WALKER KORBY	06/30/2025
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE	06/30/2025
JULIE MORSE	06/30/2025
ELI SMITH	06/30/2025
TOM SULLIVAN	06/30/2025
JEFFREY WARREN-PUKIS	06/30/2025
UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERAN'S SERVICES DISTRICT	1 YEAR
JOSHUA ANDERSON	06/30/2025
VETERAN'S BURIAL AGENT	1 YEAR
CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	06/30/2025
VETERAN'S DIRECTOR	1 YEAR
CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	06/30/2025
WELLS TRUST	1 YEAR
RON SICARD	06/30/2025
WIRING INSPECTOR	1 YEAR
WAYNE SHAW	06/30/2025
WIRING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE	1 YEAR
TODD WEED	06/30/2025
THOMAS W. WYMAN	06/30/2025
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	5 YEARS
WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV	06/30/2028

DAVID E. JENSEN	06/30/2027
JOSHUA LIVELY	06/30/2025
ROBERT OBEAR	06/30/2029
RICHARD R. RUTH, JR	06/30/2026
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - ALTERNATE	1 YEAR
PETER J. LAPACHINSKI	06/30/2025
ZAHARIA NICHITA	06/30/2025

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

PCT	NAME	ADDRESS	VILLAGE	EXPIRATION
1	DEMPSEY, DAVID	143 WEST CHESTNUT HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	EDWARDS, CHARLES Y.	48 TAYLOR HILL ROAD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	ELAN, ARIEL S.	Box 351, 506 Turners Falls Rd	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	FAIRBROTHER, MARK	129 MEADOW ROAD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	IRVING, ELIZABETH M.	7 NEWTON LANE	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	LOVEJOY, SAMUEL H.	BOX 177 46 MAIN ST	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	PERHAM, PATRICIA	BOX 185 93 E TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	BLOOMBERG, SHEREE I.	25 CENTER ST	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	EMERY, SAVANNAH E.	20 RIPLEY ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	FISK, MARK E.	15 MEADOW RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	LORD, MATTHEW	59 CENTER STREET	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	MARIANI, EILEEN	PO BOX M [63 Main St]	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	NELSON, MICHAEL	16 SUNDERLAND ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	REYNOLDS, JOHN L.	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	ACKERMAN, LINDA N.	86 TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
1	CLARK, MALCOLM	PO BOX 901	HADLEY	18-May-2027
1	DORAIS, SUSAN	Box 432, 22 UNION STREET	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
1	LOREI, JUDITH	7 NORTH ST.	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
1	QUALE, WILLIAM C	28 CENTER ST	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
1	REYNOLDS, MARLYN H.	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
1	SPATCHER, CLIFFORD	442 TURNERS FALLS RD.	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
2	CROWELL, NANCY L.	4 GROUT CIRCLE	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	HENRY, MICHAEL	57 SOUTH PROSPECT ST.	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
2	JENSEN, HAROLD "SANDY"	25 GREEN POND RD	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	KETCHAM, MICHAEL J.	18 BRIDGE STREET	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	PRENTICE, MICHAEL	323 FEDERAL ST	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
2	STEIN, JACKLYN	BOX 235, 9 BROADWAY	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	TOBEY, JENNIFER	10 CRESCENT ST	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	ATWOOD, MATTHEW	BOX 235, 9 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	19-May-2026
2	CHEVALIER, KATHRYN M.	190 TURNPIKE ROAD, A	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026

2	INGHAM JILL ELAINE	2 FRANKLIN COMMONS	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	LIVELY, JOSHUA	194 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
2	RICHARDSON, SUE ANN	BOX 10, 30 MASSASOIT ST.	LAKE PLEASANT	19-May-2026
2	WETHERBY, GRETCHENW	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	WISNEWSKI, FRANCI	196 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
2	BOURBEAU, DEBRA A.	404 MILLERS FALLS RD	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-2027
2	CONSTANTINE, STEPHEN	80 SOUTH PROSPECT ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-2027
2	COTA, ALEXIA E.	5 LYMAN ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-2027
2	GAJDA, GEORGE WILLIAM	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-2027
2	JENSEN, DAVID E.	PO Box 44 [13 Denton St]	LAKE PLEASANT	18-May-2027
2	MARTINEAU, JAMES G.	4 GRAND AVE	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-2027
2	TOLZDORF, TAMMY J.	25 EAST MAIN ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-2027
3	BODIN, KRISTI A.	199 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
3	DUCHARME, RICHARD W.	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
3	FOGLE, ELIZABETH J.	115 MONTAGUE ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
3	HIRST, JOHN L.	17 DELL ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
3	PACKARD, ROLLAND	17 WORCESTER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
3	COREY, JASON S.	126 MILLERS FALLS ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
3	DUCHARME, CHERI S.	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
3	HOLMES, JENNIFER	53 MILLERS FALLS RD, #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
3	THOMPSON, WENDY	34 MILLERS FALLS ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
3	ADAMS, LORI-LEE	17 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
3	GLOSKI, CAROL J	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
3	GODIN, RAYMOND A.	4 ALICE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
3	MARTINEAU, SHANNON	18 CARLISLE AVE	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
3	PHILLIPS, JOYCE A.	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
3	STOLER, RACHEL	205 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
4	AUDLEY, JENNIFER R.	27 X STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	BOUTWELL, CHRIS M.	28 SUNSET DR	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	GRADER, DENNIS L.	72 DELL ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	KATSOULIS, JAMES	89 HIGH STREETE	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	KLEMPNER, CARA S.	34 PARK ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	LITTLE, CHELSEY	34 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	REID, DONALD A.	7 COUNTRY CLUB LANE	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	BOWMAN, FREDERIC H.	701 FAIRWAY AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	INGRAHAM, ELLA J.	31 CROCKER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	KUKLEWICZ, RICHARD J.	66 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	LICATA, BRIDGET	1 DAVIS ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	PIERCE, ROBERT D.	9 OAKMAN ST.	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	POTTER, ROBERTA L.	11 STEVENS STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	HARMON, DAVID	27 X STREET	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
4	SPRENGEL, MADDOX	36 HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
4	WARYAS, JENNIFER	144 SEVENTH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027

5	AUTLER, LILLIAN	28 SECOND ST #2	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	BULLEN, DUNCAN P.	66 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	BULZACCHELLI, JOAN	104 SECOND ST #2	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	DIPAULO, DENISE	46 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	HAGER, RYNE	54 PROSPECT STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	HANOLD, JOHN T.	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	HANOLD, PAMELA F.	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	MCNAMARA, MAUREEN	PO Box 173, 73 Fourth St. #2	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	NOCKLEBY, JANEL	14 THIRD STREET, #C	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	REIPOLD, APRIL J.	17 CHESTNUT ST.	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	BELAIR, JOANNE ALICE	34 PROSPECT STREET, #1	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	CALLAHAN, LAURIE	65 FIFTH ST, #2B	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	COHEN, NATAN M.	25 CENTAL ST. #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	CUNHA, M. EDITE	161 AVENUE A, PO BOX 149	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	NELSON, JACK	65 CANAL ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	SINGLETON, JEFFREY C.	1 K STREET, #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	DOBOSZ, STANLEY	29 GROVE STREET	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
5	LOMANTO, SUZANNE	26 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
5	PEDROSA, DIANA	107 AVENUE A 3	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
5	RUTH, JR., RICHARD R.	15 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
6	BILLIEL, FREDERICK	21 TURNPIKE RD	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
6	HASTINGS, KEVIN J.	34 RANDALL ROAD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	HUDYMA, PETER J.	82 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	LATKA, KAREN	Box 431, 266 Turners Falls Rd	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	WOLINSKY, LILITH G.	Box 355, 312 M.C. RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	ZAMOJSKI, MELANIE K.	33 O STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
6	BELL-UP, DORINDA	7 SOUTH HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	DEMERS, THOMAS J.	35 WALNUT STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	JUNG, SARAH M.	385 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	MILKEY, DENISE A.	2 KINGSLEY AVENUE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	SMITH, BRIAN M.	19 ROD SHOP ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	TRASK, KENNETH	17 POPLAR STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	HEISIG, LAURA E.	83 G STREET	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
6	LEVINE, ANNABEL	132 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
6	MATTIACE, MARY K	370 MONTAGUE CITY RD.	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
6	MUSSONI, JAMES J.	PO BOX 262, 149 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-2027
6	PITCHER, BRENT	11 GREENFIELD ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027
6	TAPSCOTT, IAN E.	83 G STREET	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-2027

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
March 14, 2024**

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 Thursday, March 14, 2024, 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 Classification Plan to add the position of DPW Truck Driver Laborer in Training at Grade B or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 6 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, by adding the position of Cemetery Sexton, with a rate per burial of \$100, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Cemetery Commission Request)

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 6 at the May 6, 2023, Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, by increasing the pay range for Part Time Police Officers from \$25-\$28 per hour to \$29-\$35 per hour, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Police Department Request)

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to revoke its acceptance of the provisions of the former Section 48 of Chapter 31 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, voted under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 1932 Annual Town Meeting, and any amendments thereto insofar as such chapter and section relate to the Civil Service status of regular or permanent members of the Police Department of the Town of Montague, so that the permanent members of the Police Department shall no longer be subject to the provisions of Chapter 31 and the rules and regulations relating thereto, except that such revocation shall not affect any civil service rights, which have come into existence between the Town and employees of the Police Department as a result of the Town's original acceptance of the statute, or pass any vote or votes in relations thereto.
(Police Department 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 \$1,974, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing retroactive out-of-grade compensation owed to a union employee within the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office for the prior year, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Treasurer/Tax Collector 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 \$300, or any other amount, for the purpose of making a prior year's longevity payment to a union employee in the Library Department, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Library Director Request)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 7 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Building Inspector Budget, Line 241 by \$8,481 from \$148,621 to \$157,102, or any other amount, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide said sum, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding said increase, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Building Inspector Request)

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 7 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Selectboard budget, Line 122 by \$23,000 from \$329,781 to \$352,781, or any other amount, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide said sum, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding said increase, 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 \$152,261, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations of the Airport, including the payment of wages and benefits for airport employees, maintenance of property and equipment, the purchase of supplies, debt service, and anything incidental or related thereto, with said amount to be used to fund the expected Fiscal Year 2024 revenue shortfall in the Airport Enterprise Fund, and to adjust any or all airport enterprise fund budget line items, as voted pursuant to Article 9 of the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, 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 \$152,315, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing all failed pavement, utility connections, parking lots, and loading docks on the Pioneer Aviation property, including any and all incidental and related costs, 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 \$125,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding a Wastewater Asset Vulnerability Inventory, including all related or incidental costs, with the expectation that approximately sixty percent of the cost of the project (\$75,000) will be reimbursed by a State grant; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Sewer Commission 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 \$90,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a skid steer, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Department of Public Works 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 \$222,880, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing a culvert on South Ferry Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, to rescind the vote taken under Article #16 of the October 13, 2022 Special Town Meeting, which established an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicated all opioid settlement revenues to this fund, such funds henceforth to be placed in a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including

those outlined in applicable opioid settlement documents, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

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

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman, Selectboard, Town of Montague

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Matthew Lord

Franklin, ss Montague, MA February _____, 2024

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 _____

**SPECIALTOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
March 14, 2024
MOTIONS**

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town will vote to amend the Classification Plan to add the position of DPW Truck Driver Laborer in Training at Grade B. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 6 at the May 6, 2023, Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, by adding the position of Cemetery Sexton with a rate per burial of \$100. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 3. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 6 at the May 6, 2023, Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, by increasing the pay range for Part Time Police Officers from \$25-\$28 per hour to \$29-\$35 per hour. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote to revoke its acceptance of the provisions of the former Section 48 of Chapter 31 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, voted under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 1932 Annual Town Meeting, and any amendments thereto insofar as such chapter and section relate to the Civil Service status of regular or permanent members of the Police Department of the Town of Montague, so that the regular or permanent members of the Police Department shall no longer be subject to the provisions of Chapter 31 and the rules and regulations relating thereto, except that such revocation shall not affect any civil service rights, which have come into existence between the Town and employees of the Police Department as a result of the Town's original acceptance of the statute. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,974 for the purpose of providing retroactive out-of-grade compensation to a union employee within the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office for the prior year, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

9/10 VOTE NEEDED PASSED/UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$300 for the purpose of making a prior year's longevity payments to a union employee in the Library Department, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

9/10 VOTE NEEDED PASSED/UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 7 at the May 6, 2023, Annual Town Meeting by increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Building Inspector Budget, Line 241 by \$8,481 from \$148,621 to \$157,102, and to appropriate said sum from Free Cash for the purpose of funding said increase.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 7 at the May 6, 2023, Annual Town Meeting by increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Selectboard budget by \$23,000 from \$329,781 to \$352,781, and to appropriate said sum from Free Cash for the purpose of funding said increase.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: that the Town appropriate the total sum of 152,261 for the purpose of funding the operations of the Airport, including the payment of wages and benefits for airport employees, maintenance of property and equipment, the purchase of supplies, debt service, and anything incidental or related thereto, with said amount to be used to fund the expected Fiscal Year 2024 revenue shortfall in the Airport Enterprise Fund, with \$128,000 to be transferred from Free Cash and with \$24,261 to be transferred from the Sale of Real Estate Fund, and to adjust the line items in the Airport Enterprise Fund, as voted pursuant to Article 9 of the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, as follows:

<u>AIRPORT</u>	<u>Voted May 6, 2023</u>	<u>Proposed March 14, 2024</u>
482 Wages & Expenses	\$274,915	\$284,915
482 Capital Outlay/Local Share	\$10,000	\$0
700 Debt Service	\$101,535	\$101,535
Employee benefits	\$40,515	\$40,515
TOTAL AIRPORT	\$426,965	\$426,965

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town vote appropriate the sum of \$152,315 for the purpose of replacing all failed pavement, utility connections, parking lots, and loading docks, on the Pioneer Aviation property, including any and all incidental and related costs, said funds to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for the purpose of funding a Wastewater Asset Vulnerability Inventory, including all related or incidental costs, with \$50,000 to be raised from the Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings and \$75,000 from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. The Town will first exhaust funds provided by State grants and the Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings account before using the Stabilization Fund.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a skid steer, including any and all incidental and related costs said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$222,880 for the purpose of replacing a culvert on South Ferry Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article #16 of the October 13, 2022 Special Town Meeting, which established an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicated all opioid settlement revenues to this fund, such funds henceforth to be placed in a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid settlement documents. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 4, 2024**

Franklin, ss.

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

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 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 the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (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 fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	500	500	500

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,355	2,640	2,640
Second/Third Members	2,140	2,400	2,400
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,765	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,800	1,800
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	78,423*	82,394**	82,394
*Step 9			
**Step 10			
TREE WARDEN	1,575	1,764	1,764
BOARD OF HEALTH			
Chairman	1,765	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,800	1,800
	(Selectboard Request)		

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	625	625	625
BOARD OF REGISTRARS Town Clerk	900	900	900
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,765	6,444	6,444
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,575	1,764	1,764
BARN INSPECTOR	1,050	1,400	1,400
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
IT COORDINATOR	2,100	2,352	2,352
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	3,000	6,000	6,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,882	1,882
HEARING OFFICER	2,500	2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	4,000	4,000	4,000
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
GAS INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00

PLUMBING INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
SEXTON/PER BURIAL		100.00	100.00

SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND Ranges/hr.</u>
HOURLY RATES			
EXTRA CLERICAL	15.00-16.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
ELECTION WORKERS	15.00-17.75	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75
SUMMER HIGHWAY	15.00-16.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	25.00-28.00	29.00-35.00	29.00-35.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	22.00-25.00	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00
PARKS & RECREATION	15.00-21.50	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25
AIRPORT INTERN	15.00-16.00	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75

SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS

PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

SECOND SHIFT	1.00	1.00
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THIRD SHIFT	1.25	1.25
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PART TIME DISPATCHERS

SECOND SHIFT	0.75	0.75
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THIRD SHIFT	1.00	1.00
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<u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u>	0.75	0.75
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SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE (placed on NAGE Scale)

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2024</u>		<u>Range FY2025</u>	
<u>SALARIED</u>		Start	End	Start	End
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	100,946	124,233	103,470	127,339
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	91,770	112,940	94,064	115,764
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
TOWN CLERK	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	91,770	112,940	94,064	115,764
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	83,428	102,672	85,514	105,239
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	83,428	102,672	85,514	105,239
<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	24.40	30.02	25.01	30.77
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	40.11	44.50	40.95	45.44
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	16.35	20.12	16.76	20.62

(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 \$12,409,728, or any other amount, for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary charges, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**Schedule III
Town Operating Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113	TOWN MEETING	2,980	3,180	3,180
122	SELECTBOARD	330,581	326,230	326,230
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000	600	600
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	90,500	93,000	93,000
141	ASSESSORS	189,801	186,059	186,059
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	231,048	206,965	206,965
151	TOWN COUNSEL	80,000	87,475	87,475
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	80,500	92,252	92,252
159	SHARED COSTS	85,907	93,499	93,499
161	TOWN CLERK	243,041	237,224	237,224
175	PLANNING	134,429	140,788	140,788
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	155,932	140,050	140,050
197	FARMERS MARKET	5,000	5,200	5,200
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,682,419	1,663,222	1,663,222
	PUBLIC SAFETY			
211	POLICE	1,970,054	2,067,608	2,067,608
211	POLICE CRUISER	68,100	60,000	60,000
212	DISPATCH	395,588	410,768	410,768
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	148,621	155,082	155,082
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,265	6,944	6,944
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	23,112	23,658	23,658
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,882	1,882
299	TREE WARDEN	30,285	30,474	30,474
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,650,917	2,763,598	2,763,598
	PUBLIC WORKS			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,747,506	1,772,006	1,772,006
423	SNOW & ICE	311,250	321,250	321,250
433	SOLID WASTE	679,221	802,776	802,776

480	CHARGING STATIONS	7,380	11,980	11,980
491	CEMETERIES	30,150	32,150	32,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,815,507	2,940,162	2,940,162

**Schedule III
Town Operating Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
	HUMAN SERVICES			
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	175,444	168,004	168,004
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	58,593	59,272	59,272
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	76,500	77,897	77,897
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	310,537	305,173	305,173
	CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	LIBRARIES	503,336	518,233	518,233
630	PARKS & RECREATION	160,703	164,826	164,826
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,600	1,600	1,600
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	666,139	685,159	685,159
	DEBT SERVICE			
700	DEBT SERVICE	1,154,319	1,158,857	1,158,857
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL			
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	113,924	116,874	116,874
	MISCELLANEOUS			
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,490,334	2,657,083	2,657,083
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	120,600	119,600	119,600
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,610,934	2,776,683	2,776,683
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	12,004,696	12,409,728	12,409,728

(Selectboard 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 \$3,119,324, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, CWF Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
	CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440	Wages & Expenses	2,015,729	2,116,590	2,116,590
440	Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
	CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
700	Debt Service	483,614	478,365	478,365
910	Employee Benefits	363,631	380,719	380,719
	SUBTOTAL CWF	2,921,474	3,034,174	3,034,174
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY			
	Wages & Expenses	84,650	85,150	85,150
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	84,650	85,150	85,150
	TOTAL CWF	3,006,124	3,119,324	3,119,324

(Sewer 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 \$419,677, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**Schedule V
Airport Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
	AIRPORT			
482	Wages & Expenses	274,915	255,238	255,238
482	Capital Outlay/Local Share	10,000	-	-
700	Debt Service	101,535	102,775	102,775
910	Employee Benefits	40,515	61,664	61,664
	TOTAL AIRPORT	426,965	419,677	419,677

(Airport 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 \$52,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$837,356, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying the Franklin County Technical School District for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Franklin County Technical School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Franklin County Technical School Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,143,442, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying the Gill-Montague Regional School District for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Gill-Montague Regional Schools, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$24,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of reconfiguring the Sheffield School main office, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$175,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, 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. (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 \$36,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 57C, for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal year 2026) or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Tax Collector 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 \$260,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying for legal fees and valuation expert testimony before the Appellate Tax Board, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$283,800, or any other amount, for the purpose of upgrading the Montague Center Pump Station, including any and all incidental and related costs, 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. (Clean Water Facility 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 \$150,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the planning and design phase of the 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 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$64,218, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works 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 \$40,402, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a 20-ton trailer for the DPW, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works 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 \$365,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, 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. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$78,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of lining sewer manholes and relining sewer pipes, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$30,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of paving the First Street alley, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works 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 \$296,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of rehabilitating the public parking lot at One Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, 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. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 24: 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.

Fund	Amount (\$)
Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund	10,000
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	119,653
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	34,323
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
Total:	213,976

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement for a printer/copier in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §21C, said sum to be included in the Shared Services departmental budget, and to take 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 8th day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Matthew Lord _____

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr. _____

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman _____
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA April ____, 2024

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 4, 2024
MOTIONS**

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS 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 fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	500	500	500
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,355	2,640	2,640
Second/Third Members	2,140	2,400	2,400
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,765	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,800	1,800
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	78,423*	82,394**	82,394
*Step 9			
**Step 10			
TREE WARDEN	1,575	1,764	1,764
BOARD OF HEALTH	1,765	1,980	1,980
Chairman			
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,800	1,800

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u>
ANNUAL STIPENDS			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	625	625	625
BOARD OF REGISTRARS Town Clerk	900	900	900
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,765	6,444	6,444
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,575	1,764	1,764

BARN INSPECTOR	1,050	1,400	1,400
IT COORDINATOR	2,100	2,352	2,352
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	3,000	6,000	6,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,882	1,882
HEARING OFFICER	2,500	2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	4,000	4,000	4,000
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
GAS INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	35.00	45.00	45.00
SEXTON/PER BURIAL		100.00	100.00
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
EXTRA CLERICAL	15.00-16.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
ELECTION WORKERS	15.00-17.75	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75
SUMMER HIGHWAY	15.00-16.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	25.00-28.00	29.00-35.00	29.00-35.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	22.00-25.00	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00
PARKS & RECREATION	15.00-21.50	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25
AIRPORT INTERN	15.00-16.00	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS			
<u>PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT		1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT		1.25	1.25
<u>PART TIME DISPATCHERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT		0.75	0.75
THIRD SHIFT		1.00	1.00
<u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u>		0.75	0.75

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE (placed on NAGE Scale)

<u>Grade</u>		<u>Range FY2024</u>		<u>Range FY2025</u>	
	<u>SALARIED</u>	Start	End	Start	End
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	100,946	124,233	103,470	127,339
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	91,770	112,940	94,064	115,764
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
TOWN CLERK	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	91,770	112,940	94,064	115,764
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	83,428	102,672	85,514	105,239
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	65,636	80,384	67,277	82,394

CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	83,428	102,672	85,514	105,239
<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	24.40	30.02	25.01	30.77
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	40.11	44.50	40.95	45.44
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	16.35	20.12	16.76	20.62

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,409,728 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary charges, with \$487.42 to be raised from Fund Balance Reserved for Excluded Debt and \$12,409,240.58 to be raised from Taxation.

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113	TOWN MEETING	2,980	3,180	3,180
122	SELECTBOARD	330,581	326,230	326,230
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000	600	600
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	90,500	93,000	93,000
141	ASSESSORS	189,801	186,059	186,059
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	231,048	206,965	206,965
151	TOWN COUNSEL	80,000	87,475	87,475
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	80,500	92,252	92,252
159	SHARED COSTS	85,907	93,499	93,499
161	TOWN CLERK	243,041	237,224	237,224
175	PLANNING	134,429	140,788	140,788
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	155,932	140,050	140,050
197	FARMERS MARKET	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,200</u>	<u>5,200</u>
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,682,419	1,663,222	1,663,222
	PUBLIC SAFETY			
211	POLICE	1,970,054	2,067,608	2,067,608
211	POLICE CRUISER	68,100	60,000	60,000
212	DISPATCH	395,588	410,768	410,768
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	148,621	155,082	155,082
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,265	6,944	6,944
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	23,112	23,658	23,658
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,882	1,882
299	TREE WARDEN	<u>30,285</u>	<u>30,474</u>	<u>30,474</u>
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,650,917	2,763,598	2,763,598
	PUBLIC WORKS			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,747,506	1,772,006	1,772,006
423	SNOW & ICE	311,250	321,250	321,250
433	SOLID WASTE	679,221	802,776	802,776
480	CHARGING STATIONS	7,380	11,980	11,980
491	CEMETERIES	<u>30,150</u>	<u>32,150</u>	<u>32,150</u>
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,815,507	2,940,162	2,940,162

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM
				RECOMMEND FY25
	HUMAN SERVICES			
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	175,444	168,004	168,004
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	58,593	59,272	59,272
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	<u>76,500</u>	<u>77,897</u>	<u>77,897</u>
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	310,537	305,173	305,173
	CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	LIBRARIES	503,336	518,233	518,233
630	PARKS & RECREATION	160,703	164,826	164,826
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,600</u>
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION DEBT SERVICE	666,139	685,159	685,159
700	DEBT SERVICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL	1,154,319	1,158,857	1,158,857
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	113,924	116,874	116,874
	MISCELLANEOUS			
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,490,334	2,657,083	2,657,083
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	<u>120,600</u>	<u>119,600</u>	<u>119,600</u>
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,610,934	2,776,683	2,776,683
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	<u>12,004,696</u>	<u>12,409,728</u>	<u>12,409,728</u>

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,119,324 for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, CWF Budget, with \$359,499 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,759,825 to be raised from Sewer Revenue.

**Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND
				FY25
	CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440	Wages & Expenses	2,015,729	2,116,590	2,116,590
440	Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
700	Debt Service	483,614	478,365	478,365
910	Employee Benefits	<u>363,631</u>	<u>380,719</u>	<u>380,719</u>
	SUBTOTAL CWF	2,921,474	3,034,174	3,034,174
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY			
	Wages & Expenses	<u>84,650</u>	<u>85,150</u>	<u>85,150</u>
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	84,650	85,150	85,150
	TOTAL CWF	<u>3,006,124</u>	<u>3,119,324</u>	<u>3,119,324</u>

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$419,677 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, with \$26,041 to be raised from Town Sale of Real Estate, \$107,593 to be raised from Taxation, and \$286,043 to be raised from Airport Revenue.

**Schedule V
Airport Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY24	REQUEST FY25	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND
				FY25
	AIRPORT			
482	Wages & Expenses	274,915	255,238	255,238
482	Capital Outlay/Local Share	10,000	-	-
700	Debt Service	101,535	102,775	102,775
910	Employee Benefits	<u>40,515</u>	<u>61,664</u>	<u>61,664</u>
	TOTAL AIRPORT	426,965	419,677	419,677

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$52,250 for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$837,356 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, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,143,442 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/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$24,000 for the purpose of reconfiguring the Sheffield School main office, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$175,500 for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

AMENDMENT By Matthew Lord:

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$175,500 for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, **said sum to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization Fund.** ~~and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.~~

AMENDMENT PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

FINAL AMENDED ARTICLE:

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$175,500 for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

PASSED/ VOTE YES 46 VOTE NO 21

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$36,000 for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 57C, for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal year 2026).

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$260,000 for the purpose of paying for legal fees and valuation expert testimony before the Appellate Tax Board, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 16. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$283,800 for the purpose of upgrading the Montague Center Pump Station, including any and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and the Selectboard is authorized execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

PASSED/BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 17. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of funding the planning and design phase of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 18. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$64,218 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 19. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,402 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a 20-ton trailer for the DPW, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 20. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$365,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

PASSED/BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 21. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$78,500 for the purpose of lining sewer manholes and relining sewer pipes, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 22. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of paving the First Street alley, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 23. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$296,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating the public parking lot at One Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Selectboard is authorized to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 24. 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.

Fund	Amount (\$)
Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund	10,000
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	119,653
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	34,323
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
Total:	213,976

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 25. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement for a printer/copier in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §21C, said sum to be included in the Shared Services departmental budget.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

WARRANT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Franklin SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Montague who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

Precinct No. 1, the Montague Center Precinct, the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center; Precinct No. 2, the Millers Falls Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 3, the upper hill section of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 4, the second level of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 5, downtown section of Turners Falls, the Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 6, the South End and Montague City Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls on **TUESDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF MARCH 2024**, from **7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.** for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE.....FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
 STATE COMMITTEE MAN..... HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCESTER DISTRICT
 STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN.....HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCESTER DISTRICT
 TOWN COMMITTEE.....MONTAGUE

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of February, 2024.

_____ Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chair

_____ Christopher M. Boutwell

_____ Matthew R. Lord
 Selectboard of: Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA, February , 2024

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_____

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
 OFFICIAL BALLOT RESULTS
 TOWN OF MONTAGUE
 March 5, 2024**

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.

TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST

			Turnout by precinct
PRECINCT 1	1	431	33.10%
PRECINCT 2	2	262	21.69%
PRECINCT 3	3	342	30.70%
PRECINCT 4	4	254	22.74%
PRECINCT 5	5	171	15.72%
PRECINCT 6	6	239	22.07%
UOCAVA	uocava	3	
TOTAL		1702	24.62%

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
OFFICAL BALLOT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
TOWN OF MONTAGUE**

NUMBER OF DEMOCRATIC BALLOTS CAST

		Turnout by precinct
PRECINCT 1	319	66.05%
PRECINCT 2	154	59.00%
PRECINCT 3	197	74.90%
PRECINCT 4	170	56.67%
PRECINCT 5	129	40.31%
PRECINCT 6	133	50.38%
UOCAVA	3	
TOTAL	1105	58.43%

	PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Dean Phillips	6	8	13	4	3	1		35
Joseph R. Biden	253	112	152	129	81	107	1	835
Marianne Williamson	8	6	8	4	6	5		37
No Preference	36	23	16	27	36	18	1	157
Write-Ins	14	2	8	5	3	1	1	34
BLANKS	2	3	0	1	0	1		7
TOTALS	319	154	197	170	129	133	3	1105

	STATE COMMITTEE MAN						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-Ins	27	17	10	10	13	12		89
BLANKS	292	138	186	160	116	121	3	1016
TOTALS	319	155	196	170	129	133	3	1105

	STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-Ins	31	16	8	9	13	12		89
BLANKS	288	138	189	161	116	121	3	1016
TOTALS	319	154	197	170	129	133	3	1105

	TOWN COMMITTEE						Do not vote for more than 35	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-Ins	13	12	38	8	56	43		170
BLANKS	11152	5378	6857	5942	4459	4612	105	38505
TOTALS	11165	5390	6895	5950	4515	4655	105	38675

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
OFFICAL BALLOT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
NUMBER OF *REPUBLICAN* BALLOTS CAST**

		Turnout by precinct
PRECINCT 1	111	168.18%
PRECINCT 2	104	126.83%
PRECINCT 3	142	249.12%
PRECINCT 4	79	131.67%
PRECINCT 5	37	119.35%
PRECINCT 6	101	165.57%
UOCAVA	0	
TOTAL	574	160.78%

	PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Chris Christie	4	0	2	1	0	1		8
Ryan Binkley	0	1	0	1	0	1		3
Vivek Ramaswamy	0	3	0	0	0	0		3
Asa Hutchinson	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Donald J. Trump	42	66	89	50	19	55		321
Ron DeSantis	0	0	1	2	0	0		3
Nikki Haley	59	34	47	25	17	41		223
No preference	3	0	2		0	2		7
Write-Ins	1	0	1	0	1	1		4
BLANKS	2	0	0	0	0	0		2
TOTALS	111	104	142	79	37	101	0	574

	STATE COMMITTEE MAN						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Jay Scott Fleitman	26	24	35	18	8	17		128
Christopher J. Ryan	50	63	88	47	23	55		326
Write-Ins	1	0	0	0	0	1		2
BLANKS	34	17	19	14	6	28		118
TOTALS	111	104	142	79	37	101	0	574

	STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Mary L. Stuart	41	37	42	23	15	18		176
Sue O'Sullivan	31	44	72	33	14	48		242
Write-Ins	1	0	1	1	0	0		3
BLANKS	38	23	27	22	8	35		153
TOTALS	111	104	142	79	37	101	0	574

	TOWN COMMITTEE						Do not vote for more than 35	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-Ins	5	1	0	0	4	3		13
BLANKS	3880	3639	4970	2765	1291	3532		20077
TOTALS	3640	4970	2765	1295	3535	0		20090

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
OFFICAL BALLOT OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
NUMBER OF UNITED-INDEPENDENT BALLOTS CAST**

Turnout by precinct

PRECINCT 1	1	25.00%
PRECINCT 2	4	133.33%
PRECINCT 3	3	300.00%
PRECINCT 4	5	250.00%
PRECINCT 5	5	100.00%
PRECINCT 6	5	125.00%
UOCAVA	0	
TOTAL	23	121.05%

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE							Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Jacob George Hornberger	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Michael D. Rectenwald	1	0	0	0	0	1		2
Chase Russell Oliver	0	1	2	0	2	0		5
Michael Ter Maat	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Lars Damian Mapstead	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
No Preference	0	2	1	3	3	0		9
Write-ins	0	0	0	1	0	2		3
BLANKS	0	0	0	1	0	1		2
TOTALS	1	4	3	5	5	5	0	23

STATE COMMITTEE MAN							Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-ins	1	1	0	0	1	1		4
BLANKS	0	3	3	5	4	4		19
TOTALS	1	4	3	5	5	5	0	23

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN							Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-Ins	1	0	0	0	2	0		3
BLANKS	0	4	3	5	3	5		20
TOTALS	1	4	3	5	5	5	0	23

TOWN COMMITTEE							Do not vote for more than 10	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	UOCAVA	TOTAL
Write-Ins	3	1	0	0	0	0		4
BLANKS	7	39	30	50	50	50		226
TOTALS	10	40	30	50	50	50	0	230

This is the return of the total votes cast in the various precincts and returned to the Board of Registrars of the Town of Montague.

Kathern F. Pierce _____
Elizabeth Irving _____
Stanley Dobosz _____
Wendy Bogusz _____

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Weather: Rain mainly after 11:00am patchy fog before 3pm, high near 46, light east wind, chance of precipitation is 90%

Attest: _____

Kathern F. Pierce, Montague Town Clerk

**ELECTION WARRANT
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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 elections and Town affairs to meet in their respective polling places appointed and designated as follows:

Precinct No. 1, the Montague Center Precinct, the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center; Precinct No. 2, the Millers Falls Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 3, the upper hill section of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 4, the second level of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 5, downtown section of Turners Falls, the Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 6, the South End and Montague City Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls on **TUESDAY, THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF MAY, 2024**, from 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. to bring their votes on one ballot to the Election Officers for:

- One Selectboard Member, for three years
- One Moderator, for three years
- One Assessor, for three years
- One Board of Health Member, for three years
- Three Public Library Trustees, for three years
- One Public Library Trustee, for two years
- One Housing Authority Member, for five years
- One Parks & Recreation Commissioner, for three years
- One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Non-Veteran), for three years
- One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Veteran), for three years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 1, for three years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 1, for two years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 2, for three years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for three years
- Three Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for two years
- Four Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 4, for three years
- Two Town Meeting Members, Precinct 4, for two years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 5, for three years

One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 5, for two years
 One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 5, for one year
 Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 6, for three years
 One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 6, for two years
 One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 6, for one year

Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk seven days before said election. Given under our hands this _____ Day of _____ in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

 Richard J. Kuklewicz

 Christopher M. Boutwell, Jr.

 Matthew Lord

Franklin, ss Montague, MA, _____, 2024

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

TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION							
MONTAGUE, MA		Tuesday, May 21, 2024					
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.							
	TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST						
				Turnout by precinct			
	Precinct 1			189		14.61%	
	Precinct 2			99		8.11%	
	Precinct 3			160		14.30%	
	Precinct 4			123		10.92%	
	Precinct 5			58		5.26%	
	Precinct 6			89		8.20%	
	Total			718		10.34%	
SELECTBOARD, for THREE years				Vote for ONE			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	160	85	151	111	47	86	640
WRITE INS	2	2	0		3		7
BLANKS	27	12	9	12	8	3	71
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718

MODERATOR, for THREE years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JOHN J. DEMPSEY	7	13	35	19	1	9	84
ELIZABETH M. IRVING	40	7	7	8	9	11	82
WRITE INS	5	9	4	6	5	2	31
BLANKS	137	70	114	90	43	67	521
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
ASSESSOR, for THREE years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
ANN M. CENZANO	161	87	150	109	49	83	639
WRITE INS		1					1
BLANKS	28	11	10	14	9	6	78
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
BOARD OF HEALTH, for THREE years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
MELANIE K. AMES ZAMOJSKI	156	86	143	105	49	84	623
WRITE INS	1	2			1	0	4
BLANKS	32	11	17	18	8	5	91
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for THREE years							Vote for THREE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
PATRICIA A. PERHAM	152	86	138	99	49	78	602
GRETCHEN W. WETHERBY	28	12	7	11	5	5	68
PAMELA G. ALLAN	18	3	3	8	9	5	46
WRITE INS	11	3		3	6		23
BLANKS	358	193	332	248	105	179	1415
TOTALS	567	297	480	369	174	267	2154
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for TWO years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JAMES G. MARTINEAU	6						6
PAMELA G. ALLAN	2	6	1	10	5		24
WRITE INS	2	6	4	2	5	1	20
BLANKS	179	87	155	111	48	88	668
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY, for FIVE years							Vote for ONE
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV		3	1	4			8
SCOTT R. HYMAN		3					3
WRITE INS	4	1	4	2	4		15
BLANKS	185	92	155	117	54	89	692
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, for THREE years				Vote for ONE			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
BARBARA D. KUKLEWICZ	157	83	148	106	47	82	623
WRITE INS	1	1			0		2
BLANKS	31	15	12	17	11	7	93
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEM., (Non-Veteran) for THREE Years				Vote for ONE			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
SCOTT R. HYMAN		3					3
JOHN L. REYNOLDS	2						2
JEFFREY C. SINGLETON					2		2
WRITE INS	2	4	5				11
BLANKS	185	92	155	123	56	89	700
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEM., (Veteran) for THREE Years				Vote for ONE			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
CHRISTOPHER P. WILLIAMS	1	1					2
SCOTT R. HYMAN		1					1
LORI-LEE ADAMS				1			1
WRITE INS	2	5	5	1	3	1	17
BLANKS	187	94	155	121	55	88	700
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years				Vote for not more than SEVEN			
PRECINCT 1							
MARLYN REYNOLDS	137	*					
JUDITH LOREI	151	*					
CLIFFORD SPATCHER	130	*					
SUSAN DORAIS	143	*					
LINDA ACKERMAN	147	*					
MALCOM CLARK	119	*					
WILLAM QUALE	131						
WRITE INS	36						
BLANKS	329						
TOTAL	1323						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for TWO years				Vote for not more than ONE			
PRECINCT 1							
SHEREE I. BLOOMBERG	16						
WRITE INS	10						
BLANKS	163						
TOTAL	189						

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years			Vote for not more than SEVEN				
PRECINCT 2							
STEPHEN CONSTANTINE	72	*					
JAMES MARTINEAU	76	*					
DAVID JENSEN	80	*					
GEORGE GAJDA	70						
ALEXIA E. COTA	6						
DEBRA A. BOURBEAU	2						
TAMMY JEAN TOLZDORF	1						
WRITE INS							
BLANKS	386						
TOTALS	693						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years			Vote for not more than SEVEN				
PRECINCT 3							
SHANNON MARTINEAU	135	*					
RACHEL STOLER	130	*					
CAROL GLOSKI	134	*					
JOYCE PHILLIPS	136	*					
RAYMOND A. GODIN	5						
LORI-LEE ADAMS	1						
WRITE INS	2						
BLANKS	577						
TOTAL	1120						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for two years			Vote for not more than THREE				
PRECINCT 3							
WRITE INS	5						
BLANKS	475						
TOTAL	480						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for ONE year			Vote for not more than FOUR				
PRECINCT 3							
JOHN L. HIRST	1						
ELIZABETH J. FOGLE	2						
WRITE INS	5						
BLANKS	632						
TOTAL	640						
TOWN MEETING MEMBER, for THREE years			Vote for not more than SEVEN				
PRECINCT 4							
DAVID HARMON	98	*					
MADDOX SPRENGEL	99	*					
JENNIFER WARYAS	99	*					
ELIZABETH M. JOHNSON	1						

JESSICA K. VACHULA-CURTIS	1						
RACHAEL VACHULA	1						
WRITE INS	3						
BLANKS	559						
TOTAL	861						
TOWN MEETING MEMBER, for TWO years		Vote for not more than TWO					
PRECINCT 4							
CARA S. KLEMPNER	2						
SCOTT A. CURTIS	1						
BRIDGET LICATA	1						
WRITE INS	1						
BLANKS	241						
TOTAL	246						
TOWN MEETING MEMBER, for ONE year		Vote for not more than ONE					
PRECINCT 4							
CARA S. KLEMPNER	1						
WRITE INS	2						
BLANKS	120						
TOTAL	123						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years		Vote for not more than SEVEN					
PRECINCT 5							
RICHARD RUTH	39	*					
STANLEY DOBOSZ	48	*					
SUZANNE LOMANTO	46	*					
LISA B. DAVOL	1						
DIANA PEDROSA	1						
JAY D. DIPUCCHIO	1						
MARY J. FEENEY	1						
WRITE INS	8						
BLANKS	261						
TOTAL	406						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for TWO years		Vote for not more than ONE					
PRECINCT 5							
WRITE INS	3						
BLANKS	55						
TOTAL	58						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for ONE year		Vote for not more than ONE					
PRECINCT 5							
BLANKS	56						
WRITE INS	2						
TOTAL	58						

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for THREE years				Vote for not more than SEVEN			
PRECINCT 6							
ANNABEL LEVINE	83	*					
BRENT PITCHER	81	*					
LAURA HEISIG	81	*					
MARY MATTIACE	79	*					
JAMES MUSSONI	78	*					
IAN TAPSCOTT	76	*					
WRITE INS	1						
BLANKS	144						
TOTAL	623						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for TWO years				Vote for not more than ONE			
PRECINCT 6							
WRITE INS	1						
BLANKS	88						
TOTAL	89						y
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, for ONE year				Vote for not more than ONE			
PRECINCT 6							
WRITE INS	1						
BLANKS	88						
TOTAL	89						
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					
		Kathern F. Pierce					
		Stanley Dobosz					
		Elizabeth Irving					
		Wendy Bogusz					
Weather: Rain in the Evening Warm - Cloudy Day							
Voter turnout:718 of 6947 10.34%							
Attest:							
Kathern F. Pierce, 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
JAMES DELORENZO	132	73	126	100	42	71	544
Write Ins	0	0	0		1		1
BLANKS	57	26	34	23	15	18	173
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
SCHOOL COMMITTEE for THREE years				Vote for not more than TWO			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
LORI-LEE ADAMS	119	66	122	85	40	73	505
CAROL JACOBS	120	58	120	82	39	68	487
SCOTT HYMAN	30	24	35	21	9	12	131
WRITE INS	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
BLANKS	108	50	42	58	28	25	311
TOTALS	378	198	320	246	116	178	1436
REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
SCHOOL COMMITTEE for TWO years				Vote for not more than ONE			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
CLIFFORD SPATCHER	140	80	132	103	43	78	576
WRITE INS	1	2	1	0	1	1	6
BLANKS	48	17	27	20	14	10	136
TOTALS	189	99	160	123	58	89	718
Attest:							
Kathern F. Pierce							
Montague Town Clerk							

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WARRANT FOR 2024 STATE PRIMARY

SS.

To the Constables of the City/Town of Montague

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

Precinct No. 1, the Montague Center Precinct, the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center; Precinct No. 2, the Millers Falls Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls; Precinct No. 3, the upper hill section of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls; Precinct No. 4, the second level of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls; Precinct No. 5, downtown section of Turners Falls, The Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 6, the South End and Montague City Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls

on **TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS. FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS. SECOND DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR. EIGHTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCESTER DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT FIRST FRANKLIN DISTRICT
CLERK OF COURTS FRANKLIN COUNTY
REGISTER OF DEEDS FRANKLIN DISTRICT

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chair _____

Christopher M. Boutwell _____

Matthew R. Lord _____

Selectboard of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA, August _____, 2024

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

_____, 2024.
Constable (month and day)

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION							
OFFICIAL BALLOT RESULTS							
TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
Tuesday, September 3, 2024							
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.							
TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST							
				Turnout by precinct			
PRECINCT 1			282		21.63%		
PRECINCT 2			165		13.26%		
PRECINCT 3			224		19.46%		
PRECINCT 4			202		17.66%		
PRECINCT 5			111		9.76%		
PRECINCT 6			146		13.33%		
TOTAL			1130		15.97%		
STATE PRIMARY							
OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE <u>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</u>							
TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
NUMBER OF <u>DEMOCRATIC</u> BALLOTS CAST							
				Turnout by precinct			
1 PRECINCT 1			255		52.80%		
1 PRECINCT 2			135		51.72%		
PRECINCT 3			177		67.30%		
PRECINCT 4			167		55.67%		
PRECINCT 5			92		28.13%		
1 PRECINCT 6			120		45.28%		
UOCAVA'S 3			946		49.82%		
SENATOR IN CONGRESS							
Vote for One							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	251	130	170	162	86	115	914
Write-in	0	0	0	4	5	4	13
BLANKS	4	5	7	1	1	1	19
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS							
Vote for One							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JAMES P. McGOVERN	253	132	173	155	88	114	915
Write-in	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
BLANKS	2	3	4	11	3	6	29
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
COUNCILLOR							
Vote for One							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
TARA J. JACOBS	227	124	159	142	78	107	837
Write-in	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

BLANKS	28	11	18	25	14	12	108
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JO COMERFORD	250	128	173	156	88	115	910
Write-in	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
BLANKS	5	7	4	11	4	3	34
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
NATALIE M. BLAIS	239	128	169	158	84	115	893
Write-In	0		0	0	1	1	2
BLANKS	16	7	8	9	7	4	51
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
CLERK OF COURTS						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
BENJAMIN SIMANSKI	226	121	163	147	77	108	842
Write-In	0		0	0	0	1	1
BLANKS	29	14	14	20	15	11	103
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
REGISTER OF DEEDS						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
SCOTT A. COTE	228	122	172	149	78	106	855
Write-In	0		0	0	0	1	1
BLANKS	27	13	5	18	14	13	90
TOTALS	255	135	177	167	92	120	946
STATE PRIMARY OFFICAL BALLOT OF THE <u>REPUBLICAN PARTY</u> TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
	NUMBER OF <u>REPUBLICAN</u> BALLOTS CAST						
					Turnout by precinct		
	PRECINCT 1			26		40.63%	
	PRECINCT 2			30		35.71%	
	PRECINCT 3			46		71.88%	
	PRECINCT 4			32		56.14%	
	PRECINCT 5			18		56.25%	
	PRECINCT 6			25		42.37%	
				177		49.17%	
SENATOR IN CONGRESS						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
ROBERT J. ANTONELLIS	2	12	16	7	7	3	47
IAN CAIN	2	1	1	5	1	1	11

JOHN DEATON	22	17	29	19	10	21	118
Write-Ins			0	0	0	0	0
BLANKS			0	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		5	1	1	1	9
BLANKS	25	30	41	31	17	24	168
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
COUNCILLOR						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Other							0
Write-in	2		3	1	1	1	8
BLANKS	24	30	43	31	17	24	169
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		4	1	1	1	8
BLANKS	25	30	42	31	17	24	169
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
write-in	2		3	1	1	2	9
BLANKS	24	30	43	31	17	23	168
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
CLERK OF COURTS						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	2		3	1	1	2	9
BLANKS	24	30	43	31	17	23	168
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
REGISTER OF DEEDS						Vote for One	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	2		3	1	1	2	9
BLANKS	24	30	43	31	17	23	168
TOTALS	26	30	46	32	18	25	177
STATE PRIMARY							
OFFICAL BALLOT OF THE <u>LIBERTARIAN PARTY</u>							
TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
NUMBER OF LIBERTARIAN BALLOTS CAST							
					Turnout by precinct		
PRECINCT 1				1		25.00%	
PRECINCT 2				0		0.00%	
PRECINCT 3				1		100.00%	

	PRECINCT 4			3		100.00%	
	PRECINCT 5			1		20.00%	
	PRECINCT 6			1		25.00%	
				7		33.33%	
SENATOR IN CONGRESS							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		1	1	1	1	5
BLANKS		0	0	2		0	2
TOTALS	1	0	1	3	1	1	7
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		1	1	1	0	4
BLANKS		0	0	2		1	3
TOTALS	1	0	1	3	1	1	7
COUNCILLOR							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		0	1	1	1	4
BLANKS		0	1	2		0	3
TOTALS	1	0	1	3	1	1	7
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		1	1	1		4
BLANKS		0	0	2		1	3
TOTALS	1	0	1	3	1	1	7
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		1	1		0	3
BLANKS		0		2	1	1	4
TOTALS	1	0	1	3	1	1	7
CLERK OF COURTS							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in	1		0	1	1	0	3
BLANKS		0	1	2		1	4
TOTALS	1	0	1	3	1	1	7
REGISTER OF DEEDS							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Write-in		1		1	1		3
BLANKS			0	0	2	1	4
TOTALS		1	0	1	3	1	7
This is the return of the total votes cast in the various precincts and returned to the Board of Registrars of the Town of Montague.							

BOARD OF REGISTRARS	Kathern F. Pierce					
	Stanley Dobosz					
	Elizabeth Irving					
	Wendy Bogusz					
Weather: 72 Degrees Breezy and Sunny						
Attest: _____						
Kathern F. Pierce						
Montague Town Clerk						

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

WARRANT FOR 2024 STATE ELECTION

Franklin, SS.

To the Constables of the Town of Montague:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Elections to vote at: Precinct No. 1, the Montague Center Precinct, the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center; Precinct No. 2, the Millers Falls Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 3, the upper hill section of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 4, the second level of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 5, downtown section of Turners Falls, the Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 6, the South End and Montague City Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gym, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls on **TUESDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024**, from 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THESE UNITED STATES
 SENATOR IN CONGRESS FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
 REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS..... SECOND DISTRICT
 COUNCILLOR EIGHTH DISTRICT
 SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCESTER DISTRICT
 REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT..... FIRST FRANKLIN DISTRICT
 CLERK OF COURTS FRANKLIN COUNTY
 REGISTER OF DEEDS FRANKLIN DISTRICT
 COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE..... FRANKLIN COUNTY

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would specify that the State auditor has the authority to audit the legislature.

A YES VOTE would specify that the State auditor has the authority to audit the legislature.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A YES VOTE would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations. The proposed law would define certain activities by a Company or a Driver Organization to be unfair work practices. The proposed law would establish a hearing process for the state Employment Relations Board ("Board") to follow when a Company or Driver Organization is charged with an unfair work practice. The proposed law would permit the Board to take action, including awarding compensation to adversely affected Drivers, if it found that an unfair work practice had been committed. The proposed law would

provide for an appeal of a Board decision to the state Appeals Court. This proposed law also would establish a procedure for determining which Drivers are Active Drivers, meaning that they completed more than the median number of rides in the previous six months. The proposed law would establish procedures for the Board to determine that a Driver Organization has signed authorizations from at least five percent of Active Drivers, entitling the Driver Organization to a list of Active Drivers; to designate a Driver Organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers based on signed authorizations from at least twenty-five percent of Active Drivers; to resolve disputes over exclusive bargaining status, including through elections; and to decertify a Driver Organization from exclusive bargaining status. A Driver Organization that has been designated the exclusive bargaining representative would have the exclusive right to represent the Drivers and to receive voluntary membership dues deductions. Once the Board determined that a Driver Organization was the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers, the Companies would be required to bargain with that Driver Organization concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Once the Driver Organization and Companies reached agreement on wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of work, that agreement would be voted upon by all Drivers who has completed at least 100 trips the previous quarter. If approved by a majority of votes cast, the recommendations would be submitted to the state Secretary of Labor for approval and if approved, would be effective for three years. The proposed law would establish procedures for the mediation and arbitration if the Driver Organization and Companies failed to reach agreement within a certain period of time. An arbitrator would consider factors set forth in the proposed law, including whether the wages of Drivers would be enough so that Drivers would not need to rely upon any public benefits. The proposed law also sets out procedures for the Secretary of Labor's review and approval of recommendations negotiated by a Driver Organization and the Companies and for judicial review of the Secretary's decision. The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail. The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law. The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

QUESTION 4: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This

proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would license and regulate facilities offering supervised use of these psychedelic substances and provide for the taxation of proceeds from those facilities' sales of psychedelic substances. It would also allow persons aged 21 and older to grow these psychedelic substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area at their home and use these psychedelic substances at their home. This proposed law would authorize persons aged 21 or older to possess up to one gram of psilocybin, one gram of psilocyn, one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine ("personal use amount"), in addition to whatever they might grow at their home, and to give away up to the personal use amount to a person aged 21 or over. This proposed law would create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission of five members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would administer the law governing the use and distribution of these psychedelic substances. The Commission would adopt regulations governing licensing qualifications, security, recordkeeping, education and training, health and safety requirements, testing, and age verification. This proposed law would also create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Advisory Board of 20 members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would study and make recommendations to the Commission on the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably restrict the time, place, and manner of the operation of licensed facilities offering psychedelic substances, but cities and towns could not ban those facilities or their provision of these substances. The proceeds of sales of psychedelic substances at licensed facilities would be subject to the state sales tax and an additional excise tax of 15 percent. In addition, a city or town could impose a separate tax of up to two percent. Revenue received from the additional state excise tax, license application fees, and civil penalties for violations of this proposed law would be deposited in a Natural Psychedelic Substances Regulation Fund and would be used, subject to appropriation, for administration of this proposed law. Using the psychedelic substances as permitted by this proposed law could not be a basis to deny a person medical care or public assistance, impose discipline by a professional licensing board, or enter adverse orders in child custody cases absent clear and convincing evidence that the activities created an unreasonable danger to the safety of a minor child. This proposed law would not affect existing laws regarding the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence, or the ability of employers to enforce workplace policies restricting the consumption of these psychedelic substances by employees. This proposed law would allow property owners to prohibit the use, display, growing, processing, or sale of these psychedelic substances on their premises. State and local governments could continue to restrict the possession and use of these psychedelic substances in public buildings or at schools. This proposed law would take effect on December 15, 2024.

A YES VOTE would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home and would create a commission to regulate those substances.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.

QUESTION 5: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years, on the following schedule:

- To 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025;
- To 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026;
- To 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027;
- To 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and
- To 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029

The proposed law would require employers to continue to pay tipped workers the difference between the state minimum wage and the total amount a tipped worker receives in hourly wages plus tips through the end of 2028. The proposed law would also permit employers to calculate this difference over the entire weekly or bi-weekly payroll period. The requirement to pay this difference would cease when the required hourly wage for tipped workers would become 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

Under the proposed law, if an employer pays its workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, the employer would be permitted to administer a “tip pool” that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all the workers, including non-tipped workers.

A YES VOTE would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of October, 2024.

Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chair _____

Christopher M. Boutwell _____

Matthew R. Lord _____
Selectboard of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA, October _____, 2024

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.

_____, 2024.
Constable Signature (Month and Day)

		PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION					
		MONTAGUE, MA					
		Tuesday, November 5, 2024					
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.							
		TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST					
						Turnout by precinct	
		Precinct 1		1035		79.07%	
		Precinct 2		839		66.06%	
		Precinct 3		854		73.62%	
UOCAVA		Precinct 4		796		68.68%	
Novmeber 5, 2024 Post Mark		Precinct 5		611		53.50%	
		Precinct 6		707		64.16%	
		TOTALS		4842		67.80%	
ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT							
							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
AYYADURAI & ELLIS	2	7	5	3	6	3	26
AYYADURAI & ELLIS							0
DE LA CRUZ & GARCIA	7	3	5	6	19	9	49
DE LA CRUZ & GARCIA							0
HARRIS & WALZ	775	491	523	553	419	451	3212
HARRIS & WALZ	14	2	1		1	2	20
HARRIS & WALZ	1						1
OLIVER & TER MAAT	6	5	9	5	3	2	30
OLIVER & TER MAAT							0
STEIN & CABALLERO-ROCA	19	13	1	10	21	12	76
STEIN & CABALLERO-ROCA	2					1	3
TRUMP & VANCE	193	306	295	214	130	222	1360
TRUMP & VANCE	1						1
TRUMP & VANCE			1				1
OTHERS	10	6	4	3	5	3	31
OTHERS							
BLANKS	5	6	10	2	7	2	32
BLANKS							
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
SENATOR IN CONGRESS							Vote for one
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	787	485	507	545	453	459	3236
ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	16	2	1		1	3	23
ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	1						1

JOHN DEATON	219	330	321	234	140	228	1472
JOHN DEATON							0
JOHN DEATON			1				1
OTHERS	0	6	1	2	1	2	12
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	11	16	23	15	16	15	96
BLANKS	1						1
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS							
Vote for One							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	814	532	566	572	455	470	3409
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	17	2	1		1	3	24
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	1						1
CORNELIUS SHEA	167	252	238	177	116	186	1136
CORNELIUS SHEA							0
CORNELIUS SHEA			1				1
OTHERS	2	1	1	2	1	2	9
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	34	52	47	45	38	46	262
BLANKS							0
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
COUNCILLOR							
Vote for one							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
TARA J. JACOBS	814	609	632	631	482	545	3713
TARA J. JACOBS	14	2	1		1	3	21
TARA J. JACOBS	1		1				2
OTHERS	7	20	10	8	12	11	68
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	196	208	210	157	116	148	1035
BLANKS	3						3
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT							
Vote for One							
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JO COMERFORD	854	626	666	652	500	567	3865
JO COMERFORD	14	2	1		1	3	21
JO COMERFORD	1		1				2
OTHERS	10	21	12	10	11	10	74
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	153	190	174	134	99	127	877
BLANKS	3						3
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
NATALIE M. BLAIS	855	622	658	651	489	561	3836
NATALIE M. BLAIS	14	2	1		1	3	21
NATALIE M. BLAIS	1		1				2
OTHERS	9	19	12	10	13	7	70
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	153	196	182	135	108	136	910
BLANKS	3						3
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
CLERK OF COURTS							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
BENJAMIN SIMANSKI	835	628	658	642	489	558	3810
BENJAMIN SIMANSKI	14	2	1		1	3	21
BENJAMIN SIMANSKI	1		1				2
OTHERS	7	18	9	8	10	7	59
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	175	191	185	146	111	139	947
BLANKS	3						3
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
REGISTER OF DEEDS							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
SCOTT A. COTE	826	626	676	648	488	559	3823
SCOTT A. COTE	13	2	1		1	3	20
SCOTT A. COTE	1		1				2
OTHERS	10	13	10	9	7	5	54
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	181	198	166	139	115	140	939
BLANKS	4						4
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE							Vote for One
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JAY D. DiPUCCHIO	770	601	652	623	467	529	3642
JAY D. DiPUCCHIO	13	2	1		1	3	20
JAY D. DiPUCCHIO	1		1				2
OTHERS	4	13	5	4	4	5	35
OTHERS							0
BLANKS	243	223	195	169	139	170	1139
BLANKS	4						4
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842

QUESTION 1 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION							
	QUESTION 1						
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
YES	634	569	540	496	406	452	3097
YES	13	2			1	3	19
YES	1		1				2
NO	315	213	252	238	152	193	1363
NO	1		1				2
BLANKS	68	55	60	62	52	59	356
BLANKS	3						3
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
QUESTION 2 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION							
	QUESTION 2						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
YES	724	596	577	540	467	524	3428
YES	11	2			1	3	17
YES	1		1				2
NO	266	218	260	241	127	155	1267
NO	5		1				6
BLANKS	27	23	15	15	16	25	121
BLANKS	1						1
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
QUESTION 3 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION							
	QUESTION 3						
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
YES	666	462	432	431	436	404	2831
YES	15	1	1		1	3	21
YES	1						1
NO	299	339	372	315	140	248	1713
NO	1	1					2
BLANKS	52	36	48	50	34	52	272
BLANKS			1				1
BLANKS	1						1
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842

QUESTION 4 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION							
	QUESTION 4						
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
YES	560	416	357	389	411	332	2465
YES	12	1	1		1	3	18
YES	1						1
NO	429	390	468	376	175	333	2171
NO	4	1					5
BLANKS	28	31	27	31	24	39	180
BLANKS			1				1
BLANKS	1						1
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842
QUESTION 5 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION							
	QUESTION 5						
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
YES	447	299	293	320	338	244	1941
YES	16	2	1		1	3	23
NO	1						1
NO	529	509	542	445	250	429	2704
NO							0
BLANKS	41	29	17	31	22	31	171
BLANKS			1				1
BLANKS	1						1
TOTALS	1035	839	854	796	611	707	4842

This is the return of the total votes cast in the various precinct and returned to the Board of Registrars of the Town of Montague.

Kathern Pierce
Stanley Dobosz
Elizabeth Irving
Wendy Bogusz

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Weather: 71 Degrees Breezy

Attest:

Kathern F. Pierce, Montague Town Clerk

Town of Montague
Combining Balance Sheet
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Assets	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo-Only
Cash	4,551,129	3,160,635	5,567,728	1,299,536	7,599,126	22,178,154
Receivables:						-
Personal Property Taxes	191,132					191,132
Real Estate Taxes	634,079					634,079
Allowance For Abatements	(792,873)					(792,873)
Tax Liens	233,417			190,699		424,117
MV Excise	223,669					223,669
Other Excise Taxes	1,248					1,248
User Fees	1,119			135,853		136,972
Utility Liens Added to Taxes				28,212		28,212
Due from Other Governments	1,284	222,578	259,006			482,868
Other Receivables	96,441			-		96,441
Tax Foreclosures	335,106			1,261		336,367
Prepays	-			12,094		12,094
Due From Other Funds	-			-	43,483	43,483
Total Assets	5,475,752	3,383,213	5,826,734	1,667,655	7,642,609	23,995,963
Liabilities						
Warrants Payable	257,507	152,594	114,657	111,492	-	636,250
Accrued Payroll	62,362	6,864		15,879		85,105
Withholdings Payable	37,783					37,783
Due to Other	137,064	-	2,860	-	-	139,924
Other Liabilities	102,628	9,584				112,212
Deferred Revenue:						-

Town of Montague
Combining Balance Sheet
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Liabilities	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo-Only
Real & Personal Property	32,338					32,338
Tax Liens	233,417			190,699		424,117
Foreclosures/Possessions	335,106			1,261		336,367
MV Excise	223,669					223,669
Other Excise	1,248					1,248
User Fees	1,119			135,853		136,972
Utility Liens Added to Taxes				28,212		28,212
Prepaid Taxes/Fees				950		950
Tailings				50		50
Total Liabilities	1,424,241	169,042	117,517	484,396	-	2,195,196
Fund Balance						
Reserved For Encumbrances	-			2,180		2,180
Reserved For Expenditures	314,000					314,000
Reserved For Continuing Approp.	1,342,218	3,214,172	5,709,217	412,810		10,678,417
Reserved for Debt Service					185,319	185,319
Undesignated Fund Balance	2,395,292				7,457,290	9,852,583
Undesignated Retained Earnings				768,269		768,269
Total Fund Balance	4,051,511	3,214,172	5,709,217	1,183,259	7,642,609	21,800,767
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	5,475,752	3,383,213	5,826,734	1,667,655	7,642,609	23,995,963

Town of Montague
Combining Income Statement
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo Only
Revenues						
General Government	25,775,126	997,915	-	-	463,624	27,236,665
Public Safety	149,811	291,571			1,328	442,711
Public Works	317,098	946,826	567,845	3,331,081	9,303	5,172,153
Human Services	70,294	86,314			2,349	158,957
Culture/Recreation	2,164	152,829			2,658	157,651
Intergovernmental	-		5,816,144	-		5,816,144
Miscellaneous	-	(12,043)	-	2,405	15,072	5,434
Transfers In	553,590	140,235	392,095	510,545	2,670,026	4,266,490
Total Revenues & OFS	26,868,084	2,603,646	6,776,084	3,844,030	3,164,361	43,256,204
Expenditures						
General Government	1,481,827	1,442,991	-	-	-	2,924,818
Public Safety	2,536,574	267,952	-		3,905	2,808,431
Education	12,862,208	-	-		1,100	12,863,308
Public Works	2,636,028	870,995	1,725,710	2,409,532	-	7,642,266
Human Services	263,385	59,425			-	322,809
Culture/Recreation	657,797	163,719	-		-	821,516
Debt	1,157,252			560,145		1,717,397
Intergovernmental	218,168			-		218,168
Miscellaneous	3,239,450	-		395,877		3,635,327
Transfers Out	3,013,966	116,971	74,244	247,880	813,430	4,266,490
Total Expenditures & OFU	28,066,655	2,922,053	1,799,954	3,613,434	818,434	37,220,530
Net Revenues - Expenditures	(1,198,572)	(318,407)	4,976,130	230,596	2,345,926	6,035,674
Beginning Fund Balance	5,250,082	3,553,554	733,087	952,663	5,296,683	15,786,070
Ending Fund Balance	4,051,511	3,235,147	5,709,217	1,183,260	7,642,609	21,821,743

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2024

Name	FY2024 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
GENERAL FUND page 1 of 4								
Town Meeting	2,980				2,980	2,107	873	
Selectmen	329,781		23,800		353,581	353,492	89	
Finance Committee	2,000				2,000	240	1,760	
Reserve Fund	50,000			(6,277)	43,723		43,723	
Town Accountant	89,500	2,735	1,000		93,235	89,353	3,882	
Assessors	189,801	-			189,801	189,644	157	
Collector/Treasurer	230,748		2,274		233,022	195,160	37,862	
Town Counsel	80,000				80,000	75,836	4,164	
Information Technology	80,500	-			80,500	64,376	16,124	
Shared Costs	85,907				85,907	78,755	7,152	
Town Clerk	243,041	-			243,041	177,781	65,260	
Planning	134,429				134,429	130,915	3,514	
Zoning Board of Appeals	700				700	240	460	
MEDIC	-				-	-	-	
Building Utilities	155,932				155,932	119,322	36,610	
Farmers Market	5,000				5,000	4,606	394	
Police	2,038,154				2,038,154	1,953,312	84,842	
Dispatch	395,588				395,588	375,560	20,028	
Building Inspector	148,621		8,481		157,102	143,072	14,031	
Sealer of Weights/Measures	7,182				7,182	7,182	-	
Emergency Management	6,265				6,265	5,766	499	
Animal Control	23,112				23,112	21,661	1,451	
Forest Warden	1,710				1,710	1,710	-	

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2024

Name	FY2023 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
Tree Warden	30,285				30,285	28,313	1,972	
Education	12,862,209				12,862,209	12,862,208	1	
DPW	1,746,506		1,000		1,747,506	1,690,005	57,501	
Snow & Ice	311,250				311,250	237,517	73,733	
Solid Waste	679,221				679,221	670,864	8,357	
EV Charging Stations	7,380			2,500	9,880	8,492	1,388	
Cemeteries	30,150				30,150	29,150	1,000	
Board of Health	175,444				175,444	132,576	42,868	
Council on Aging	58,593				58,593	57,429	1,164	
Veteran's Services	76,500				76,500	73,380	3,120	
Library	503,336		300		503,636	494,986	8,650	
Parks & Recreation	160,703			840	161,543	161,026	517	
Historical Commission	500				500	346	154	
War Memorials	1,600				1,600	1,438	162	
Debt Service	1,154,319			2,937	1,157,256	1,157,252	4	
State Assessments	104,836				104,836	104,856	(20)	
Other Intergovernmental	113,924				113,924	113,312	612	
Employee Benefits	2,490,334				2,490,334	2,335,667	154,667	
Insurance	120,600				120,600	107,187	13,413	
Transfers to Other Funds	2,832,458				2,832,458	690,933	2,141,525	
<u>Special Articles</u>					-		-	
#1 5/5/12 Repair 38 Ave A		12,099	(12,099)		-		-	-
#10 3/2/17 Stabilize Strathmore		3,352			3,352		-	3,352

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2024

Name	FY2024 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
#44 5/6/17 Millers Falls Comm.		954			954		-	954
#18A 5/22/21 Unsafe Bldgs		25,000			25,000	5,768	-	19,232
#18C 5/22/21 Project Overruns		27,723			27,723		-	27,723
#19 5/22/21 BldgAssess/CapPlan		50,000			50,000		-	50,000
#21E 5/22/21 Sch SubAbuse Couns		12,424			12,424		-	12,424
#9 10/16/21 Sub Abuse Prevent		24,393			24,393	-	-	24,393
#20A 5/7/22 Town Hall Roof					-	(40,299)	40,299	
#20B 5/7/22 Lower Shea Roof		60,000			60,000	47,236	12,764	
#23 5/7/22 Subst Abuse Counsel		173,800			173,800		-	173,800
#24 5/7/22 Afterschool STEM		40,000			40,000		-	40,000
#20 5/6/23 11th Street Bridge	100,000				100,000	18,240	-	81,760
#21 5/6/23 Demolish 38 Ave A	50,000	(6,318)			43,682	24,970	18,712	
#26 5/6/23 Town Hall Flooring	25,000				25,000	20,368	4,632	
#15 5/4/19 Hydroelectric Valuation		29,000			29,000	10,000	-	19,000
#13 5/22/21 Utility Valuation		2,000			2,000	488	1,513	
#27 5/5/18 Town Map Storage		3,902			3,902		3,902	-
#25 5/6/23 Locking File Cabinets	25,000				25,000		-	25,000
#15 6/13/20 Fix Walking Paths		19,060			19,060		-	19,060
#18B 5/22/21 Unexp Engineering	11,585	13,415			25,000	2,800	-	22,200
#25 5/7/22 MF Rd/Ind Blvd		25,000			25,000		-	25,000
#28 5/6/23 MVP Match	13,100	-			13,100		-	13,100
#21C 5/22/21 Cannabis Intox		7,000			7,000		-	7,000
#18 3/2/23 Inspection Vehicle		52,500			52,500	48,975	3,525	-
#16 5/5/18 Sheffield Intercom		30,000			30,000	30,000	-	-

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2024

Name	FY2024 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
#17 5/5/18 Hillcrest Intercom		25,000			25,000	23,408	1,592	-
#13 6/13/20 Ctrl Office Canopy		10,000			10,000		-	10,000
#14A 5/22/21 Hillcrest Façade		55,000			55,000		-	55,000
#14B 5/22/21 Sheffield Façade		45,000			45,000		-	45,000
#14C 5/22/21 Sheffield Fire Alarm		89,092			89,092	89,092	-	-
#13 5/6/23 Sheffield Gym Roof	20,000				20,000	11,705	-	8,295
#14 5/6/23 Sheffield Security Door	20,000				20,000		-	20,000
#15 5/6/23 Smith VoTech FY24	23,000				23,000	20,076	2,924	
#13 10/13/22 Hillcrest Floors		46,118			46,118	-	-	46,118
#17 5/7/22 DPW Discretionary		19,738			19,738	19,738	-	-
#16 3/2/23 Pickup/Plow/Sander		80,000			80,000	31,292	48,708	-
#17 3/2/23 1 Ton/Plow/Sander		100,000			100,000	99,304	696	-
#19 5/6/23 DPW Discretionary	70,952				70,952	41,481	0	29,471
#12 3/14/24 DPW Skidsteer			90,000		90,000	89,676	324	
#13 3/14/24 South Ferry Rd Culvert			220,800		220,800	1,783	-	219,018
#8 9/25/01 Cap Burn Dump		10,183			10,183	1,950	0	8,233
#15 10/13/22 Burn Dump Eng		10,800			10,800	10,800	-	
#14 10/10/23 CS Compliance/Reg			99,900		99,900	69,179	-	30,721
#15 10/10/23 CS Comp			50,000		50,000	23,416	-	26,584
#2 3/3/22 Cem Emerg Exp		7,260			7,260	434	-	6,826
#1 3/2/23 Green Burial Site Prep		1,604			1,604	519	0	1,084
#6 10/10/23 Highland Wood Signs			4,000		4,000	3,143	-	857
#26 5/22/21 Mosquito Control		9,478			9,478	-	-	9,478
#15 6/13/20 Sr Ctr Chimney		700			700		700	-

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2024

Name	FY2024 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
#2 10/13/20 Sr Ctr Roof		21,899			21,899	-	-	21,899
#23 5/7/16 Carnegie Roof		2,505			2,505		-	2,505
#25 5/6/17 Carnegie Air Exchange		5,000			5,000		-	5,000
#26 5/6/17 Carnegie Roof		2,035			2,035		-	2,035
#25 5/4/19 MC Library Moisture		12,950			12,950		-	12,950
#26 5/4/19 MF Library Moisture		2,450			2,450		-	2,450
#20C 5/7/22 Carnegie Basement		130,000			130,000		-	130,000
#20D MC Libr Masonry		100,000			100,000	74,600	-	25,400
#13 3/2/23 Main Library Study		35,250			35,250	10,154	-	25,096
#22 5/6/23 MF Library Repairs	14,000				14,000		-	14,000
#3 10/13/20 MC Park Survey		2,000			2,000		2,000	-
#12 3/2/23 Evaluate Blacksmith		2,000			2,000	1,000	-	1,000
#23 5/6/23 Unity Garden Well	12,000	-			12,000		-	12,000
#24 5/6/23 Unity Parking Lot	12,500				12,500	5,300	-	7,200
Total General Fund	28,145,736	1,434,101	489,456	-	30,069,293	25,738,321	2,995,954	1,335,017

AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND

Airport Commission	274,915		10,000		284,915	286,618	(1,703)	
Capital Outlay	10,000		(10,000)		-		-	
Debt	101,535				101,535	101,535	-	
Employee Benefits	40,515				40,515	39,198	1,317	
Total Airport Enterprise Fund	426,965	-	-	-	426,965	427,350	(385)	-

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2024

Name	FY2024 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
<u>CWF ENTERPRISE FUND</u>								
CWF	2,074,229	6,500			2,080,729	1,915,597	162,952	2,180
Highway Subsidiary	84,650				84,650	55,193	29,457	
Debt	483,614				483,614	458,610	25,004	
Employee Benefits	363,631				363,631	272,793	90,838	
Transfers to Other Funds			168,100		168,100	168,100	-	
<u>Special Articles</u>								
#7 10/29/14 Lab Software		20,000			20,000		-	20,000
#17 5/4/19 Composting Study		7,025			7,025		7,025	-
#7 3/5/20 Oil Tank/Vault		63,100			63,100		63,100	-
#5 2/25/21 Chlorination System		22,688			22,688	10,052	12,636	-
#18 5/7/22 Generator		101,544	209,000		310,544	31,545	(0)	278,999
#15 3/2/23 Transit Van/Charger		2,245			2,245		(275)	2,520
#12 10/10/23 Local Limit			50,400		50,400	9,998	-	40,402
#13 10/10/23 PS Generators			95,000		95,000	25,000	-	70,000
	3,006,124	223,102	427,500	-	3,656,726	2,946,888	390,736	414,101

Town of Montague
Special Revenue Fund Activity
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Name	Balance 7/1/2023	Receipts	Expended	Balance 6/30/2024
Police Extra Duty	(32,680)	219,841	214,567	(27,406)
Ins Reimb < \$20K	3,173	6,571		9,745
Chapter 90	(25,714)	877,219	810,231	41,274
Wage & Classification	35,000		20,000	15,000
Municipal Roof	(31,651)	50,000	18,349	-
MOD Accessibility	(13,065)	13,065		-
Wood Bank Equipment	(14,231)	14,231		-
FY24 Workplace Safety Grant	-	7,400	7,400	-
ARPA Grant	1,698,559		248,484	1,450,075
ARPA Municipal Relief	65,941		65,941	-
Early Voting Grant	9,328			9,328
Wetlands Protection	19,430	388		19,817
River Culture	10,513	17,382	20,679	7,217
Agricultural Commission	6		6	-
ConComm SRRHMF Gifts	11,000			11,000
MVP Planning FY17	20,310			20,310
Green Communities	(2,711)	53,550	71,386	(20,547)
MC Road Flooding	161,096	198,700	366,676	(6,881)
Cultural District	12,419	18,500	6,908	24,011
Resurgent Places	13		13	-
RiverCulture Festival	(1,500)	1,500		-
Ferry Rd Culvert Design	2,333			2,333
Pesky Park Audio Tour	513	2,000	1,073	1,440
Master Plan Elements	(149)		(149)	-
REDO State Grant	19,237		6,342	12,895
MVP Climate Resiliency	(22,915)	37,270	59,030	(44,675)
MCC Recovery Grant	6,850			6,850
RC Fiscal Agent Fee	7,573	52	3,929	3,696
Res Market Feasibility		35,000	35,000	-
MVP 2.0 Plan/Resilience Seed		45,267	16,361	28,906
NEFA Making It Public		3,000		3,000
Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge	55,799			55,799
CDBG FCRHA	-	350,729	350,729	-
Comm Dev Discretionary	68,380	29,332	23,857	73,855
Farmers Market Grant	500			500
K-9 Vehicle Donations	12,075			12,075
Comfort Dog	1,102	1,134	358	1,878
Drug Forfeiture	35,707	4,519	31,269	8,957
K-9 Donations	27,021	3,770	2,039	28,751

Town of Montague
Special Revenue Fund Activity
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Name	Balance 7/1/2023	Receipts	Expended	Balance 6/30/2024
Police DMH Grant	1,473			1,473
CONNECT Grant	12,061	12,061		24,122
Defibrillator Grant		2,090		2,090
Dispatch Incentive Grant	-	34,292	34,292	-
911 Grant	36	3,962	4,381	(383)
EMPG Grant	-	2,631	2,631	-
Wood Bank Donations	-	150		150
Montague Tree Fund				-
Memorial Tree	1,127	550	900	777
MF Tree Planting	250		250	-
USDA F250		38,657	38,657	-
Transportation Infrastructure	7		7	-
Recycling Dividends Program	914	11,400	11,814	500
#11 3/14/24 CWF Asset		125,000	10,293	114,707
Opioid Settlement		27,906		27,906
State COA Grant	21,507	34,944	37,745	18,706
COA MassInMotion Grant	(4,202)	8,432	4,230	-
COA Gifts Direct Aid	3,000			3,000
ARPA Digital Literacy		21,515	12,711	8,804
COA Memorial Gifts	16,298	8,752	4,738	20,312
Program Income	27		27	-
State Aid to Library	84,562	25,777	14,532	95,806
MF Branch Grocery Prog	8,465		8,465	-
ALA Great Stories Club		500	500	-
MCC Library Festival Grant		2,500	2,500	-
ALA Library Website Grant		20,000		20,000
MA Libr Syst Scholarship		2,483	2,483	-
Library Donations	39,555	4,861	2,150	42,266
Skatepark Donation	306			306
Montague Center Park	4,639			4,639
Cultural Council	3,510	8,313	4,040	7,783
War Memorial Grant	9,758	200		9,958
PEG Access Funds		12,500	12,500	-
Battlefield Grant	-		30,850	(30,850)
Sale of Cemetery Lots	4,100	100		4,200
Sale of Highland Lots	36,353	19,450	4,000	51,803
Sale of Real Estate	689,446	(12,043)	24,261	653,142
Recreation Revolving	5,515	75,695	85,700	(4,490)
Colle Operations	475,587	120,549	207,893	388,243

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
Year Ended June 30, 2024

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>7/1/2023</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Transfer</u> <u>In/Out</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>6/30/24</u>
#24 5/7/11 Turnpike Rd	2,860		(2,860)	-	-
Town Buildings/Infrastructure	187,108	5,011,950	160,000	45,640	5,313,418
#1 3/29/18 DPW Facility	52,361				52,361
Airport Capital Projects	591,182	1,081,834	80,931	1,093,567	660,380
CWF Capital Projects	(100,424)	369,984		586,503	(316,942)
Totals	733,087	6,463,769	238,071	1,725,710	5,709,217

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
DEBT STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>07/01/23</u>	<u>Issued</u> <u>FY2024</u>	<u>Retired</u> <u>FY2024</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>06/30/24</u>	<u>Interest</u> <u>FY2024</u>
LONG TERM DEBT					
Clean Water Facility	7,071,451		385,009	6,686,442	209,343
Town	12,191,765	(77,765)	691,000	11,423,000	405,242
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	19,263,216	(77,765)	1,076,009	18,109,442	614,585
SHORT TERM DEBT					
Tax Anticipation Notes	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	22,937
Bond Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Grant Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Other Short Term Debt	-			-	
TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	22,937

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

GENERAL FUND

General Revenue

Taxes (net of refunds)	
Personal Property	\$ 3,934,831
Real Estate	17,755,465
Tax Liens Redeemed	65,592
Tax Foreclosures	28,282
Motor Vehicle Excise	859,408
Boat Excise	-
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	149,190
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	11,120
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	11,041
Trailer Park Taxes	5,355
Meals Tax	76,718
Total Taxes	<u>22,897,001</u>

State Revenues

State Owned Land	366,300
Abatements to Veterans/Elderly	8,032
Unrestricted Local Aid	1,713,306
Court Fines	440
Comm MA Motor Vehicle Infractions	3,279
Other State Revenue	9,217
Veteran's Benefits (State Reimb)	28,167
Total State Revenue	<u>2,128,741</u>

Other

FCTS SRO Reimb	78,540
GMRSD SRO Reimb	66,300
Earnings on Investments	59,926
Miscellaneous Revenue	253,600
Kearsarge Rental	171,469
Premium from Sale of Debt	-
Transfers from Other Funds	553,590
Airport Overhead to Town	3,939
CWF Overhead to Town	52,512
Total Other	<u>1,239,876</u>

Departmental Revenue

Board of Selectmen	27,306
Board of Assessors	5,045
Treasurer/Collector	39,041
Town Clerk	16,986
Planning & Conservation	1,436
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,375

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

GENERAL FUND

General Revenue, continued

Farmer's Market	76
Police	27,455
Building	122,357
Sealer of Weights & Measures	-
Dog Licenses	-
Hwy - Trash	298,513
Hwy - Other	18,585
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	1,543
Board of Health	31,275
Council on Aging - Gill Reimbursement	9,310
Libraries	2,164
Total Departmental Revenue	<u>602,466</u>
 Total General Fund Revenue	 <u><u>\$26,868,084</u></u>

AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND

Airport PILOTS	\$ 12,194
Rentals/Leases	199,495
Investment Income	1,799
Other Fees	13,606
Transfer from CPF (FAA Debt Grant)	71,384
Transfer from Other Funds	152,261
Total Airport Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 450,739</u></u>

CWF ENTERPRISE FUND

Tax Liens Redeemed	\$ 20,326
Sewer Liens Redeemed	80,490
Interest & Demands	25,348
Industrial Sewer Fees	360,554
Residential Sewer Fees	2,125,589
Septage Fees	250,355
Trucked-In Solids	96,414
Sewer Permits	210
Investment Income	606
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,829
Transfer from CWF Cap Stab Fund	-
Transfer from General Fund (Tax Share)	286,900
Total WPCF Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 3,250,620</u></u>

TURNERS FALLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, overseen by the Airport Commission, completed multiple projects in 2024 totaling over seven hundred thousand dollars. Most notably, the continued rehabilitation of the Pioneer Aviation hangar. Work included installation of a new heating and air conditioning system, several windows, aircraft access door, and full replacement of the electrical switch gear. Other notable achievements in 2024 included the next steps towards the complete rehabilitation of the pavement and layout of the Pioneer Aviation property. In 2024 the airport employed 4 people, consisting of the full-time Airport and Operations Manager, and 2 part time Franklin County Technical School co-op grounds maintenance team members. The steady increase in operations in 2024 totaled 46,500 +/-, of which 42% directly related to flight training and another 26% was passenger arrival or departure related. The grant funded solar canopy, located in the administration office parking lot off Millers Falls Road generated 30.74 Mwh of clean, renewable energy, offsetting 26% of electricity consumption airport wide. The electric vehicle charging stations dispensed 1,248 kWh of clean energy to users in 2024.

The Pioneer Aviation purchase, completed on April 15th 2021 continues to be beneficial to the airport and the aviation community. Ongoing property repairs in 2024 included a new \$100,000 bi-fold hangar door installation, metal siding installation, new windows, and complete replacement of the electrical switch gear. FAA and DOT grants covered 93% of the overall cost of all improvements, and airport staff provided labor related services to offset additional costs. A new heat pump type heating and air conditioning system was installed, replacing the 30+ year old inefficient oil fired heating system and window unit air conditioner. Fuel sales exceeded the previous year expected levels for the duration of 2024, totaling just over \$101,000. The Jet-A fueling system, which allows for refueling services to be provided to helicopter and some charter operators continues to provide value. Jet-A sales were previously lost to surrounding airport, and generated an additional \$19,000 in annual revenue for 2024.

Staffing was maintained at adequate levels for the duties of running the facility. The Operations Manager position continues to oversee the day-to-day operations of the airfield. The intern / co-op student position continues to benefit the airport and is under the supervision of the Operations Manager. The program in its seventh year now has resulted in a drastic reduction to the workload of the Airport Manager. The duties of the Airport Manager have shifted over the last few years from a property maintenance person to a business development and customer relations role. 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, public relations, aircraft fueling, trash removal, vegetation management, and pavement maintenance.

The airport continues to work with the awarded contractor for the development of a photovoltaic generation facility to be located on 38 acres of undeveloped landlocked airport property. This proposed project would generate roughly \$240,000 annually for the airport and thousand more in tax revenue for the town of Montague. While the project was financially viable to develop, the interconnection cost with the local utility network proved to be significantly higher than what was expected. This interconnect, while creating a delay, will proceed forward over the next 18 to 24 months. The airport has worked directly with the developer and utility provider to reach an agreeable middle ground, laying the groundwork for forward progress. This delay will have some negative effects on the FY25 and potentially the FY26 revenues as the airport continues to look at other revenues sources to offset the lost income.

Currently the Turners Falls Municipal Airport is home to 43 aircraft, the same total as 2023. 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 Airport Commission thanks the citizens of the Town of Montague for their support as the airport continues to thrive. The entire airport team is looking forward to a successful 2025 as the airport will continue to see the positive return from the continued investment in the facilities.

Airport Commission:

Gary Collins

David Brule

Seth Rutherford

Josh Lively

Joe Mazeski

Airport Manager:

Bryan Camden

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Listed below are figures taken from the recent Recapitulation Sheet.

Total Appropriations	\$32,987,666.37
Offsets to Cherry Sheet	25,647.00
State Assessments	104,836.00
Overlay for abatements/exemptions	400,780.84
Court Judgment and Debt Expense	0.00

Total to be Raised **\$33,518,930.21**

Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources

Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$ 2,192,041.00
Local Receipts	\$ 1,943,489.95

New Growth: \$ 376,857.00

Taxable Valuation \$1,186,195,681.00

Total Exempt Valuation 188,356,880.00

Total Tax Levy: \$ 21,907,526.09

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann M. Cenzano, Chairman
Ann E. Fisk
Rebecca Sabelawski
Montague Board of Assessors

BOARD OF HEALTH

In 2024, the Montague Board of Health remained committed to strengthening its capacity and enhancing internal processes to implement best practices in local public health. This work was bolstered by the addition of Geneva Bickford as the new Board of Health Administrative Assistant, as well as increasing collaboration with regional public health partners.

This year, the Valley Health Regional Collaborative began providing shared inspectional services for our community. This resource will help address the growing need for inspections while allowing more time to focus on population-level health initiatives.

Through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Board of Health was awarded five outdoor air quality sensors that provide real-time data on particulate matter levels in our community. These sensors offer continuous environmental health surveillance, equipping residents with accessible information to make informed decisions about their health. Additionally, the Board of Health began participating in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Division program to address abandoned properties. With the assistance of this program, the Board of Health has pursued receivership and other legal remedies to address blighted and abandoned properties in Montague.

Melanie Ames Zamojski MSN, RN, serves as Board of Health Chair for Montague. 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 Dean of Nursing at Greenfield Community College. She and her family enjoy camping, hiking, and walking their Field Spaniel, Ben on the Canal Trail.

Rachel Stoler was elected to the Board of Health in 2022. She has lived in Turners Falls for the past 22 years, where she raised two children who are now committed voters! She is passionate about community health, and values getting to know her fellow community members. She loves the outdoors, local food, and local music. She is excited about participating in Montague's Municipal Vulnerability Planning Process.

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 President of the Franklin County Fairgrounds located in Greenfield Massachusetts

Ryan Paxton, MPH, RS, Director of Public Health. Ryan was appointed as director in 2023, bringing a large amount of experience in code enforcement for food safety, housing, lead paint, and other areas of environmental health. In 2024, Ryan began serving as the Vice President to the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association and he continues to participate in the steering committees for the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition and the Valley Health Regional Collaborative.

Geneva Bickford, Administrative Assistant. Geneva joined the Board of Health in March and has been an essential addition to the office. Geneva joins the Board of Health with several years of experience in municipal government having worked for the City of Greenfield and the Town of Shutesbury as well as experience in the private sector as an administrative assistant in the legal field. Geneva has been instrumental during our annual permit renewal season and continues to

learn and improve in her understanding of various permits, complaints and situations that arise daily.

Kathleen Burek, with over a decade of experience, continues to serve as the Animal Inspector and Barn Inspector. Kathy provides an extensive knowledge of animal husbandry and remains committed to fulfilling both unique roles in our community.

Cause of Death 2024	
Advanced Age	1
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	1
Atherosclerotic	
Cardiovascular Disease	1
Cardiorespiratory Arrest	2
Cardiopulmonary Arrest	3
Cerebral Vascular Accident	2
Concussive Head Injury and Positional Asphyxia due to fall	1
Congestive Heart Failure	1
Dementia	2
End Stage Renal Disease	1
Heart Failure with reduced ejection fraction	1
Hypertensive and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease	1
Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure	2
Metastatic Adenocarcinoma of the pancreas	2
Metastatic Adenocarcinoma of the prostate	1
Multiorgan Failure	1
Not yet determined	2
Probable Cardiac Dysrhythmia	6

Animal & Barn Inspector Report 2024	
Humans with Animal Bites	5
Animal with Bites of unknown origin	12
Humans Bitten by bats	0
Bat Encounters	2
Animal Census Count	724
Number of Barns Inspected	43

Director's Report 2024	
Beaver Trapping Permits	4
Body Art Establishment Permits	1
Body Art Practitioner Permits	1
Body Art Apprentice Permits	1
Burial Permits	31
Food Service Establishment Permits	47
Funeral Director Licenses	2
Hoarding Complaint Investigations	12
Housing Inspections	93
Mobile Food Permits	7
Mobile Home Park Licenses	2
Nuisance Investigations	179
Percolation Tests	20
Records Requests	8
Recreational Camps Permitted	2
Residential Kitchen Permits	5
Retail Food Permits	10
Retail Tobacco Permits	9
Septage Hauling Licenses	6
Septic Installers License	15
Septic System Plan Approval and Inspections	13
Temporary Food Permits	45
Complaint Investigations	140
Trash Hauler's Licenses	9
Well Construction Permits	6

Confirmed Infectious Disease Cases in 2024	
Babesiosis	1
Calicivirus/Norovirus	10
Group A Strep.	3
Hepatitis C	2
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	6
Influenza	62
Novel Corona virus	93
Pertussis (and other Bordetella sp.)	1
Salmonellosis	1
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	4

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department received a steady flow of permit applications for 2024. The amount of building permits increased from 434 in 2023 to 546 for 2024. There was an increase in plumbing permits from 58 in 2023 to 65 in 2024. Electrical permits increased from 204 in 2023 to 220 in 2024. Home Occupation permits increased with 40 issued in 2024, up from 37 issued in 2023.

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-2024

Building Permits	546	\$101,496.00
Gas Permits	37	\$2,358.00
Plumbing Permits	65	\$9,175.00
Electrical Permits	<u>220</u>	<u>\$27,427.00</u>
Total Construction Permits	868	\$140,456.00
Annual Inspections	23	\$920.00
Home Occupation Permits	<u>40</u>	<u>\$510.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>931</u>	<u>\$141,886.00</u>

William Ketchen
Inspector of Buildings

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) met frequently throughout 2024 to hear and evaluate capital requests, and issue recommendations for funding to the Selectboard, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting.

A summary of capital requests recommended and advanced to Annual and Special Town Meeting in calendar year 2024 appears below.

Special Town Meeting March 14, 2024 Description	Recommended Appropriation
Public Works – Skid Steer	\$90,000
Public Works – Ferry Rd Culvert Replacement	\$222,800
Airport – Pioneer Aviation Ramp Project	\$152,315

Annual Town Meeting May 4, 2024 Description	Recommended Appropriation
Clean Water Facility – Montague Center Pump Station Rehab	\$283,800
Public Works – Equipment and Major Repairs (Discretionary)	\$64,218
Public Works – Replace 20-Ton Trailer	\$40,401
Public Works – Alleyway Paving	\$30,000
Public Works – Manhole and Sewer Pipe Re-lining	\$78,500
Public Works – 10-wheel Dump Truck	\$365,000
Town Hall Parking Lot Rehabilitation	\$296,000
School District – Hillcrest Pavement and Sidewalks	\$175,500
Libraries – New Main Branch Feasibility Study	\$150,000

The full slate of projects addressed through appropriations shows the Town's increased commitment and capacity to address capital needs and implementation of the Long Range Capital Plan. The CIC continues to make considerable headway relative to the backlog of capital projects in Montague, however, it recognizes 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.

Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller was hired in June 2024 and continues to build on the successful work of his predecessor in providing staff support to the CIC. He will continue working with the CIC each year to update the 6 Year Capital Plan as part of the annual budget cycle.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Garrison. Chair, Jason Burbank, Ariel Elan, Chris Menegoni, Lynn Reynold

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Montague Cemetery's five member Commission oversees the town's eight municipal cemeteries. The Commission works with volunteers on a variety of tasks and activities in and for the town cemeteries and welcomes more residents to become involved in this important work.

Cemetery operators

In February and November, the commission hosted a meeting of all private cemetery operators to discuss the state of our Montague cemeteries, make connections, and share resources. It was agreed that this group would meet 1-2 times per year.

Highland Woods dedication

In April, the commission held a public dedication for Highland Woods, the new natural burial ground located within Highland Cemetery. The event drew over 70 people and included: speakers, music, and a ceremonial walk throughout the natural burial section down the "Path of Reflection."

Cemetery Sexton

The commission created a new paid Cemetery Sexton position, approved at Special Town meeting, to coordinate burials and headstone placements, sell plots at Highland Cemetery and Highland Woods, manage burial records, and field inquiries and questions. The position is supported by burial fees.

Volunteers

Each town cemetery has a cemetery "partner" who monitors the cemetery regularly for maintenance issues and general condition and reports at monthly commission meetings. Volunteers engage in Spring and Fall cemetery clean up days as well as special programs hosted by the commission including a public grief ceremony held in October.

Highland Cemetery and Highland Woods burials and plot sales

There were 24 burials and 34 plot sales in 2024.

2024 Montague Cemetery Commission members:

Judith Lorei
Mary Kay Mattiace
Jo-Ann Prescott

Annabel Levine
Jamie Fuller

CLEAN WATER FACILITY

The Montague Clean Water Facility (CWF) focuses on highlighting the benefits of wastewater treatment as it impacts the environment, and in acknowledging the crucial and skilled work performed by dedicated professionals that operate the facility daily.

The CWF 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, CWF 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. 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 0.63 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.

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 Industrial Blvd Pump Station upgrade. 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 equaling over \$858,000; receiving grants for lighting, new blowers, new aeration diffusers, pump station pump replacements, asset management planning, and a composting facility study.

The facility has an unbelievably talented, hard-working staff, who come with many exceptional talents such as carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, and laboratory experience. The CWF takes pride in its highly skilled and motivated personnel, who have been essential to the efficient operations of the facility.

The hard work and dedication by the department has been noticed in the wastewater industry, with Superintendent Little receiving the 2023 Water Environment Association's William D. Hatfield Award for outstanding performance and professionalism in the operation of a wastewater treatment facility.

The CWF 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!

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Gill Montague Council on Aging serves residents of Montague and Gill who are 60 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. Gill has 641 adults over 60 and Montague has 2,773 adults over 60 by the 2020 census. The Council on Aging's Senior Center provides fitness programs, opportunities to socialize, educational programs, cultural programs and a variety of supportive services involving home repair, benefits counseling, food insecurity, and financial management.

This year the COA partnered with LifePath, the Greenfield YMCA, the Franklin County Tech School, Community Action Pioneer Valley, FRCOG, the Brick House, The Food Bank of Western Mass, and the Greenfield Savings Bank, to provide various programs and services for Gill and Montague older adults. The COA has also supported the Gill Neighbors volunteer group and has assisted in getting the recently formed Montague Villages community support group off the ground.

The Senior Center offered fifteen hours of fitness instruction weekly comprising chair yoga, outdoor yoga, aerobics, chair aerobics, mat yoga, chair dance, and Tai Chi. The Senior Center also distributed food to low-income older adults twice a month and provided subsidized professional foot care to 25 older adults each month. In cooperation with CISA and Redfire Farm, the Senior Center set up weekly summer farm shares for 40 low-income older adults. This year, cooperating with AARP volunteers, the Senior Center arranged free tax return preparation services for 39 clients. The Senior Center also distributed over 100 farmers' market coupons to local low-income residents. Approximately 450 Gill and Montague residents use the Senior Center annually either once or twice for specific help or regularly to attend programs and classes. Socializing is an important part of what we offer and there is always someone or several friendly people ready to chat over a cup of coffee. A lot of people come in when they don't know where else to turn for food, heat, connections to legal services, problems with Social Security or with housing. The COA helps with safety related home repair services, heating emergencies, housing issues, medical care access and transportation, scam prevention, and elder abuse reports. The COA director and volunteer staff regularly assisted older community members with internet searches, benefit registrations, accessing various agencies and businesses online (health care portals, Social Security Administration, Registry of Motor Vehicles, IRS, Massachusetts Department of Treasury, SNAP) housing applications, and other now digitally available only services.

Regularly scheduled social programs at the Senior Center included bingo, card games, potluck lunches, pizza parties, ice cream socials, live performances, and daily drop-in time with coffee, snacks, and newspapers.

This year, with funds from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the form of a grant entitled Enhancing Digital Literacy for Older Adults, we were able to provide laptops, classes, and supportive training to 12 residents and we have coordinated with the students and faculty at the Franklin County Tech School to hold weekly drop-in tech help sessions.,

The Gill Montague Senior Center continues to be challenged by limited space and staff and the COA is grateful for the many volunteers who generously help out at the Senior Center and especially for the volunteer receptionists who manage the Senior Center so well. Our senior center has one half time paid staff person. Without the kind support from our volunteers, our services would be severely reduced.

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 50 applications for grant funding in FY25 and had \$17,246 to distribute. The funding increase from FY2023 was made possible by additional municipal funding from ARPA monies allocated for FY24 and FY25. . December, we voted to award grants to 28 applicants, an increase of 57% of projects funded with more substantial awards over FY23's 41.6%. Grants ranged in size from \$250-\$1500 and were awarded to many worthwhile projects:

Antenna Cloud Farm, Inc.	\$1,000
Bettagere Nagendra Prasad, Pranav Swaroop	500
DeWalt, Dan	500
Ferguson, Carrie	300
Franklin County Pride, Inc.	400
Good Music Makes Good Neighbors	1000
Kachulis, Nick	400
Millers Falls Community Improvement Association	1000
Montague Community Band	400
MUSIC Dance.edu	280
Musica Franklin, Inc.	500
Musica Franklin, Inc.	750
Peters, Kamil	1500
Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.	200
Piti Theatre Company	1000
RPM Fest	1000
Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc.	1000
Silverthorne Theater Company, Inc.	800
Sobel, Anna R.	500
Stepanek, Julie	200
Stevig, Tev	400
The Brick House Community Resource Center, Inc.	800
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	500
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	250
Thomas, Cynthia	250
Tincknell, Roger L.	315.8

Weathervane Community Arts	1000
WholeTone Music Academy Teaching Collective	500
Total	\$17,246

Additionally, the Council was able to substantially support the Lake Pleasant celebration with \$1500 in ARPA funds. The event was very well attended.

The application window for FY25 grants through the Local Cultural Council program was opened in Sept and ending in October. We held video/phone/in-person meetings and met in November and December 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.

The committee aligns itself with the priorities of the Mass Cultural Council and local community by prioritizing programs which emphasize cultural/racial equity, social equity and inclusion in their content and/or as underrepresented creators. We work with applicants to understand how to meet the requirement that their events are physically accessible. 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 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 <https://www.montague-ma.gov/> 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; James Musoni, Vice Chair; Maggie Martin, Treasurer/Secretary; Members: Deb Frenkel, Jasper Adams

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

In late summer of 2024, we said goodbye to long standing Superintendent of 20 years, Tom Bergeron. We would like to thank him for his dedication and efforts over those years. Often working hours on end to keep residents and visitors safe on our streets, parks, buildings across the community within all 5 villages. He was instrumental in many facets of DPW including various projects, storms, emergency response, small repairs, major vehicle replacements, building maintenance, solid waste disposal at the transfer station and once was active landfill, yearly paving, and construction of the new DPW building!

Thank you, TOM! We all hope you enjoy retirement to the fullest!

This year the DPW crew installed an 8'x3' precast concrete box culvert on South Ferry Rd. This project replaced an undersized 24inch pipe. This is one of the largest projects to note in recent years. It was very successful with strong plans from Stantec engineering and design. The crossing now allows for aquatic passage due to the open bottom nature that simulates the stream bed up and downstream of the crossing.

The annual street sweeping and line painting was done prior to paving. Paving was completed with chapter 90 funds on Old Sunderland Rd and South Prospect St. The paving on South Prospect St was a continuation of work done on Wendell Rd in previous years. That work completed the route to/from Wendell. Overlays were completed by DPW crews in house with paving equipment on various streets. Work on 1st St alley is projected for spring of 2025.

The new Vactor/jetting truck has been fantastic and much more reliable than the old machine. All the sewer manholes have been inspected with consultant Wright-Pierce as part of the asset vulnerability assessment. The assessment has allowed for improved sewer mapping in ArcGIS software with RCAP solutions support. The improved data will allow for better management of the combined sewer system.

The transition from Republic to Casella for curbside collection has gone well. Residents have been able to rely on consistent schedules and timing of collection. Some discrepancies have been corrected and worked out as the contract continues.

The region has received more snow and ice this winter than the last 5+ years. A lot of overtime has been spent overnight and early in the morning plowing or treating the roadways, sidewalks and parking lots.

A huge thank you to all the hard-working individuals who support the DPW in any way. The support to purchase, repair and operate our equipment, buildings, and facilities has been fantastic and we will continue to show we're putting those funds to good use. We couldn't complete these projects without you!

Also, with very large gratitude to all the resilient individuals who work for, with and alongside this department, thanks for doing what you do! It is amazing to see what this team has and continues to accomplish!

Samuel Urkiel
Department of Public Works Superintendent

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 the Town of Montague. This is accomplished via hazard mitigation as well as preparation and response planning done in partnership with other Towns, Cities and County agencies, regional and state level partners, non-profit entities, schools, and the private sector.

We have seen some severe rainstorms this past year that caused flooding in areas that don't normally flood. I would like to provide you with some safety tips.

What are Floods?

Flooding is an overflow of water that can range from a few inches deep to fully submerging entire buildings. Flooding can occur when rivers and lakes cannot contain the excessive rain or snow melt, or when rain cannot be absorbed fully into the ground. Flooding can also occur when waterways overflow due to debris or ice, when winds from tropical storms or hurricanes cause storm surge in coastal areas, or when water containment system (such as levees, dams, pipes) break.

Why Prepare?

Flooding is the most common hazard in Massachusetts. Some floods develop slowly, while flash floods can occur in minutes or hours after a storm or containment system break.

Flood Safety Tips:

Be Informed by receiving alerts, warnings, and public safety information before, during, and after emergencies.

- **Prepare your home.** Are you in a flood prone or high-risk area? Create a family emergency plan. Make a record of your personal property by taking photos or videos of your belongings. Store these records in a safe place. Flood Insurance is available in most communities.
- **Be Alert** to changing weather conditions.
- **Follow Instructions** given by Public Safety Officials
- **Stay Away** from fast moving water, downed power lines. Electrocuting is a serious danger in floods as electrical currents can travel through water.

These are only a few tips. For more Information you can go to www.mass.gov

Draught Warning in Effect

As I write this report our areas Drought Status is at a Level 3-Critical Drought following nearly seven months of below normal precipitation. With draught comes severe fire weather danger. In saying this we need to be extremely cautious with any and all open burning.

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

Respectfully Submitted
John Zellmann
Emergency Management Director

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE (MEC)

- Met with the Gill Energy Commission about encouraging the Gill-Montague School Committee to apply for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's Building Electrification & Transformation Accelerator (BETA) pilot program. The pilot program can develop detailed, step-by-step decarbonization plans for school and other municipal buildings.
 - A joint subcommittee composed of a MEC member, and two Gill members drafted a letter to the School Superintendent, which the MEC edited and approved pending final review by the Gill members of the subcommittee.
 - Following a meeting with the subcommittee, Heath Cummings from the School District submitted a BETA grant application to fund detailed step-by-step decarbonization plans for the Turners Falls High School and Gill Elementary School buildings.
- Met with Ferd Wulkan, a Montague resident who introduced the New Climate Resilient Schools Coalition and their goal to build teams including students and teachers to work with school boards and administration to work on decarbonizing school facilities, buses, etc. Informed him of the above BETA pilot program to possibly coordinate if the grant is approved.
- Together with the Solar Planning Committee, MEC followed up on the draft the Solar Planning Committee helped UMass Clean Energy Extension (CEE) finalize a Community Solar Action Plan for the Town of Montague and CEE's Solar Resource & Infrastructure Assessment report for Montague. MEC provided CEE with information to complete the reports and organized two informational meetings to engage the town in using them as resources for planning for solar across our community.
 - MEC Cochair and Solar Planning Committee member Sally Pick attended the January 22, 2025, Select Board meeting. She made a presentation and took part in a discussion with the Select Board about solar planning in the draft Action Plan, and two possible solar forums offered by the CEE faculty. She noted the Select Board's recommendations.
 - Sally Pick worked with the Town Planner on logistical planning for the solar forum for the public and another meeting with CEE faculty and Town staff involved in solar planning. The MEC checked with CEE faculty on their availability to attend, set dates to have the forums in May, planned agendas, coordinated content developed primarily by CEE, and promoted the meetings.
 - The MEC held a Solar Forum on May 15 for solar-relevant Department Heads, and another Forum on May 22 for residences and businesses. Slides used for both presentations are available in the Energy Committee Reports section of the MEC web page, and minutes are on the MEC web page in the Meetings section. The final Community Solar Action Plan and Solar Resource & Infrastructure Assessment report, along with the Community Solar Survey and summary of survey results are also in the *Reports* section of MEC's webpage.
 - Wrote a letter to the *Montague Reporter* editor to clarify details of the solar planning project with CEE covered in an article in the *Reporter* and to promote the public solar forum.

- When the Solar Planning Committee disbanded at the end of June, MEC took on exploring next steps in implementing some of the recommendations of the plan.
- Communicated with MA Building Electrification Accelerator (BEA), a nonprofit which offered to help Montague explore town building electrification.
- Discussed the issue of electric grid infrastructure, and how it currently limits the Town's capacity for increasing the development of large solar energy arrays.
- A MEC member continued to communicate with the Sheffield/Hillcrest school facilities manager on making building heating and ventilation systems more efficient and learned that some thermostats and ventilation controls were installed.
- *Kept in touch with Chelsey Little*, Superintendent of Montague's Clean Water Facility (CWF) on energy-saving projects they had discussed the previous year:
 - A Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant from the state Department of Energy Resources was approved, funding a feasibility study for a new mini hydroelectric system at the CWF which the CWF staff would be able to design and install.
- MEC Co-chairs met with new Town Assistant Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, at his invitation. Discussed MEC's activities, priorities and projections and how to collaborate.
 - MEC exchanged updates and resources, collaborated with and consulted with Chris Nolan-Zeller as he attended its meetings regularly from August on.
 - Chris provided MEC with regular updates on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) decarbonization planning grant that he applied for up to \$27,000 for 9 municipal buildings.
- Continued to discuss and propose to the town priority energy-saving projects for Green Communities grants.
 - Followed up on the conversion to LED streetlights in Montague Center, delegating a member to check with a member of the Lighting District to see if the work was completed and if there are shading options for folks who have light shining into their house(s).
 - As recommended by the *Community Solar Action Plan*, suggested solar panels be installed on the roof of the DPW building as a Green Communities project, with net-metering to other town buildings (such as the schools) to keep within the limits of the Town's contract with Kearsarge Energy.
- Began investigating the requirements for the Town to become a Climate Leader Community (CLC), the next step up from the state DOER's Green Communities program. CLC municipalities are eligible for significantly larger grant funding for decarbonization projects for the Town than those available to Green Communities who have not become CLC municipalities.

- Hosted a presentation and discussion on the steps to becoming a CLC with Chris Mason, Regional Coordinator for Green Communities.
- Discussed surveying the occupants of the Safety Complex, and looking into how modifying the operating strategy of the geothermal heating and cooling system can better meet their needs.
- Discussed promotion of the new Massachusetts Community Climate Bank's Energy Saver Home Loan Program (ESHLP), a loan program with guidance throughout the energy upgrade process for low- and moderate-income homeowners wanting to install home energy improvements and lower energy costs. Information and a link to the program are posted on the MEC webpage.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The fiscal year 2026 budget season marked a transitional period for the Montague Finance Committee. The new chair had the pleasure of working with the new Town Accountant, Angelica Desroches, and the new Town Administrator, Walter Ramsey. Having solidified our financial policies at the end of 2023, the transition to new leadership was a relatively smooth one for the committee. As our preparations for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting conclude, below is a review of the year prior.

After the FY25 budget season, our summer '24 meetings focused on an evaluation of the Affordable Assessment (AA), the agreement between the Town of Montague and the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD). We reviewed the history of the AA and met with the district. After careful consideration, we concluded that the GMRSD Business Manager and the Town Accountant are comfortable with the Affordable Assessment as written and advocacy would be better directed at encouraging the state to examine the Chapter 70 formula, as this formula has the majority of public schools receiving minimum aid. Challenges with Chapter 70 funding and federal funding mean that despite the fair compromise we are making to adequately fund the schools with Montague tax dollars, the district has very little budget flexibility. A strong public education system is key to a well-functioning town, so we will continue to look for ways to support the district's needs. In the fall of '24 we voted in favor of the town allocating funding toward the Sheffield after school program when the district learned grant funding was unavailable, weeks before the program was to begin. We will continue to look for such opportunities when we have flexibility within the town budget.

In preparation for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee met with the Council on Aging, Library, Gill-Montague Regional School District, Airport, Clean Water Facility, Cemetery Commission, and the Department of Public Works. We held joint sessions with the Capital Improvement Committee and Montague Selectboard as needed. The constraints of a level-funded budget necessitated careful scrutiny of budget and capital requests.

One notable meeting this season was with the Airport. Though the Airport has increased revenues, this revenue increase has been paired with increased costs, so the overall budget is very similar to FY25. Using tax revenue to fund the Airport is a challenge for the public to understand and has resulted in lengthy discussions at town meeting. From the finance committee's perspective, there is also a concern that the Airport budget leaves no room for unanticipated needs. We hope that a mechanism like the DPW discretionary fund can be developed, so that the Selectboard has funds to allocate toward extraordinary needs without necessitating a special town meeting. We look forward to reports from the Selectboard after their more frequent meetings with the Airport Commission.

Looking to future fiscal years, the Finance Committee will continue to carefully examine the use of free cash. Most free cash is excess from the Town operating budget. In the case that this excess results for unanticipated adjustments in valuation we will carefully assess whether it is appropriate to split a portion of these funds with the Gill-Montague Regional School District per the Affordable Assessment. The Committee intends to refine our policies around the use of free cash where appropriate.

We were pleased to learn that the Town Accountant is developing mechanisms for five-year forecasting. With many possible building projects on the horizon and the desire to vigilantly address the needs of our aging infrastructure, a forecasting tool will strengthen our ability to plan ahead.

After 21 years with the Finance Committee, John Hanold will end his tenure after Town Meeting. His impact will continue to be felt when we use our financial policies and when we carefully examine line items next season.

Respectfully,
Dorinda Bell-Upp (Chair), Fred Bowman (Vice Chair), Chris Menegoni (Clerk),
John Hanold, Leigh Rae, Francia Wisenewski, and Jennifer Waryas.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL DOG SHELTER

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 and is currently the only brick and mortar dog shelter in Franklin County.

As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 23 of the 26 Franklin County towns. During the course of 2024, the Regional Dog Shelter logged **198** canine intakes, (**166** were brought in as strays, and **32** where Surrendered, Transferred or Returned to our facility)

- **97** where returned to their owners;
- **74** where adopted into new fur-ever homes; and
- **7** where transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs.

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 42 felines. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore all felines are transferred to an appropriate agency.

Working with the Community:

Food Pantries: 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 2024, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Greenfield and Heath.

Volunteers: Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today. Donating over 7075 hours in 2024, volunteers helped 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 educational outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2024 shows that it was almost identical to 2023 recycling tonnage. District residents recycled just under 2,500 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2024. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Erving Senior Center and Highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 578 households and collected over 58 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2024 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 390 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$98,600 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 or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - Executive Director
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne- Vice-Chair

Chris Boutwell, Montague - Chair
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - Treasurer

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

We submit this annual report for the 2024-25 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2024 enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2024 the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 590 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students
Bernardston	25	Erving	31	Montague	73	Sunderland	9
Buckland	24	Gill	16	New Salem	12	Warwick	5
Colrain	29	Greenfield	135	Northfield	50	Wendell	6
Conway	8	Heath	13	Orange	87	Whately	14
Deerfield	32	Leyden	10	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 143 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2024. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS to receive a high school diploma, and once again, our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted its 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 the Department of Education set 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, landscaping, and advanced precision machining 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 in capital improvement projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023, FCTS had approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid co-op jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education 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, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. Unlike other school districts, which may offer a 45-minute course in a specific trade area, FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS has received an occupancy permit and is completed with a new 4,800-square-foot Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The building is located on the FCTS campus. This facility will be used to provide students with real-world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FM equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program will include a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FM program. Graduating students of the AMT program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FM training, allowing them to sit for an FM license exam. Upon leaving high school, an FM certification will send our students on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approved for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for either a renovation or core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We are currently in the design phase of the project to determine what is feasible for FCTS and its member towns to renovate, build new, or seek other alternatives. The design phase will take a couple of years for completion prior to seeking town approval.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in State grants over the last 7 years. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2024. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs.

The following lists our many projects conducted in the past few years:

- Home building project on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Funded by a non-profit foundation.
- Storage shed for the Charlemont Federated Church
- Pavilion for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Town of Heath parking lot and office lights retrofitting
- Landscaping design for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Landscaping at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery
- Landscaping at Veteran's Memorial Park in Pelham
- Landscaping at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls
- Tree planting for South Deerfield and Turners Falls
- Wreaths made and hung at the Conway Covered Bridge
- Technology support to the Montague Senior Center
- Website development for the UCC Church in Conway
- Audio and video help for online church services at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield
- New construction assistance on the new FCTS Hangar and Veterinary buildings
- Culinary presentation to the Northfield Senior Center
- Luncheons for the Montague Housing Authority and the Erving Red Hat Society
- Breakfast Catering for the Chamber of Commerce, School Resource Officers, and Light up the Fairgrounds
- Repairs to the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls
- Fabrication of an air conditioner cover for the Town of Warwick
- Installed a bench at the French King Bridge in Erving
- Installed brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage
- Repairs of recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair
- Time capsule design and construction for the towns of Deerfield and Northfield
- Blood pressure clinic and nail clinic for the Erving Senior Center.
- Volunteer work at the Arbors Assisted Living and Regal Care facilities in Greenfield
- Holiday meals served at the Stone Soup Cafe in Greenfield
- Cosmetology services for Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor Assisted Living, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center
- Volunteer work at the Dakin Humane Society

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

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.

Respectfully,
Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman

Richard J. Martin
Superintendent – Director

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Completed the Montague Comprehensive Resiliency Plan.
- As part of a six-town Complete Neighborhoods “Greenfield Area” grant project, analyzed zoning and building permit process of Montague and other towns to generate recommendations for increasing housing diversity.
- Submitted a federal HUD PRO Housing grant that would include funds for a housing production plan update for the town.
- Supported the town planner in facilitating the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 Planning Process, including meeting with the core team, conducting extensive outreach on community vulnerability and resilience, updating the town’s climate resilience priorities, and identifying potential seed grant projects.
- In collaboration with Town staff, submitted a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grant Program proposal to conduct a watershed-based planning process for sections of the Connecticut River watershed.
- Helped Montague draft and file a Motion to Intervene in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects, and provided other technical assistance with FERC and the 401 Water Quality Certificate.
- Facilitated a monthly meeting with the MA Attorney General’s Neighborhood Renewal Program, which allowed Montague staff to facilitate rehabilitation and eventual occupancy of abandoned housing.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey assessing attitudes and behaviors among middle and high school students. Staff reported results to Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) administrators from 108 students, representing 56% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning. The 2024 survey includes the Department of Education’s School Climate Survey.
- Provided funding to Heartwing Center to support their after-school leadership and Science Technology Engineering Math program for low income and immigrant young women and girls.
- Provided consultation and resources to district and building administrators on restorative practices, equity student leadership programming, social-emotional resources, and programs and interventions to enhance the GMRSD Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and improve school climate and culture.
- Supported Montague Mass in Motion (MIM) Age-friendly initiative on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. Montague used MIM funds to pay a coordinator to coordinate the digital literacy project, funded by a different grant. The workgroup convened to advise other town planning projects, including library initiatives, recreation department projects, and municipal vulnerability planning.
- Provided training/stipends to three parent leaders — “PEER Ambassadors” — for outreach to other parents on topics such as positive parenting, youth substance use prevention, and mental health resources.
- Created and distributed outreach materials about safe storage of cannabis, parenting tips, and resources to local cannabis businesses and veterinary clinics.
- Provided data and information about youth health to the board of health in support of their tobacco regulations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Funded environmental site assessment activities through the FRCOG Brownfields Program at three municipally-owned sites.
- Engaged municipal officials and coordinated consultants conducting the Rural Downtown District Management Study, which includes downtown Turners Falls, as funded by a state grant to FRCOG.
- Completed the Montague Digital Equity Plan, approved by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and assisted with digital equity implementation grant funding.
- Updated municipal officials on the status of the federal National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process.

SHARED 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.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Montague public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Community Health

Aging Listening Session - 5
Air Quality Monitoring – 2
CHIP Progress Review – 1
Food Safety - 1
Food Safety/Reduced Oxygen Packaging – 1
Franklin/Hampshire Training Hub OV - 1
How to Inspect Rec Camps for Children - 1
How to Write a Housing Order - 1
Mass in Motion Community Engagement – 13

Emergency Preparedness

Cyber Security - 1

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

Highway Department Roundtable - 1

Planning, Conservation & Development

Housing Myth Busting - 1

TRANSPORTATION

- Continued to assist with the implementation of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority's project funded through the MA Shared Streets and Spaces Program to improve the bus stop at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard. Provided technical assistance during the development of final design plans
- Provided support and participated in early design discussions regarding the redesign of the intersection of Routes 47 and 63.
- Conducted state-requested traffic counts on Third St., Unity Street, and Turnpike Road
- Created a large-scale road map for town use in public works, fire, town administration and/or emergency personnel.
- Completed data entry into new pavement management system online and met with town's public works director to discuss next steps for maintenance.
- Assessed the Montague Center Park for ways to make it more age friendly. Worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to develop a pre-application for grant funding to purchase equipment to apply in 2025.
- Provided support for the development of complete streets improvements plans in Montague Center.
- Provided support during meetings with MassDOT during scoping of Canal Bridges improvement project and initial site visit.

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Report

The Gill-Montague Regional School District's 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 we are examining research related to pandemic learning loss, the District Administrative Team developed a 3-year long-term strategic plan. The 23-24 school year saw the third and final year of implementation of the pandemic recovery-centered strategic plan. In order for our students to recover from lost learning opportunities, we have committed 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 935 in 2018 to 902 in 2024. The distribution of student enrollment across the district in the fall of 2023 was as follows:

Gill Elementary (Grades K-6)	114
Hillcrest Elementary (Grades Pre K-1)	137
Sheffield Elementary (Grades 2-5)	212
Great Falls Middle School (Grades 6-8)	237
Turners Falls High School (Grades 9-12)	202

Finances:

In May, 2024, the citizens of Montague, and in June, 2024, the citizens of Gill, showed their support for the district with their approval of a FY25 Budget that reflected a 3.07% increase in local assessments from the prior year. The general fund budget for FY25 was \$24,048,879, a 1.92% increase from the FY24 budget of \$ 23,595,806.

**Gill-Montague Regional School District - General Fund
Statement of Revenues & Other Sources, & Expenditures & Other Uses - Budget &
Actual for the Year Ended June 30, 2024 (Unaudited)**

FY24	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive/ (Negative)
Revenues and Other Sources:				
Assessments to member towns	13,498,345	13,498,345	13,498,345	-
Tuition	1,138,000	1,138,000	996,608	(141,392)
Intergovernmental	8,481,461	8,481,461	8,175,011	(306,450)
Investment Income	25,000	25,000	169,665	144,665
Miscellaneous	-	-	21,494	21,494
Other Sources	453,000	453,000	446,770	(6,230)
		-		
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$3,595,806	\$23,595,806	\$23,307,893	\$ (287,913)
			\$ (287,913)	
Expenditures and Other Uses:				
Administration	698,356	717,645	712,593	5,052
Instruction	10,072,166	10,614,961	10,597,309	17,652
Other School Services	1,312,228	1,469,585	1,422,260	47,325
Operation and maintenance	2,193,653	2,314,813	2,229,855	84,958
Fixed charges benefits	5,720,541	5,133,955	5,027,730	106,225
Community Services	27,049	28,869	27,437	1,432
Capital Equipment	-	65,000	56,153	8,847
Debt Service	119,280	119,280	119,280	-
Special education tuitions	614,533	614,533	508,540	105,993
School choice/charter	2,838,000	2,517,165	2,165,989	351,176
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$23,595,806	\$23,595,806	\$22,867,148	\$728,658
Excess (deficiency) of revenues & other sources over expenditure and other uses				\$440,746

The surplus in funds at the end of FY24 were generated by a few issues. Between the time we built the budget and year end budget close out, we had less Special Education Out of District Tuition expenses. In addition, we had a savings in our health insurance line where less people chose to take advantage of health insurance. In addition, we have seen a continued trend in both School Choice Out and Charter enrollments declining which resulted in a significant surplus in our Choice and Charter tuition expense lines

Gill Elementary School

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2023-2024 progress at Gill Elementary School.

Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Gill Elementary School during the 2023 - 2024 school year may be found below:

- Gill Elementary School served grades K-gr 6 with 1 class per grade.
- There were 114 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
 - African American 0.9%
 - Asian 0.9%
 - Hispanic 7%
 - Native American 0%
 - White 84.2%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
 - Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 7%

Overview of School Improvement Goals:

<u>Goal 1: Growth and Achievement</u> 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.	Meetings were held 3 times during the year to review the literacy data and to make instructional recommendations.
Initiative B - Math data meetings will be held three times a year to review student math data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.	Meetings were held 3 times during the year to review the math data and to make instructional recommendations.
Initiative C: Educators will meet in grade level teams to review the implementation of Wit & Wisdom curriculum, make adjustments to ensure access for all students, and monitor student progress on Wit & Wisdom assessments.	Educators met as teams throughout the year to review the implementation of W&W and to make adjustments as needed both within the school and across the district.
Initiative D: The SST process used by the school will be revitalized through the use of new documentation and format in order to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students.	The building administrators created a new digital form for teachers to use when recommending a student for the SST process. This form focused on not just the academic needs, but the social and emotional needs as well. This documentation helped to streamline the SST process.

Goal 2 Student Engagement

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

Initiative A: Student work and projects will be showcased using venues such as bulletin boards and display cases throughout the school as well as venues outside the school.

Initiative 8: Students will be given various opportunities to share their thoughts and demonstrate their learning to their peers, teachers, and family.

Initiative C: Create a virtual Morning Meeting for a daily gathering of the school where birthdays, announcements, and student learning is highlighted.

This is an initiative that continues to be in process. There were some projects that were highlighted around the school (art, music, science). Some of the art projects were displayed in the community.

Students participated and led a variety of all-school meetings including those focused on literary as well as holiday commemorative events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

We continued to have student leaders throughout K-6 to help with the The Morning Meeting, an all-school virtual meeting held every morning.

Goal 3 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 introduce families to classroom expectations, curriculum, and programs through newsletters, phone calls, emails, and other means.

Initiative 8: Classroom contact booklets will be made for each class so that families can connect and support each other.

Initiative C: Staff will contribute on a rotating basis to the monthly newsletter so that learning, staff, and students are recognized regularly.

Teachers continue to use digital platforms to text parents. The school continued to use the purple folder system to send home notices in a predictable format. The school continues to post information on the school's website and through emails.

The front office continues to send a bi-monthly newsletter entitled, "The Wolf's How" to share important information from all areas of the school - the nurse's office, PTO, and classrooms. The office also coordinated efforts to create a classroom buddy book for each classroom so parents could contact other families.

See above.

Goal 4 Inclusion and Equity

We will 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.

Initiative A: Counselors and staff will utilize diverse literature consistently throughout the year to explore and discuss topics that impact students and incorporate Teaching Tolerance Standards. Titles will focus on a range of issues to promote social justice and social-emotional growth.

Initiative B: In the Spring of 2023, re-administer the school climate survey for school staff and families given Spring 2022 and compare the results.

Initiative C: Staff will engage in safe and respectful meetings to engage in productive dialogue regarding issues of equity, effectively implementing instruction and engaging students in developmentally appropriate dialogue about race, culture, and equity.

The school continued building its lending library with over 75 books for teachers to use to talk about diversity and inclusion as well as topics concerning emotional/social development.

The survey was not sent out during the year.

The staff created norms for their staff meetings and held each other accountable for them. Norms were printed at the top of every meeting agenda.

Goal 5: Grade-Appropriate Instruction

We will continue to deliver grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning

Initiative A: Develop and implement a consistent and uniform SST process to identify students who need academic support and to engage the reading, math,

Initiative B: Continue to implement the second year of the literacy program, Wit and Wisdom for grades K-6.

Initiative C: Coordinate the sixth-grade math program offered at GES with the sixth-grade math program at GFMS so students are able to transition to grade 7 at GFMS.

See previous comments about the SST process.

The staff continued to work on implementing the programs that are part of the ELA K-6 curriculum with fidelity.

The 6th grade math teacher continued to implement the math program used at GFMS in preparation for grade 7. She found great success with the program.

Hillcrest Elementary School

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2023-2024 progress at Hillcrest Elementary School.

Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Hillcrest Elementary School during the 2023-2024 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 & Developmental Delay.
- There were 137 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
 - African American 0.7%
 - Asian 1.5%
 - Hispanic 19.7%
 - Native American 0.7%
 - White 70.1%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
 - Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 7.3%
- 58.2% of the students were categorized as Low Income
- English Language Learners made up 9% of our student population
- 34.4% of our students were Students with Disabilities
- 68.9% of our students were categorized as High Needs

Overview of School Improvement Goals

Goal 1 Family Engagement:

Initiative A: All School Meetings will be held each month from September through May. Each meeting will feature a presentation of learning from each grade level. All classrooms will lead a presentation three times during the school year.

Initiative B: Each grade level will implement the Second Step SEL curriculum and will engage families through the consistent distribution of the Second Step Home Link newsletters written in both English and Spanish. The Hillcrest Principal will host a presentation of the Second Step curriculum at the November Family Conferences.

Initiative C: In collaboration with Gill Elementary & Sheffield Elementary, Hillcrest staff members will plan and participate in three district-wide curriculum nights: Literacy Night at Hillcrest in November 2023, Math Night at Sheffield in March 2024, and Science Night at Gill in May 2024.

Initiative D: An attendance committee will meet regularly to review student attendance and to ensure ongoing communication and problem-solving conferences with families of students whose attendance is not meeting expectations.

Goal 2 Student Engagement:

Initiative A: All Hillcrest educators will support the implementation of The Second Step Curriculum through the consistent use of the STEP problem-solving routine throughout the school day (classrooms, cafeteria, playground, etc.)

Initiative B: First grade students will study community activism and will plan and implement an age-appropriate service project that benefits the Hillcrest community.

Goal 3 Growth & Achievement: Educators will regularly monitor the impact of instruction on student learning and will make adjustments to maximize student growth and achievement.

Initiative A: Kindergarten and first grade educators will collect ongoing mathematics data for all of their students using the AVMR Screener, the Number Corner Assessment and iReady Math at three established data collection points during the 2023-2034 school year (October, January & June). The data from these assessments will be the focus of Math Data Meetings in October 2023 and January 2024.

Initiative B: Kindergarten and first grade educators will collect ongoing literacy data for all of their students using the DIBELS and the Heggerty Assessment three established data collection points during the 2023-2034 school year (September, January and May). The data from these assessments will be the focus of Literacy Data Meetings in October 2023, January 2024 and April 2024).

Initiative C: Preschool educators will collect literacy data using the Heggerty Assessment in October 2023, January 2024 and May 2024, mathematics data using the Bridges Interview Assessment in November 2023 and April 2024 and overall developmental data using the ESI-P screener in October 2023. Review of data will take place at Preschool Team Meetings in November 2023 and April 2024.

Goal 4 Grade Appropriate Instruction: Educators will deliver grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning.

Initiative A: Kindergarten and first grade educators will participate in at least one Curriculum Summit, focused on the curriculum area of their choice.

Initiative B: Elementary specials teachers will begin developing units of instruction based on the DESE standards for their domain.

Initiative C: Educators will meet in grade level teams to review implementation of Wit & Wisdom and Geodes (K&1) and Bridges (PK, K & 1), make adjustments to ensure access for all students, and monitor student progress on assessments.

Initiative D: The Student Support Team (SST) process used by the school will be revitalized through the use of districtwide documentation and format in order to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students. The team will identify at-risk students who need Tier 2 support and use data from multiple domains to determine appropriate interventions.

Goal 5 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.

Initiative A: Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade educators will implement the Second Step SEL curriculum with integrity, aiming to teach two lessons per week for the first half of the school year and one lesson per week for the second half of the school year.

Initiative B: Hillcrest signage in the main entry area will be posted in English, Spanish and French and with visual cues for non-verbal communicators.

Initiative C: The Hillcrest Friday News will be distributed via email and on the school website in English and Spanish.

Initiative D: Hillcrest staff members will host monthly Family Read-Alouds featuring texts from our Diverse Books Collection. These will take place after each All School Meeting.

Sheffield Elementary School

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2023 - 2024 progress at Sheffield Elementary School.

Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Sheffield Elementary School during the 2023-2024 school year may be found below:

- Sheffield Elementary School served grades 2-5 with 3-2nd grade classrooms, 3-3rd grade classrooms, 3-4th grade classrooms, 3-5th grade classrooms, 1-Therapeutic Special Education Classroom and 1-Special Education Classroom serving students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- There were 212 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
 - African American 1.9%
 - Asian 0.5%
 - Hispanic 20.8%
 - Native American 0%
 - White 69.3%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
 - Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 7.5%
- 62.3% of the students were Economically Disadvantaged
- 10.8% of the students were English Language Learners
- 31.6% of our students had Educational Disabilities

Overview of School Improvement Goals

Goal 1: Family Engagement

Sheffield Elementary School will welcome and engage families as active partners to support the academic and social-emotional development of all students.

Initiative A: Staff will introduce families to classroom expectations, curriculum, and programs through Remind, Class Dojo, newsletters, phone calls, emails, and other means.

Initiative B: Staff will plan and hold three district-wide elementary curriculum nights (literacy, math, and science).

Initiative C: Staff will increase caregiver conversations and showcase the growth and learning of each learner.

Initiative D: Staff will contribute on a rotating basis to the weekly school newsletter so that learning, staff, and students are recognized regularly.

Initiative E: An attendance committee will meet regularly to review student attendance. All staff will provide communication and assistance to families in need of support regarding the Importance of regular and consistent school attendance.

Goal 2: Student Engagement

Sheffield Elementary School 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. These displays will be highlighted in the principal's weekly newsletter.

Initiative B: Students will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts and demonstrate their learning to their peers, teachers and family within the classroom and during the district-wide curriculum nights.

Initiative C: Students will work in collaborative learning groups to develop higher-level thinking skills, work effectively with peers, and improve social and interpersonal skills.

Initiative D: Students will be instructed with the Second Step curriculum to help Them build social-emotional skills such as nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and setting goals.

Goal 3: GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT

Sheffield Elementary School staff will regularly monitor the impact of instruction on student 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: Math data meetings will be held three times a year to review student math data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.

Initiative C: 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.

Goal 4: Grade-Appropriate Instruction

Sheffield Elementary School staff will deliver grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning.

Initiative A: Staff will demonstrate the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework that uses common and reliable data to provide academic and social emotional instruction that is culturally responsive, strength-based, and scaffolded to ensure access and meet the learning needs of all students.

Initiative B: The district, building leader and other staff will establish a MTSS team that is representative, meets regularly and monitors school-wide tiered instruction and supports data gathered through curriculum assessments, Redeker, and behavior logs.

Initiative C: The MTSS team will monitor student progress to evaluate effectiveness of tiered instruction and support. Staff will use a decision-making process that includes multiple data points to tier supports for students based on student growth/performance benchmarks.

Initiative D: The Student Support Team (SST) process used by the school will be revitalized through the use of new documentation and format in order to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students. The team will identify at-risk students who need Tier 2 support and use data from multiple domains to determine appropriate interventions.

Initiative E: The district will use the MTSS framework to shift to prevention and monitoring of student growth through "universal" Tier 1 support to strengthen school climate, relationships, and classroom instruction.

Goal 5: Inclusion & Equity

Sheffield Elementary School staff 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: Using "Culturally Responsive Teaching for Multilingual Learners: Tools for Equity", the book from the district-wide book study, staff will implement additional tools and strategies to enhance their culturally responsive teaching to build a stronger school community that is inclusive of multilingual learners.

Initiative B: Administration, staff, and school council will develop and administer a school climate survey for school staff and families.

Initiative C: Staff will engage in safe and respectful meetings to engage in productive dialogue regarding issues of equity, effectively implementing instruction and engaging students in developmentally appropriate dialogue about race, culture, and equity.

Initiative D: Administration will continue to increase the diverse and inclusive text collection that includes fiction, nonfiction, and biographies.

GFMS/ TFHS (Secondary)Annual Report

At **Great Falls Middle School (GFMS)**, we provide a welcoming, nurturing, and academically challenging learning environment for our 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 high school. The grade-level team structure offers a cohesive group of educators with common planning time to collaborate, support our students, and improve our instruction and programmatic design.

GFMS Celebrations:

- Middle Social Contract Development and Implementation (Students & Staff)
- Active Middle School Student Council
- Mental Health
 - o MGH SBIRT (Substance use Screening, referral, intervention, treatment)
- Theater Activities
 - o Mean Girls (Fall 2024)
 - o Shrek (Spring 2025)
- Middle School Band Concert
 - o Fall 2024, Packed House
- Western Mass Jr. District Festival Participants
 - o 5 M.S. students qualified

Turners Falls High School (TFHS) is a four-year, comprehensive high school with a wide array of offerings, and during the 2024-2025 school year. Although we are a small school, at TFHS we are proud of the amazing array of academics, programs, and activities. 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), technology education (including graphic arts, digital filmmaking, television studio production, Maker Lab with 3D printing, and CNC machining), health education, physical education, art, and band and chorus. We are an Innovation Pathway school recognized by DESE with three pathways, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Advanced Manufacturing, and Environmental and Life Sciences. The growth and talent trajectory of our Band, Chorus, and Theater programs are amazing and make us proud. The strength of these programs has become a cornerstone of our school and district. We also offer ten Advanced Placement courses through which students may simultaneously earn college credit, Dual Enrollment at GCC, and online class offerings through APEX.

TFHS Celebrations:

- Turners Falls High School Softball Team Wins State Championship
- Senior Sunrise Activity
 - o 1st Day of School
 - o National Honor Society Induction
 - 23 New Inductees
 - o Active High School Student Council
 - Unity Day
 - Spirit Week
 - Dances, etc.
 - o Mental Health
 - MGH SBIRT (Substance use Screening, referral, intervention, treatment)
 - o Theater Activities
 - Mean Girls (Fall 2024)
 - Shrek (Spring 2025)
 - o Western Mass Sr. District Festival Participants (5 H.S. students qualified)

Secondary GFMS/ TFHS Programming and Curriculum Initiatives

- **Restorative Practices** year-long staff professional development
 - o We are building a restorative school culture where relationships are prioritized, harm is repaired collaboratively, and every student and staff member feels valued and supported.

- **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** year-long staff Professional Development
 - o (UDL) is a teaching approach that aims to create inclusive learning environments by accommodating the needs of all students:
- **Walker Solutions Climate and Culture Partnership** focuses on Developmental Design for Learning
 - o Developmental Design is a teaching approach that uses brain-based strategies to engage students in high and middle school. This approach focuses on building relationships, social skills, and a safe community. It also aims to help students develop cultural responsiveness, intrinsic motivation, and responsible independence.
- **High-Quality Professional Development (HQPD)**
 - o HQPD work refers to a structured and purposeful learning experience designed to significantly improve an individual's professional skills and practice, often with a focus on achieving measurable positive outcomes in their work, like improved student learning in the context of education. (Curricular Chair Meetings, 2025)
- **High-quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)**
 - o HQIM work expands access to high-quality, standards-aligned curricular materials that can significantly improve student outcomes.
- **Innovative Pathways (IP)**
 - o Computer Innovative Manufacturing (Course addition)
 - o Manufacturing Pathway (Audit Spring, 2025)
- **MTSS Summer Professional Development**
 - o Tier 1 classroom strategies for learning
 - o Attendance review committee work
- **GFMS/ TFHS Recovery Programs**
 - o ESY, High School Credit Recovery Program, Middle School Summer Academy

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Montague Historical Commission, under MGL 40 section 8d, has as its charge to “conduct research 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...”

To accomplish this mission, the Commission intends to:

- Maintain the integrity of the town’s historic districts
- Contribute to community awareness and maintain interest in Montague’s historical heritage during its monthly meetings and when applicable, on the Town’s webpage in order to promote preservation of those assets.
- Serve to provide an historical perspective as mandated under the MGL as a partner with other town boards and committees.
- Advise and guide the Town of Montague in all matters pertaining to the proposed destruction, exterior renovation, or relocation of historical assets, the commercial excavation or soil disturbance in what is deemed to be in proximity of an historical site.

Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 11 a.m. via Zoom. No meetings in May and December.

During 2024, 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 and cultural research as well as archaeological field work on the site of the May 19, 1676 Falls Fight. As such, the Montague Historical Commission collaborated with the Historical Commissions of Gill, Greenfield, Northfield, and Deerfield as well as with the Native American tribes of the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Nipmuck and Abenaki.
- **Added commissioner** Jen Viencek in February.
- Accepted the resignation of Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno in August. We are all saddened by his passing in October. His contributions to the Historical Commission and historic preservation in town were invaluable.
- Tracked progress on the **Montague Comprehensive Plan** including the need for a **Montague Historic Preservation Plan** to be considered in the plan and including consideration of Historic Districts in Montague City and Lake Pleasant.
- Tracked developments with bridge replacements in Turners Falls.
- Discussed building changes at 19 Rod Shop Road with owner.
- Discussed the Strathmore Mill complex and received updates on future possibilities for the Carnegie Library.
- Continued to track developments of the Blacksmith Shop in Montague Center located on Montague Center Park lands in an historic district. Awaiting final historic evaluation report from architect.
- Participated in discussions of future use of the former Farren Memorial Hospital site.
- Monitored FERC relicensing as it relates to Montague historic properties. Provided feedback to FERC during the relicensing process.
- Voted to purchase filing cabinet and filing supplies for proper organization of meeting minutes and historical materials. Updating historical commission page on website is in progress.

- Completed demolition delay bylaw hearing for 73 5th Street property. Unanimous vote to not delay demolition.
- Evaluated changes to St. Anne's church steeple, as proposed by ATT. No impact.
- Facilitated discussion on property at 11 North Street to determine if a demolition delay bylaw hearing would be necessary. Determined by Building Inspector and by unanimous commission vote that it was an emergency demolition situation – bypassing the need for a hearing.
- Discussed archeological work in town.
- Participated in discussions on appropriateness of mural on Shea Theater, in an historic district.

Submitted by Janel Nockleby, Chair

Commissioners:

- David Brule, Vice Chair, Secretary
- Ed Gregory
- Chris Clawson
- Jen Viencek

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Between building projects, collaborative programming initiatives, grant facilitation, and grant applications, it was a busy year at the Montague Public Libraries.

Buildings:

All three Montague Public Libraries were upgraded in 2024. The Montague Center Branch Library had its roof repaired in January/February and work replacing that building's windows began in March and was completed in June. The Montague Public Libraries are extremely grateful to Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno for overseeing the Montague Center Branch Libraries' historic window replacement project. Chris passed away in the fall.

At the Millers Falls Branch Library, new windows and a new back door were installed over the summer. In September/October the branch was temporarily closed so the interior walls of the branch could be painted by the Sheriff's Department and the carpet replaced. This required that library staff, Library Trustees, the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, and staff from the DPW undertake the Herculean task of moving all library materials and most furniture out of the building and into a storage pod for the duration of the work and then put the whole building back together afterward. The branch re-opened in October to much acclaim.

The Carnegie Library basement project kicked off in the fall. The walls were demolished and the longstanding question of "Is there mold in the basement?" was finally answered: yes. The mold was scraped away, new walls were constructed and insulated, and new HVAC was installed. The project was completed just before the new year, allowing staff who had used the local history room as an office for the last decade to move to new workstations in the basement and the second floor. The local history room will be restored as public space in 2025.

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program:

Work on the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLC) application was a major focus during the first half of the year. Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, and the Library Trustees' Building Committee worked with consultant, Barbara Friedman, to put together an 80+ page library building program. The building program details the history of the Carnegie Library, the various ways in which the library building fails to meet the accessibility, space, and technology needs of the community, and a room by room plan demonstrating how these needs could be filled by a larger facility, either by a brand new library constructed on town-owned lot, 38 Avenue A, or by an addition onto the current library.

In February, the Library Director worked with Wolfe Building Movers to determine the feasibility and cost of picking up and moving the Carnegie Library up Avenue A. Their estimate of \$650,000 to move the building made the scenario a viable one. Moving the building to 38 Avenue A and constructing an addition onto it there was included in the Libraries' MPLCP application, though this option may be untenable, should the Massachusetts Historic Commission disallow it.

The three building scenarios are roughly estimated to cost: \$14,489,454 for an expansion of the Carnegie (though this figure will likely be higher, due to the difficulty of blasting into ledge and expanding on a steeply sloped site), \$14,443,854 to construct a new building on 38 Avenue A, and \$15,643,854 to move the Carnegie Library to 38 Avenue A and expand it. It is estimated that the state would pay for about 64% of our construction costs and 50% of the cost of the project overall, meaning the town would have to request a bond for somewhere between \$6 and \$7.5 million dollars. That said, we have no idea how construction costs will fluctuate between now and FY27.

In May, Article 17, which requested an appropriation of \$150k for planning and design costs, passed town meeting by a unanimous vote, allowing the library to apply to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) at the end of that month.

The libraries were awarded entry and immediate funding into the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program in January 2025.

Other Grants:

Montague received ALA's *Libraries Transforming Communities*

(LTC): *Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant, for a new, ADA compliant website, assistive technology for those with vision and hearing impairments, and the development of a 5-year accessibility plan for \$20,000. The Library Director solicited feedback about community accessibility and assistive technology needs via surveys and focus groups, then, working with a committee that included persons with disabilities and disability advocates, developed a 5-year project plan to improve accessibility at all three libraries as well as accessible programming and communications guides.

Montague also received \$9,500 in Technology Grant funding from The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to purchase a privacy pod for the Millers Branch Library. The pod will allow patrons to privately meet in-person with local service providers and virtually with telehealth providers.

The Montague Public Libraries partnered with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association on the National Endowment Arts' 2024/2025 Big Read grant. Received over the summer, the three-season programming grant will focus on Ross Gay's collection of poetry, *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, with workshops featuring storytelling, art making, writing, and music held throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

Youth Services Librarian, Angela Rovatti-Leonard, received several grants this year. To support her project, Beyond Library Walls - Serving Teens and Tweens, she received a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for \$15,000 and a \$6,200 grant from the Library Initiative for Teens and Tweens (LITT) to fund Chromebooks and refreshments for grant-related programs. Community partners, The Brick House and Heartwing Center will work with Angela to build out-of-school community support for local youth. Beyond Library Walls aims to empower young individuals through youth support, social emotional learning, and peer-to-peer connections.

For the youngest library patrons, Angela received \$7,000 from the New Salem Academy for more than one Bilingual Music & Movement series. RiverCulture also secured \$2,000 from the Greenfield Cooperative Bank to fund that program.

Adult programming:

The Library Director collaborated with the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, RiverCulture, and the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association on a Mass Humanities-funded, year-long program series, titled: Food, Farms, and Factories. Programs included: a series of documentaries; lectures on historic factories in the area; exhibitions; a series of programs on food consumption, local plants and edibles, and foraging; a series of informational walks; climate change oral histories and film screenings; a musical performance; an academic talk about Indigenous medicinal practices; and a program on the history of local granges with a community potluck. 69 programs were held in 2024 and 2,324 people attended them.

Library Assistants, Kate Martineau and Jake Goldman, of the Montague Center and Millers Falls Branch Libraries, respectively, contributed to the Montague Public Libraries' slate of programming with book clubs and craft activities offered at both locations. Of note is Kate's facilitation of a spectacular performance of *Love Letters*, which raised over \$1,700 for the Friends, and her development, with Montague community members, of an oral history project that seeks to record and preserve stories and histories from Montague Center residents.

Youth Programming:

Outreach and collaboration continued to be a priority for the Youth Services Department. Staff participated in literacy nights at the schools, offered activities for teens at the Brick House, and partnered with the Discovery Center on Kiddleidoscope story times.

In addition to facilitating weekly Story Time, Playgroup, and Bilingual Music & Movement, Children's Program Assistant, Grae McLaughlin, started a monthly Graphic Novel Book Club for ages 7-12.

The most successful program of the year, hosted at the Great Falls Discovery Center, was the Bluey Party, inspired by a popular Australian cartoon series which was enjoyed by almost 200 children and caregivers. 2024's Summer Reading programs featured a concert and magic show, animal-related presentations, and the annual Friends-of-MPL-funded puppet show, which featured an octopus puppet that riveted the audience.

In early fall, the department piloted a new event, The Montague Community Fair, at Unity Park, which brought the community together with family activities and opportunities to learn about local organizations. The event was successful, and plans are underway to hold it again.

Finally, the Youth Services Department also provided self-directed activity options with new Grab & Go Bags and Scavenger Hunts each month.

Other Projects:

Starting in April, the Library Director, along with members of the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries and the Libraries' Trustees embarked on a rebranding process with local graphic designer, Liz Moran. The project was completed in August. The new brand includes a color palette, several logos, background designs, and templates for creating flyers and social media posts.

Personnel and Professional Development:

Personnel-wise it was a busy year, with several staff members departing for jobs that paid higher wages and/or provided more hours. Due to this phenomenon, and inspired by the town's wage and class study, the Library Director and the trustees' Personnel Committee drafted proposals for both an increase in wages for Library Assistants and for new Adult Services Coordinator and Library Assistant/Technician positions.

Staff training days were implemented, instead of monthly meetings, with the goal of hosting 3-4 per year. These half-day trainings, during which the libraries are closed, feature one or two separate workshops for all staff to attend on subjects such as the libraries' new branding, serving patrons of diverse backgrounds and experiences, health reference resources, and dealing with difficult patrons.

The Library Director was awarded an MLS scholarship to attend the Public Library Association conference, Angela attended the New England Library Association conference, and Library

Assistant, Elene Pepe-Salutric, was accepted into the 2024-25 inaugural cohort of the Library Leaders of New England's *Strategic Library Leadership Development Program*.

In September the Library Director co-presented, with Michelle Geoffroy of the Food Bank of Western Mass and two librarians from the mid-west, at the Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference on providing food resources in libraries.

Annual Report Data					
	Library Visits	Questions Asked	Reference Questions	Reader's Advisory	Technology Questions
TF	19,009	3,569	1,634	515	1,015
MC	3,715	417	32	35	254
MF	2,799	67	149	6	23
Total	25,523	484	1815	556	1292
2024 Circulation Stats		Carnegie	Montague Center	Millers Falls	Total
Adult Printed Material		20,846	8,515	1,745	31,106
YA Printed Material		1,188	411	243	1842
Children's Printed Material		13,026	5,840	1,199	20,065
Adult/YA Audio		1,464	200	30	1,694
Adult/YA Video		17,035	2,652	3,238	22,925
Children's Audio		187	87	4	278
Children's Video/DVD		1,568	368	276	2,212
E-books and E-magazines		-	-	-	9,297
Downloadable Audio		-	-	-	11,530

2024 C/WMARS Consortium ILL Stats:	2024 In-State ILL Stats:
<i>Items Received, total: 25,487</i>	<i>Items Received, total: 121</i>
TF 16,897	<i>Items Sent, total: 98</i>
MC 6,925	
MF 1,665	2023 Out-of-State ILL Stats:
	<i>Items Received, total: 59</i>
<i>Items Sent, total: 15,467</i>	
TF 9,857	<i>Items sent between Montague Libraries: 2,456</i>
MC 3,740	
MF 1,870	

MCTV 2024 ANNUAL REPORT NARRATIVE

The verbiage from the contract with the town has been included in this report as a convenience.

5.1: PROVIDER will maintain its status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational corporation eligible for exemption from taxes under federal and state law.

- MCTV maintained 501(c)(3) status.

5.2: PROVIDER will maintain a governance structure (Board of Directors) which recognizes its obligations to the Town, the schools and the community. PROVIDER Board of Directors acknowledges that they have a fiduciary duty to the corporation by operation of law, and accepts a fiduciary duty to the Selectboard and cable subscribers of the Town of Montague as a condition of this Agreement.

- Board of Directors has three members: Dana Faldasz (President), Karen Siwicki (Treasurer), Liz Walber (Clerk). We have maintained monthly Board meetings and are currently actively seeking new members.

5.3: PROVIDER shall to the extent possible comply with but not be bound by the terms of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Lat, M.G.L. c.30A, §21; and with the Massachusetts Public Records law, M.G.L. c.66, §10, as they may from time to time be amended (see Section 8 of MCCI bylaws). Provider shall provide notice to the Town Clerk and CAC Chair of upcoming Board meetings 7 days prior to said meeting.

- Board meetings are open to the public and posted to the montaguetv.org website in advance.

5.4: The purpose of public access is to allow members of the community to communicate their activities, opinions, and ideas without interference or censorship through the creation of cable television programming and other means.

1. *With respect to the Governmental and Public Access Channel, PROVIDER will*
 - a. *Be responsible for programming free from censorship of program content;*
 - MCTV encourages community programming and does not censor content.
 - b. *Develop and promote programming including but not limited to cultural, literary, educational, governmental and public affairs programming on the Governmental and Public Access Channel; production:*
 - In 2024, MCTV continued to cover local events, but also collaborated with organizations and individuals to enhance or host of cultural events:
 1. Great Falls Discovery Center: Family Fish Day.
 2. Shea Theater: Welcome Yule, Four Rivers Variety Show, 50th Anniversary of "Lovejoy's" Nuclear War. Mural Time Lapse & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Immigrant Voices.
 3. Peske Park: World Music Fest, Montague Community Band
 4. Montague Public Libraries: Walking, Local Author Series, Raptors.
 5. Parks & Rec: Soapbox Derby, Homelands Festival, Nolumbeka Festival, Day Of Remembrance.
 6. Wendell Town Hall: Honoring Our Elders Series.
 7. Montague Common Hall: Oral History Workshop, Common Hall History & Potluck.
 8. Lake Pleasant 150th Anniversary Celebration.
 9. Solar Rollers Interviews & Bike Ride.

- 10. Local Business Spotlight.
- 11. Brick House Workshops

- c. Make the public access facilities and channels available in a non-discriminatory manner to encourage the exchange of ideas and opinions on a broad range of topics;*
 - The station is open to the public at regular hours and by request.
 - d. Be responsible for fund-raising to supplement Public Access operations.*
 - MCTV still retains the funds from the Mass Cultural Council grant obtained in 2023. While there have been no monetary gains from fundraising in 2024, MCTV remains on firm financial footing and we have reached out to Suzanne Lomanto (RiverCulture) for a collaboration/assistance in identifying and applying for further grants.
 - 2. *PROVIDER will also be responsible for consistent outreach to the various segments of the community to encourage use of the public access channel.*
 - a. MCTV has covered various community events and done interviews with local business owners. We also run a blurb in *The Montague Reporter* weekly to inform the public of recent programming.
 - 3. *PROVIDER will also cablecast all Town Meetings, all Selectboard meetings and, as determined by the Town of Montague, or its appropriate delegates (Town Administrator), in consultation with the PROVIDER other important government meetings or public hearings, with five days written notice delivered to PROVIDER by Department Head or Chair of Committee. Said requests will be fulfilled on a first come first served. PROVIDER will make every good faith effort to fulfill these requests.*
 - a. MCTV has filmed and broadcast government meetings, and has invested in technology and training to broadcast remote and hybrid meetings in real time on television. Remote meetings have been recorded and uploaded to MCTV's Vimeo channel by various town departments..
- 5.5: PROVIDER shall manage and operate the PEG Access channels, equipment and facilities on a non-discriminatory, non-commercial basis. In managing and operating the channels, PROVIDER will have the following responsibilities:*
- a. *Teach television skills to individuals and community groups;*
 - i. MCTV can provide the full range of technical support and training for local meetings, events, and personal projects.
 - b. *Manage funds designated for PEG access television;*
 - i. See financial reports.
 - c. *Schedule PEG cablecasting;*
 - i. See local and government programming report.
 - d. *Manage and maintain PEG facilities and equipment;*
 - i. MCTV maintains a capital budget to replace, repair, or upgrade facilities and equipment as needed.
 - e. *Be responsible for ensuring acceptable level of technical quality of all programs cablecast on its system, pursuant to FCC regulations, and the requirements of the Cable License, and*
 - i. MCTV has invested in technology to maintain acceptable levels of programming.
 - f. *PROVIDER is not obligated to cablecast any PEG Access program that does not meet the FCC technical standards. However, a decision not to cablecast a program due to*

technical problems shall in no way involve consideration of the actual content of the program itself. PROVIDER shall not be held responsible for technical problems originating from the Cable Licensee.

- i. MCTV does not withhold broadcasts based on content.

5.6: PROVIDER shall promulgate regulations governing PEG access including but not limited to levels of service, use of equipment and facilities, training programs, membership, outreach activities, cablecasting procedures and operating policies and procedures.

- MCTV follows regulations regarding PEG access and ensures that its producers are aware of said regulations. MCTV complies with all regulations regarding equipment and facilities, training, membership, outreach, and cablecasting. These policies are documented in our membership agreement form provided to any potential member of MCTV.

5.7: PROVIDER shall maintain a studio in Montague and make the studio available for use by producers or users on a fixed schedule.

- Studio on 2nd street is available during schedule or by request.

5.8: PROVIDER shall maintain a log of programming that is cablecast on the PEG channels, and a record of PEG producers. Logs shall be available for public inspection and retained by PROVIDER for a minimum of three (3) years.

- See local and government programming logs.

5.9: REPORTS:

- a. *Quarterly: PROVIDER shall, at its own expense, provide detailed quarterly financial reports to the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Selectboard regarding income, expenses, and any written complaints as detailed in section 5.9. The line-item financial report shall include at a minimum all specific capital expenditures, direct and indirect personnel expenses. The quarterly financial report will serve as a means of evaluating the performance of PROVIDER.*
 - i. MCTV maintains quarterly fiscal reports and supplies an annual report to the Town and the CAC.
- b. *Annually: PROVIDER shall, at its own expense, provide:*
 - i. A detailed Annual Report to the CAC and the Selectboard regarding activities, income and expenses. This will be supplied within 60 days but in no case, more than 90 days from the end of each calendar year.
 - ii. Audited Annual Financial Report: An audited financial report will be supplied within 30 days of the completion of the audit by the independent auditor. All attempts will be made to finish the audit without extension, no later than August 31st.
- c. *The Annual Report and Annual Financial Audit Report will serve as a means of evaluating the performance of the PROVIDER and identifying new goals and directions.*

This Annual Report shall contain at least the following items:

1. *Summary of the activities in the development of the PEG access program;*
2. *Summary of input received from community members and organizations;*
 - a. *Generally positive input has been received from community members. Like most operations, MCTV expects constituents to review via any of a number of third-party online locations (Google, Yelp, etc.). Positive input*

from community members regarding MCTV received specifically during the CAC/Selectboard public hearing with Comcast on June 17, 2024.

3. *Changes in staff roster or staff job descriptions from prior reports;*
 - a. MCTV has two full-time employees, and employs producers on an as-needed basis.
4. *Description of outreach presentations, mailings, surveys and results;*
 - a. See 5.4.1.b.
5. *Description of fundraising;*
 - a. See 5.4.1.d.
6. *Description of training;*
 - a. See 5.5.a
7. *Description of facility and equipment use;*

Equipment Reservations: 245

Facilities Reservations: 84

Videos Uploaded to Vimeo

Public: 114 Videos

Government: 152 Videos

Total: 266

Weekly Programming Breakdown

Local: 136 Hours

Out of Town: 32 Hours

8. *Description of PEG access programming by channel; and PEG programming developed by MCCI or its producers (original content);*
 - a. See programming log.
9. *Current inventory reflecting equipment purchased and retired, and a description of any expenditure of resources in the previous year.*
 - a. In 2024, MCTV purchased a replacement Black Magic 12 x 12 Smart Video Hub. Basically this is the router that controls our broadcast server. That allows us to switch between our various inputs as needed. Equipment and capital expenditure lists are available upon request.

5.10: PROVIDER shall maintain a written complaint/compliment file available to the general public, upon request, and deliver that file to the CAC as part of its Annual Report submission.

- MCTV, given current trends, relies on third-parties such as Google Review, Yelp, etc. for complaints/compliments. Word-of-mouth feedback has been generally positive.

5.11: The President of the board of the PROVIDER shall make themselves and staff available from time to time to advise the CAC and Contracting Authority on matters concerning PEG access.

- Board President is Dana Faldas; Dana and staff available as needed.

5.12: PROVIDER shall engage in outreach activities designed to inform Town residents and organizations about the availability and use of PEG access channels and to encourage their use.

- See 5.4.1.b.

5.13: PROVIDER will keep a current database of access programs in its library and make it available during normal business hours.

- The current database is available on Vimeo.

5.14: PROVIDER will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Town and its elected officials, appointed boards and commissions, employees, and agents from and against all losses, damages, liabilities, claims, demands, judgments, settlements, costs, and expenses including penalties, interest and reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements resulting from or arising out of

1. Any breach by PROVIDER of its obligations under this Agreement
2. Any personal injury or property damage occurring after the effective date of the Agreement arising out of the use by any person of the facilities or equipment owned or leased by PROVIDER (other than personal injury or property damage resulting from the negligence or willful misconduct of the Town or its elected officials, members of appointed boards and commissions, employees, or agents;
3. Any personnel grievances concerning the hiring, firing and conditions of employment of PROVIDER employees. Except where PROVIDER is primarily at fault under Massachusetts statute and case law, or under common law principles, PROVIDER's obligation under this section shall not apply to claims, demands, actions or suits arising from the Town's government or educational access cablecasting activities.

5.15: PROVIDER shall require every access producer or user to indemnify the Town and PROVIDER and hold both PROVIDER and Town harmless against any claims arising out of any program or program material produced and/or cablecast, including but not limited to, claims in the nature of libel, slander, invasion of privacy of publicity rights, non-compliance with applicable laws, license fees and the unauthorized use of copyrighted material; and shall prepare a written hold harmless agreement in a form approved by CONTRACTOR to be executed by every access user prior to use of PROVIDER facilities or cablecasting of any user-produced programming.

- MCTV Membership Producer Form includes verbiage holding the Town harmless.

5.16: PROVIDER shall provide a community calendar on the public access channel(s) for the purpose of announcing programming and access services, making public service announcements, and allowing the Town, schools, or other non-profit organizations to make announcements. The community calendar shall be updated regularly to serve the needs of Montague cable subscribers. The community calendar will be transmitted when regular programming is not scheduled.

- MCTV provides a community calendar.

5.17: PROVIDER shall maintain workers' compensation, comprehensive general liability, and non-owned vehicle liability insurance coverage in force throughout the course of this Agreement, naming the Town as an also insured, and it shall provide the Town with certificates of insurance annually. PROVIDER shall inform the Town promptly in writing in the event any policy of insurance required herein is terminated, cancelled or amended.

- MCTV holds and can provide Workman's comp and liability insurance documents upon request.

5.18: PROVIDER shall assume the cost and responsibility for insuring all Town-owned equipment used to meet the local access needs.

- The majority of equipment for local access TV is owned by MCTV; MCTV will continue providing this service for the Town.

5.19: PROVIDER shall be responsible for locating and arranging for the use of its facilities, including payment of rent, for the PEG access purposes under this Agreement, except that PROVIDER shall not have to pay for or maintain any Town or school facilities used for PEG access purposes.

- MCTV maintains its own facilities at 34 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

5.20: PROVIDER shall maintain line-item accounting, budget, and business systems which meet generally accepted accounting practices for all management, operation, protection, investment, and oversight of the Montague facility and community access services required by this Agreement.

- See financial reports.

5.21: PROVIDER shall provide community access services to those who live, work, or attend school in Montague on a first-come, first-served, non-discriminatory basis using PROVIDER facility, equipment, staff and other resources as PROVIDER deems necessary and appropriate to fulfill community access management needs.

- MCTV is available to the public; and serves equipment and service needs for communities far greater than the town of Montague alone.

5.22: PROVIDER shall make every reasonable effort to recruit Montague residents to serve on the Board of Directors.

- Employees and Board members of MCTV have made efforts to recruit new members; however, like most volunteer Boards, membership has been a struggle. Current Board members remain committed to the station and interested parties are encouraged to attend meetings.

5.23: PROVIDER shall make every reasonable effort to develop Montague-based programming.

- At MCTV, we pride ourselves on encouraging the local community to engage, learn, and utilize the services and equipment that we provide. We are available at regular hours and upon request, and any member of our community is always welcome here. We welcome and have assisted not only community members from Montague, but people from surrounding communities.

MCTV 2024 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING

Selectboard Meeting 1/8/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/02/24
Selectboard Meeting 1/16/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/22/24
Selectboard Meeting 1/22/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/29/24
Selectboard Meeting 1/29/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/5/24
Selectboard Meeting 2/1/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/12/24
Selectboard Meeting 2/12/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/26/24
Selectboard Meeting 2/26/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/11/24
Selectboard Meeting 3/04/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/25/24
Selectboard Meeting 3/11/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/8/24
Selectboard Meeting 3/18/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/22/24
Selectboard Meeting 3/25/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/6/24
Selectboard Meeting 4/1/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/21/24
Selectboard Meeting 4/8/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/3/24
Selectboard Meeting 4/22/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/17/24
Selectboard Meeting 5/6/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 7/1/24
Selectboard Meeting 5/13/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 7/15/24
Selectboard Meeting 5/20/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/12/24
Selectboard Meeting 6/3/24	Gill Annual Town Meeting 8/26/24
Selectboard Meeting 6/10/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/9/24
Selectboard Meeting 6/17/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/23/24
Selectboard Meeting 6/24/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/7/24
Selectboard Meeting 7/1/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/21/24
Selectboard Meeting 7/8/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/4/24
Selectboard Meeting 7/22/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/18/24
Selectboard Meeting 8/5/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/25/24
Selectboard Meeting 8/19/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/2/24
Selectboard Meeting 9/9/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/16/24
Selectboard Meeting 9/19/24	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/30/24
Selectboard Meeting 9/23/24	Gill Special Town Meeting 12/16/24
Selectboard Meeting 9/30/24	Gill Annual Town Meeting 5/6/24
Selectboard Meeting 10/7/24	Gill Annual Town Meeting 6/11/24
Selectboard Meeting 10/21/24	GMRSD Meeting 1/9/24
Selectboard Meeting 10/28/24	GMRSD Meeting 1/23/24
Selectboard Meeting 11/4/24	GMRSD Meeting 1/30/24
Selectboard Meeting 11/18/24	GMRSD Meeting 2/13/24
Selectboard Meeting 11/25/24	GMRSD Meeting 2/27/24
Selectboard Meeting 12/2/24	GMRSD Meeting 3/12/24
Selectboard Meeting 12/9/24	GMRSD Meeting 3/26/24
Selectboard Meeting 12/16/24	GMRSD Meeting 4/9/24
Annual Town Meeting 5/4/24	GMRSD Meeting 4/30/24
Special Town Meeting 3/14/24	GMRSD Meeting 5/14/24
Finance Committee Meeting 1/10/24	GMRSD Meeting 5/28/24
Finance Committee Meeting 1/17/24	GMRSD Meeting 6/18/24
Finance Committee Meeting 1/24/24	GMRSD Meeting 7/9/24
Finance Committee Meeting 1/31/24	GMRSD Meeting 7/23/24
Finance Committee Meeting 2/7/24	GMRSD Meeting 8/20/24
Finance Committee Meeting 2/14/24	GMRSD Meeting 9/10/24
Finance Committee Meeting 2/21/24	GMRSD Meeting 9/24/24
Finance Committee Meeting 2/28/24	GMRSD Meeting 10/8/24

Finance Committee Meeting 3/6/24	GMRSD Meeting 10/22/24
Finance Committee Meeting 3/20/24	GMRSD Meeting 11/19/24
Finance Committee Meeting 3/27/24	GMRSD Meeting 12/3/24
Finance Committee Meeting 4/3/24	GMRSD Budget Meeting Gill/Montague 2/7/24
Finance Committee Meeting 5/1/24	Board of Assessors Meeting 1/8/24
Finance Committee Meeting 6/5/24	Board of Assessors Meeting 6/26/24
Finance Committee Meeting 6/26/24	Zoning Board Meeting 1/3/24
Finance Committee Meeting 7/10/24	Planning Board Meeting 2/27/24
Finance Committee Meeting 9/14/24	Planning Board Meeting 4/2/24
Finance Committee Meeting 11/6/24	Planning Board Meeting 4/25/24
Finance Committee Meeting 12/11/24	Planning Board Meeting 5/23/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 1/11/24	Planning Board Meeting 6/25/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 2/8/24	Planning Board Meeting 9/25/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 4/11/24	Planning Board Meeting 11/26/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 4/13/24	Airport Presentation Meeting 3/7/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 5/9/24	Montague Solar Forum 5/22/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 6/20/24	Strathmore Mill Demo Presentation 7/18/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 7/18/24	M.C. Complete Street Community Input 9/2/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 7/30/24	Community Resilience Survey 10/8/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 8/8/24	Avenue A Sidewalk Design Public Input 10/15/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 9/12/24	MASS DEP Public Info FLP Water Use 10/10/24
Conservation Committee Meeting 10/17/24	MASS DOT Rt. 47/Rt. 63 Project 11/6/24

MCTV 2024 LOCAL PROGRAMMING

Ok Painters Sistine Chapel	Pocumtuck Homelands Festival 2024 8/3/24
Wendell Reception & Exhibit 1/26/24	P.H.F.: Sito Zapaktli
Four Rivers 20 th Annual Variety Show 2024	P.H.F.: Wampanoag Nation Singers/Dancers
Journey Tribute By Legend 2/10/24	P.H.F.: Tom Porter
Tales of Farming In Gill 2/24/24	P.H.F.: Iron River Singers
Elton John Tribute 2/19/24	P.H.F.: Hawk Henries
Local Author Series: Dean Cycon 2/21/24	Honoring Our Elders: Kathy and Myron Becker 8/6/24
The Tempest: YSP East, Cast X 3/16/24	Wes Brown and Friends 8/22/24
The Tempest: YSP East, Cast Y 1/3/24	Unameable Books: Audio Bites 9/7/24
Charlie & The Chocolate Factory 3/6/24	U.B. Audio Bites: Ellie Longpre 9/7/24
Neil Young Experience: Harvest & Rust 3/2/24	U.B. Audio Bites: Ben Hersey 9/7/24
50 th Anniversary Celebration Lovejoy's Nuclear War 2/22/24	U.B. Audio Bites: SKN 9/7/24
Local Business SL: Unameable Books 4/4/24	U.B. Audio Bites: Shea Mowat 9/7/24
Lizabella Phone Home: Untold 1	U.B. Audio Bites: How To Throw Lobster Party
Lizabella: Nuke Mix	U.B. Audio Bites: Anselm Berrigan 9/7/24
Local Author Series: Kate Spencer 3/20/24	U.B. Audio Bites: Loculus Collective 9/7/24
Local Business SL: Country Creemee 4/9/24	U.B. Audio Bites: Matt Wellins & Parsa 9/7/24
Chickens And Factory Farming 2024	Rocking Puppies 9/28/24
Montague Shakespeare Festival 4/6/24	Shea Theater Mural Time Lapse Project 2024
TFHS Presents Chicago, Silver Cast 3/24/24	Shea Theater Mural Ribbon Cutting 9/14/24
TFHS Presents Chicago, Red Cast 3/23/24	Honoring Our Elders: Court Dorsey 9/9/24
Solar Rollers Interview 4/8/24	Wizard Castle: DJ Passion Flower 9/21/24
Local Business SL: Music Connection 4/2/24	Ooze Fest 9/14/24
Solar Rollers Bike Ride, Music, etc. 4/20/24	Wizard Castle: Kirtain 9/21/24

<p> Healthy Soils At Home 4/22/24 Ruth Garbus and Company at Washington Baths The Gravestone Girls 4/20/24 Honoring Our Elders: Everett Ricketts 4/16/24 Whiskey Treaty Roadshow 4/12/24 Fun Fest 2024 Immigrant Voices 5/19/24 Pamela Means. The of Project Songs Honoring Our Elders: Christine Heard 5/21/24 Local Business SL: Sage Green Botanicals 2024 World Music Fest 5/25/24 Composting Study Information Session 6/5/24 Day Of Remembrance 2024 Nova Motorcycles: Unsprung Moto Rally 6/8/24 Mural Planning Public Info Session 6/13/24 Brick House Teen Talent Showcase 6/14/24 Montague Ctr. Memorial Day Ceremony 5/26/24 Soapbox Derby 6/2/24 Honoring Our Elders: Karen Copeland 6/25/24 Local Business SL: Mohawk Falafel & Shawarma Montague Community Band 7/14/24 Montague Community Band 7/15/24 Montague Community Band 7/22/24 Family Fishing Day 6/15/24 Money Game Red Carpet Event 6/14/24 Birds of Prey 7/23/24 The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever 2024 Smokey The Bear's 80th Birthday Party 7/11/24 Led Zeplin – Four Sticks Tribute 6/29/24 Lake Pleasant 150th Anniversary Party 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Signature Dish 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Hillary Chase 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Greg Reil 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Force 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Damon Reeves 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Big Destiny 8/24/24 LP 150th Anniversary: Wallace Field 8/24/24 </p>	<p> Christmas In July 2024 with Groove Profit Upcoming Events at Shea Theater Trash Rich Fashion Show 10/13/24 Little House Blues 8/17/24 River Signal Radio Hour 10/19/24 Honoring Our Elders: Alys and Chris Queen Vapors of Morphine 10/4/24 Gov. Healy Visit for free Regional Transportation Full Beaver Moon Gathering 11/16/24 Veteran's Day Ceremony 11/11/24 Montague Center Oral History Project 11/14/24 A Happening IV: Leviathan 2024 Home For The Holigays: 12/6/24 Wizard Castle: Costume Ball 10/19/24 Welcome Yule Celebration 12/13/24 Welcome Yule Celebration 12/14/24 FCCC Holiday Concert 12/8/24 Montague Community Band Holiday Concert 2024 Far Out Movie Q&A 12/20/24 A Happening: The Right To Shine 10/25/24 A Happening: The Nursery 10/25/24 A Happening: The Crows Nest 10/25/24 A Happening: The Collector 10/25/24 A Happening: Origin Of The Whale 10/25/24 A Happening: Blenny And The Bottom Feeders A Happening: A Rude and Undeveloped Mass </p>
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MONTAGUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

The Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) 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 (updated 2022). 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 Selectboard.

The MEDIC generally advances economic development in 5 areas of Montague: the Airport Industrial Park, the Sandy Lane Industrial Area, the Turners Falls Canal District, the Great Falls Discovery Center area, and the former Farren Care Center area.

The Assistant Town Administrator serves as the Coordinator of the MEDIC. The MEDIC meets bi-monthly.

Members as of December 2024

Linda Ackerman.....	Financial matters
John Furbish	Representative of low to moderate income population
Ella Ingraham.....	Municipal experience
James Mussoni.....	Member at large
Richard Ruth.....	Industrial Development
Rob Steinberg.....	Real Estate matters
Kimberly Williams.....	Member at large

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, 2024.

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 changed for some reason.

In 2024 Montague Housing Authority has a total of 11,183 applications. 8937 applications are applying for family housing, chapter 200-1, and 3116 applications are applying for Elderly/Younger Disabled housing, chapter 667-1,2,3. (This total amount includes 982 for elderly and 2133 for Handicapped). In 2024 we will be able to Lease/House 4 unit of 1 bedroom apartment at 667-1 Sunrise Terrace Apartment Elderly/younger disabled, 2 unit of 1 bedroom to chapter 667-2 at Keith Apartment Elderly/younger disabled housing, and 2 units of 2 bedrooms at Hillcrest Home, Family housing Chapter 200-1. All the elderly applicants are locals from the Town of Montague and two for the family is local as well.

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 2024 Montague Housing Authority continue received a funding/award from DHCD for Capital Improvement, Project #192072, Replacement of Federal Pacific Unit Panel at Hillcrest Home Apartment, chapter 200-1, Phase 4 Project #192073, Under Force Account project at Sunrise Terrace Development, Chapter 667-1, replacement of Kitchen Cabinet and floors and Project #192074 Exterior painting job at Sunrise Terrace Development, Chapter 667-1.

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

Karen Casey-Chretien, Chairman

Judith Hastings, Vice Chairman

Paula Girard, Treasurer

William Doyle, Member

Respectfully submitted,

Bellamine Dickerman, Executive Director

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The calendar year started with our Annual Sawmill River 10K in Montague Center that was held on January 1st. We had over one hundred runners participate in what is our biggest special event, logistically. The race is a great way to start off the New Year, and many local runners highlight this event in their running schedule. Our Youth Basketball Program continues to see very high participation, with having one 3 & 4 grade travel team and two 5 & 6 grade travel teams. We also had eighteen little ones participating in our K-2 program, where we strictly focused on the basic skills of the game. We've seen a significant surge in youth sports participation in the last couple of years and we hope it continues. The Bluefish Swim Team faced a rather challenging season, unfortunately, due to the temporary closing of the Turners Falls High School Swimming Pool. Approximately twenty-five swimmers participated. The Bluefish is a member of the Pioneer Valley Swim League, and we anticipate numbers will return to our traditional level for 2025. Open Swim at the Turners Falls High School also experienced solid participation through the winter, operating Tuesday and Friday evenings that included Family Swim and Adult Lap Swim sessions. We also run a Babysitting Course for two nights in mid-winter. This is one of our smaller programs, participant-wise, but it is often booked up. Young adults ages 11 – 15 learn basic safety and organizational skills in addition to first aid.

Spring also comes in like a lion (or bunny) with our Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza at Unity Park. The popularity of this event is certainly unquestionable, as we had a few hundred community members participate in Peter's famous egg hunt that included 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs. Our Tee Ball program continues to flourish, as we had over forty Tee-Ballers show their skills every Saturday morning. In June, we hosted our Annual Soap Box Race event. We've traditionally held this event in September, but due to low driver numbers we rescheduled it to spring for the foreseeable future. Approximately twenty racers raced down the Unity/First Street Hill, and a couple thousand people were in attendance to watch youth, teen and adult racers.

The summer we offered a variety of programs and events. Our most popular, Summer Camp, continued to be a major success. We served almost sixty kids a week between the ages of 5 to 12 during our eight-week program. Aside from our daily, on-site activities at Unity Park, we also embarked on weekly trips to Laurel Lake at Erving State Forest, in addition to field trips to local attractions and amusements. MPRD also partnered with RiverCulture to sponsor the Movies in The Park series at Peskeompskut Park. We showed three movies over the summer, which has become a nice tradition this time of year. We are already looking ahead to seeing what great films we can show next summer. We also hosted our annual Super Summer Soccer Fest at Highland Park in Millers Falls over the summer. Youth Coach, Frank Wiles, donated his time every Thursday of the summer to help broaden the skill level of kids in grades 3-7. We appreciate Frank's passion, time and effort in helping to create better soccer players in Montague.

The Fall saw another successful Youth Soccer season. We had three travel teams; one Junior (Grades 2 & 3) and two senior teams (Grades 4 – 6). Including our K-2 intro program, we had approximately sixty kids play soccer in Montague this year! However, probably the biggest "event" of the season, if not year, was the start of construction of the Montague Center Park Improvement Project! The contractor broke ground in September and work started on the new playground area through December. The project is funded through the State's Parkland Acquisition & Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant and is slated for completion by mid-May of 2025. Check out the project's Facebook page (c) for updates.

We would like to note that our ability to offer quality programs, services, and facilities would not be possible without the generosity of many wonderful partners 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.

In conclusion, we would also like to thank Montague's Department of Public Works for maintaining our parks and facilities and our volunteers for the time, effort and passion they invested in our programs this past year. 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 2025 and hope you will continue to take your journey with us.

Parks & Recreation Department Staff
Jonathan J. Dobosz, Director, CPRP, CPO
Jennifer L. Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper

Parks & Recreation Commission
Barbara Kuklewicz, Chair
Albert Cummings, Vice Chair
Jeff Singleton, Secretary

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Department Staff:

- Maureen Pollock, Planning Director and Conservation Agent
- Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Planner/ Program 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 highlights of 2024 included project development and management of the following projects:

- **Comprehensive Plan:** Planning Board & Selectboard adopted the finalized *5 Villages: 1 Future* Comprehensive Plan which is an update from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan
- **Digital Equity Plan:** Prepared Town's first ever Digital Equity Plan
- **Montague City Village Center Study:** Completed Montague Village Center Land Use Study and residential and commercial market feasibility analysis. Next phase of work is to focus on possible zoning amendments (to be done in 2025)
- **MVP 2.0 Project:** Commenced MVP 2.0 project (two-year+ project – to be completed in 2026)
- **Shea Mural Project:** Completed Shea Mural Project in collaboration with RiverCulture
- **Montague Center Complete Streets Project:** With technical assistance from VHB, provided conceptual designs and community engagement in preparation of a Complete Streets Tier III grant application for safety improvements in Montague Center's village center. As of February 2025, the Town has been awarded this grant, and is now working to finalize designs and construction bid ready documents before commencement of work
- **Rural Downtown District Management** – In partnership with FRCOG, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, and consultant Ann Burke, the Town is exploring ways to provide more support to downtown Turners Falls businesses
- **Current & Past Planning Projects:** To learn more about Planning Department projects and to find ways to participate, please visit: <https://montague-ma.gov/p/1529/?cache=0>

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 Maureen Pollock, Town Planner and the Planning Clerk. The Planning Board's business included:

Special Permits: None

Site Plan Approvals: None

Four (4) "Approval Not Required" (ANR) Subdivision Plans Endorsements:

0 Old Sunderland Road (Parcel #50-0-17); 23 Old Sunderland Road (Parcel #48-0-0013); 137 Old Sunderland Road (Parcel #51-0-36); and Taylor Hill Rd./Taylor Heights Tax (Parcels: 48-0-103; 48-0-104; 48-0-95; and 48-0-89)

Zoning Amendments: Zoning bylaws are continually revisited based on changing demands, unmet needs, and evolving technology and markets.

Accessory Dwelling Units - In order to comply with a new state housing law, the [Affordable Homes Act](#), the provisions found in [Montague's 2019 Accessory Dwelling Unit \(ADU\) bylaw \(Section 8.5\)](#) will need to be changed. Planning Director Maureen Pollock and Building Inspector Bill Ketchen have attended several webinars of the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) on ADUs.

EOHLC advises towns/cities to hold off amending its zoning until after EOHLC has released its Model ADU Zoning to help develop and/or amend local rules. Model ADU Zoning is expected to be released in April 2025. For cities and towns that already have local ADU rules that need to be amended to reflect the ADU Law and its regulations, EOHLC will post a Municipal Checklist to help cities and towns evaluate their local rules and identify key areas where their rules need to be amended.

Planning Board Members

1. Ronald Sicard (Chair)
2. Elizabeth Irving (FRCOG Rep)
3. George Cooke
4. Samuel Guerin
5. Robert Obear
6. Sage Winters, 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 Maureen Pollock- 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:** 15 Rastallis St (Parcel #05-0-148) and Rear Avenue A (Parcel #09-0-003); Unity Park, 0 Williams Way (Parcel #04-0012); 0 West Chestnut Hill Road (Parcel #52-0-130); 0 Springdale Cemetery, Turnpike Road, Parcel #21-0-004; 392 Old Greenfield Road (Parcel #39-0-050); 1 Migratory Way (Parcel #08-0-3 & #08-0-1); 2 Gatehouse Drive (Parcel #04-0-0005) & 0 First Street (Parcel #04-0-0007);
- **Two (2) Notice of Intent:** 21C6 Distribution Line Reconductor Project: Migratory Way and within the 21C6 ROW between Migratory Way and the Connecticut River; South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project
- **Three (3) Emergency Certificates:** each issued to to clear the culvert grate of accumulated sediment in order to allow water to flow through culvert located on Meadow Road.

- **Three (3) Violations:** Falls Farm – 0 Old Sunderland Road (Parcels #50-0-18), 0 Old Sunderland Road (Parcel #50-0-05, and O Meadow Road (Parcel #50-0-04); 15 Rastallis St (Parcel #05-0-148) and Rear Avenue A (Parcel #09-0-003)

Conservation Commission Members:

1. Mark Fairbrother (Chair)
2. Justin Fermann (Vice Chair)
3. Donna Francis
4. Sean Werle
5. Anthony Reiber
6. Toby Carter
7. Margeaux Reckard
8. Al Averill, Associate Member

RiverCulture Program:

Suzanne LoManto, Program Director of RiverCulture

2024 Steering Committee:

1. Jon Dobosz
2. Caitlin Kelley
3. Liz Walber
4. Four (4) Vacant seats

Established in 2006 with a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, RiverCulture is focused on the mission to enhance quality of life, increase capacity through partnership, establish art and culture as a visible part of our identity, and create an environment that attracts new residents, business, and visitors to Montague. In 2018 the program was formally incorporated into Town government with supervision provided by the Town Planner and a steering committee appointed by the Selectboard.

RiverCulture accomplishes this by:

Serving as a central sounding-board for the Arts; Providing coordination for the Turners Falls Cultural District; Participating in economic development initiatives; Writing grants; Producing events; Developing marketing strategies; Building a social media presence; Creating a weekly newsletter; and Managing public art and placemaking projects.

The RiverCulture Steering Committee works with Montague residents, groups, nonprofits, and municipal departments to share ideas and resources, cross promote cultural activity, and increase capacity. RiverCulture Steering Committee also has the authority to spearhead policies related to the Arts for consideration by the Montague Select Board. They have about 6 meetings a year. Residents of Montague with an interest in the arts and community building are welcome to join! Representatives from nonprofit groups are equally encouraged to participate.

Website: www.riverculture.org

Sign up for the newsletter! <https://www.riverculture.org/newsletter-subscription/>

2024 Highlights:

RiverCulture produced or co-produced dozens of free festivals and cultural events including Música Franklin Fun Fest, Good Music Makes Good Neighbors, Montague Worlds Music Mini-Festival, Wes Brown & Friends, Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, Home Body, outdoor movies and much more.

RiverCulture was a key partner in Food Farms and Factories programming at the Great Falls Discovery Center, a continuation of the Smithsonian Crossroads exhibition funded with a grant from Mass Humanities.

RiverCulture was a key partner in the Shea Theater Mural project, which resulted in a 3000 square foot work of public art by North Carolina artist Darion Fleming. (September 2024)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022	2023	2024	
15,286	16,502	16,593	Calls for Service
3073	3115	3292	911 Emergency Calls
281	276	215	Persons arrested by the Police
187	184	147	Persons were male, 11 were juveniles
94	92	68	Person were female, 3 were juveniles
306	304	241	Victims of crime
51	46	35	Restraining orders served (209a & 258E)
13	6	1	Alarm by-law tickets
25	25	26	Registered Sex Offenders

TOTAL REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS OVER \$1,000 IN VALUE

2022	2023	2024
115	127	110

TOTAL REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS UNDER \$1,000 IN VALUE

2022	2023	2024
16	21	20

TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLES ACCIDENTS

2022	2023	2024
131	148	130

INJURED PERSONS

2022	2023	2024	
18	14	6	Operators
3	3	0	Passengers
0	1	2	Pedestrians
2	1	2	Bicyclist
1	2	2	Motorcyclists
0	1	0	Fatalities
24	22	12	Total Injuries

MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS

2022	2023	2024
880 (Fines \$2,925.00)	1093 (Fines \$4,400.00)	614 (\$3,285.00)

FIREARMS REGISTRATION: PERMITS TO CARRY

2022	2023	2024
152	184	252

PARKING TICKETS ISSUED

2022	2023	2024
182 (\$3,530.00)	123 (\$2,240.00)	145 (\$2,630.00)

HOUSE CHECKS WHILE PEOPLE WERE AWAY

2022	2023	2024
19	16	11

SUMMONS SERVED

2022	2023	2024
71	47	65

RETIREMENT

Assets and Liabilities	2024 End Balance	2023 End Balance	2022 End Balance
1040 - 1049 Cash	291,079.26	259,444.08	78,360.37
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	151,333.27	151,544.27	70,983.28
1199 - PRIT Fund	62,550,141.10	58,396,730.44	53,827,203.44
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	14,678.99	18,261.03	17,384.62
2020 - Accounts Payable	-10,280.19	-2,896.87	-19,119.64
Total	62,996,952.43	58,823,082.95	53,974,812.07
Funds:			
3293 - Annuity Savings Fund	7,837,440.50	7,750,242.54	7,273,560.92
3294 - Annuity Reserve Fund	3,379,760.98	3,288,738.59	3,529,393.38
3295 - Military Service Fund	6,557.97	6,551.42	6,544.88
3296 - Pension Fund	24,847.01	142,536.15	208,764.46
3298 - Expense Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
3297 - Pension Reserve Fund	51,748,345.97	47,635,014.25	42,956,548.43
Total Assets at Market Value	62,996,952.43	58,823,082.95	53,974,812.07

Receipts		2024	2023	2022
1. Annuity Savings Fund:				
(a) 4891 - Members Deductions		965,467.37	868,494.79	818,820.21
(b) 4892 - Transfers from Other Systems		290,882.61	138,039.53	98,956.62
(c) 4893 - Make Up and Redeposit Payments		0.00	189.00	0.00
(d) 4900 - Member Payments from Rollovers		0.00	3,578.95	31,875.59
(e) Investment Income CR to Members A/C		12,821.70	12,936.77	9,228.40
	Subtotal	1,269,171.68	1,023,239.04	958,880.82
2. Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Investment Income Cr to Annuity Res. Fund		96,795.26	99,114.39	105,617.38
	Subtotal	96,795.26	99,114.39	105,617.38
3. Pension Fund:				
(a) 4898 - 3(8)c Reimburse from Other Systems		195,700.06	175,997.29	172,465.85
(b) 4899 - Rec'd from State for COLA & Survivor Ben.		4,846.56	5,301.27	6,679.08
(c) 4894 - Pension Fund Appropriation		2,508,461.00	2,409,188.00	2,284,240.00
(d) 4840 - Workers Compensation Settlement		18,940.36	0.00	0.00
(e) 4751 - Recovery of Pension from Reinstatement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(f) 4841 - Recovery of 91A Overearnings		0.00	14,078.14	2,643.92
	Subtotal	2,727,947.98	2,604,564.70	2,466,028.85
4. Military Service Fund:				
(a) 4890 - Contributions Received from Municipality		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Credited		6.55	6.54	6.54
	Subtotal	6.55	6.54	6.54
5. Expense Fund:				
(a) 4896 - Expense Fund Appropriation		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Cr to Expense Fund		436,883.35	428,704.00	426,285.21
	Subtotal	436,883.35	428,704.00	426,285.21
6. Pension Reserve Fund:				
(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		1,434.11	393.23	1,158.37
(d) 4825 - Misc. Income		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) Excess Investment Income		5,006,897.61	5,567,535.61	-7,276,450.34
	Subtotal	5,008,331.72	5,567,928.84	-7,275,291.97
TOTAL RECEIPTS		9,539,136.54	9,723,557.17	-3,318,473.17

Disbursements		2024	2023	2022
1. Annuity Savings Fund:				
(a) 5757 - Refunds To Members		237,063.82	109,664.47	51,637.90
(b) 5756 - Transfers to Other Systems		199,841.27	70,948.64	204,847.56
	Subtotal	436,905.09	180,613.11	256,485.46
2. Annuity Reserve Fund:				
(a) 5750 - Annuities Paid		750,841.50	710,199.51	688,761.80
(b) 5759 - Option B Refunds		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	750,841.50	710,199.51	688,761.80
3. Pension Fund:				
(a) 5751 - Pensions Paid Total		3,447,006.10	3,314,689.76	3,156,069.82
Regular Pension Payments		2,816,986.36	2,681,859.20	2,545,558.15
Survivorship Payments		164,918.10	175,145.34	168,416.40
Ordinary Disability Payments		4,766.76	4,649.58	4,325.58
Accidental Disability Payments		460,334.88	453,035.64	437,769.69
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		293,631.02	241,080.25	251,854.68
(c) 5752 - COLA'S Paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
(d) 5753 - Chapter 389 Ben Increase Paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	3,740,637.12	3,555,770.01	3,407,924.50
4. Military Service Fund:				
(a) 4890 - Return to Municipality for Members who withdrew their fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00
5. Expense Fund:				
(a) 5118 - Board Member Stipend		23,100.00	23,100.00	23,100.00
(b) 5119 - Salaries & Benefits		76,036.04	72,083.82	61,487.73
(c) 5304 - Management Fees		292,040.27	283,813.39	282,787.75
(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		1,656.25	2,896.87	2,221.87
(g) 5309 - Medical Expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00
(h) 5310 - Fiduciary Insurance		2,649.07	2,620.00	2,582.00
(i) 5311 - Service Contracts		24,600.00	23,950.00	23,100.00
(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		8,500.00	7,500.00	6,500.00
(n) 5320 - Education and Training		968.00	2,420.00	450.00
(o) 5589 - Administrative Expenses		6,271.72	8,284.17	6,088.73
(p) 5599 - Furniture and Equipment		0.00	0.00	17,857.13
(q) 5719 - Travel		1,062.00	2,035.75	110.00
	Subtotal	436,883.35	428,704.00	426,285.21
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		5,365,267.06	4,875,286.63	4,779,456.97

Investment Income	2024 End Balance	2023 End Balance	2022 End Balance
Investment Income Received From:			
(a) Cash	8164.54	4,395.93	644.54
(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	1,573,271.19	1,500,736.20	1,444,137.96
(f) Commission Recapture	0.00	0.00	0.00
4821 – TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	1,581,435.73	1,505,132.13	1,444,782.50
Plus:			
4884 - Realized Gains	2,087,203.48	768,799.21	519,840.62
4886 - Unrealized Gains	6,047,801.36	8,771,505.46	5,337,920.34
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Fixed Inc Sec Cur Yr	0.00	0.00	0.00
Less:			
4823 - Paid Accrued Interest – Fixed Income Securities	0.00	0.00	0.00
4885 - Realized Losses	0.00	55,772.27	165,150.21
4887 - Unrealized Losses	4,163,036.10	4,881,367.22	13,872,706.06
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	5,553,404.47	6,108,297.31	-6,735,312.81
Income Required:			
Annuity Savings Fund	12,821.70	12,936.77	9,228.40
Annuity Reserve Fund	96,795.26	99,114.39	105,617.38
Expense Fund	436,883.35	428,704.00	426,285.21
Military Service Fund	6.55	6.54	6.54
TOTAL INCOME REQUIRED	546,506.86	540,761.70	541,137.53
Net Investment Income	5,553,404.47	6,108,297.31	-6,735,312.81
Less: Income Required	546,506.86	540,761.70	541,137.53
EXCESS INCOME TO THE PENSION RESERVE FUND	5,006,897.61	5,567,535.61	-7,276,450.34

SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION

The Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) was formed by the towns of Bernardston, Gill Leyden, Montague, Northfield and Warwick to research the feasibility of creating a new regional school district that was affordable, sustainable and educationally advantageous for our students. Eighteen members, three from each town, were appointed to serve. The board also includes one non-voting member from the Town of Erving, and does its best to keep the Town of Vernon, VT informed. Both Vernon and Erving have a long history of tuitioning students into the Pioneer and Gill-Montague school districts.

The STRPB convened its first “in-person” meeting in November of 2019, followed by the Covid 19 epidemic. This outbreak, along with other unanticipated obstacles, considerably extended the planning board’s research timeline.

With the support of grants from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Revenue (DOR), the services of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools Consulting Group (MARSG), the Abrahams Group and Mary Broderick, an educational facilitator specialist were secured to investigate the educational and financial impacts of forming a new “super-regional pre-k through 12 district” by combining the Pioneer Valley and Gill Montague Regional School Districts with the possibility of Erving and Vernon (VT) tuitioning in their 7-12 students. Although Warwick has formed its own school district, it continues to be an interested and active partner in this research.

The Planning Board concluded its research in December 2023. The findings of the research were clear. The benefits gained throughout all programs and services by combining the middle and high school enrollments would be significant. Just some of these benefits include an increase in the following: course offerings, approaches to learning, athletic teams (and the ability to field teams), support for students with disabilities, professional development and collaboration, clubs and afterschool programs, and more. With the increase in enrollment and teachers, some of the benefits found for teachers would be more colleagues in and outside their certification areas for collaboration on curriculum design and approaches to learning, more opportunities for specialized courses and cross/interdisciplinary work, and professional development. In response to these findings, the STRPB voted in January 2024 to move forward with drafting a proposed regional agreement (RA).

In the Spring of 2024, the STRPB appointed a District Regional Agreement Subcommittee (DRAS) to craft a new regional agreement for the six towns to consider in the Fall of 2025 (October/November), if feasible. Members of the DRAS were recommended by each town’s Selectboard and appointed by the Planning Board. For the basis of its work, the DRAS utilized the 2017 proposed regional agreement that was developed by the Honest Education and Retaining Trust (HEART) Committee, which was formed by the selectboards of Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick.

Currently, the DRAS is working with the MARS Consulting Group in finalizing a draft proposed regional agreement to recommend to the STRPB for its consideration and review. Once the planning board completes its review and approves the RA it will undergo a technical legal review to ensure it complies with state laws and regulations. It will also be sent to the Selectboards for their initial review. Any feedback from the attorney will be shared with Selectboards when the legal review is completed and we recommend Selectboards have their town counsels review the document once the technical review has been completed or collectively assign one to do this work.

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligations will be calculated and shared with the towns for informational purposes. Additionally, legal services would be required to identify all regional school district assets of buildings and property in the existing districts and these would be transferred to the new district through special legislation.

It is our hope that the Planning Board will secure another grant to hire a firm to assist in holding multiple public forums and other pathways of communications so voters understand the complexities and potential of the newly formed super-regional school district. An aggressive timeline would be for the towns to schedule special town meetings on the same day in November for voters to consider creating a new district by approving the proposed Regional Agreement. If the RA is approved in all six towns it then will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Education for approval.

Finally, an eighteen-month transition period would be necessary for the new school committee and transition superintendent to complete the associated tasks required. If the tasks noted above are completed within that timeframe, the new school district would begin operations in July 2027. We respectfully ask that each town provide a few minutes for a member of the STRPB to give an update on what to expect in the coming months. Please contact Greg Snedeker at strpboffc@gmail.com regarding this request.

For more detailed STRPB information please visit our website: <https://6towns.org/>

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Genovese, STRPB Chairperson
Greg Snedeker, STRPB Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer

REPORT OF TREASURER'S CASH AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

BANK ACCOUNTS INTEREST BEARING

UniBank	3,921,802.92	
Easthampton Savings Bank - ARPA Funds	1,136,977.91	
Greenfield Savings Bank - Airport	<u>501,785.37</u>	
		5,560,566.20

BANK ACCOUNTS NON-INTEREST BEARING

Greenfield Savings Bank - Park & Rec.	29,884.21	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank - Sewer	986,702.23	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank	<u>7,578,957.27</u>	
		8,595,543.71

INVESTMENTS

MMDT	366,649.68	
Greenfield Savings - Sewer	10,036.69	
SRBT	<u>2,154,007.54</u>	
		2,530,693.91

CONSERVATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	16,782.80	
Investment Income	690.91	
Added to Fund	10,000.00	
Balance June 30, 2024		27,473.71

STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	1,133,667.95	
Investment Income	114,832.04	
Added to Fund	37,388.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2024		1,285,887.99

GILL MONTAGUE EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	89,159.94	
Investment Income	3,415.94	
Added to Fund	41,339.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2024		133,914.88

FRANKLIN TECH EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	271,094.28	
Investment Income	8,146.29	
Added to Fund	21,940.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2024		301,180.57

MONTAGUE SEWER CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	260,953.69	
Investment Income	7,385.61	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2024		268,339.30

TOWN OF MONTAGUE CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	1,580,527.38	
Investment Income	74,338.68	
Added to Funds	1,717,481.02	
Disbursements from Fund	720,138.42	
Balance June 30, 2024		2,652,208.66

CANNABIS IMPACT FEE STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	225,568.09	
Investment Income	7,750.92	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2024		233,319.01

CANAL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Balance July 1, 2023	251,012.58	
Investment Income	7,104.08	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund	-	
Balance June 30, 2024		258,116.66

Eileen M. Seymour
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

2020 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			-2.69
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Tax Title		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>-2.69</u>	
			<u>-2.69</u>

2021 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			38,810.59
Receipts	36,634.17		
Balance Adjustment	<u>-1.18</u>		
Net Receipts		36,632.99	
Tax Title		2,177.60	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>38,810.59</u>

2022 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			134,939.04
Receipts	62,462.01		
Refunds	-5,365.41		
Payment Adjustment-Williams #E	<u>-3.62</u>		
Net Receipts		57,092.98	
Abatements		5,365.41	
Tax Title		3,440.83	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>69,039.82</u>	
			<u>134,939.04</u>

2023 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			401,042.87
Receipts	261,705.88		
Refunds	-17,876.01		
Payment Reversal - Sostillo	-18.05		
Transfer Out to TFFD	<u>-2,090.89</u>		
Net Receipts		241,720.93	
Abatements		4,481.24	
Tax Title		3,471.17	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>151,369.53</u>	
			<u>401,042.87</u>

2024 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			8,488,804.80
Add'l Commitment			9,417,982.89
Total Commitment			<u>17,906,787.69</u>
Receipts	17,523,836.53		
Refunds	<u>96,488.70</u>		
Net Receipts		17,427,347.83	
Abatements		38,866.19	

Exemptions		63,883.43	
Tax Title -Accts not in Vadar		86.35	
Tax Title		39,622.39	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>336,981.50</u>	17,906,787.69
<u>2015 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			61.82
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Abatements		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>61.82</u>	<u>61.82</u>
<u>2016 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			1,995.12
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>1,995.12</u>	<u>1,995.12</u>
<u>2017 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			1,693.46
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>1,693.46</u>	<u>1,693.46</u>
<u>2018 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			2,161.63
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>2,161.63</u>	<u>2,161.63</u>
<u>2019 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			142,160.10
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>142,160.10</u>	<u>142,160.10</u>
<u>2020 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			5,483.39
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2024		<u>5,483.39</u>	<u>5,483.39</u>
<u>2021 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			6,923.51
Receipts	0.00		

SEWER USER FEES AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

<u>2024 SEPTAGE FEES COLLECTED</u>		\$250,354.74
<u>2024 INDUSTRIAL USE FEES</u>		
Committed prior to June 30, 2024		\$404,948.16
Committed after June 30, 2024		<u>\$ 67,296.01</u>
		\$ 472,244.17
Collected prior to June 30, 2024		\$377,820.34
Collected after June 30, 2024		<u>\$ 92,049.71</u>
Outstanding Balance as of 10/31/2024		\$ 2,374.12
<u>2018 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		480.24
Receipts		0.00
Net Receipts	0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2024	<u>480.24</u>	
<u>2019 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		0.00
Receipts - Inactive		-469.17
Accts/Reactivated		
Net Receipts	-469.17	
Outstanding June 30, 2024	<u>-469.17</u>	
<u>2020 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		2,979.61
Receipts		2,979.61
Net Receipts	2,979.61	
Outstanding June 30, 2024	<u>0.00</u>	
<u>2021 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		4,658.08
Receipts		1,884.72
Net Receipts	1,884.72	
Outstanding June 30, 2024	<u>2773.36</u>	
<u>2022 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		10,007.39
Receipts		371.65
Net Receipts	371.65	
Outstanding June 30, 2024		<u>9,635.74</u>
<u>2023 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		175,263.40
Receipts		166,122.21
Refunds		-500.51
Transfer Out		<u>-3929.66</u>
Net Receipts	161,692.04	
Tax Title	2,530.16	
Outstanding June 30, 2024		11,041.20

2024 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance		1,012,633.40
Add'l Commitment		<u>1,010,687.96</u>
Total Commitment		2,023,321.36
Receipts		1,933,871.99
Refunds		-3586.05
Payment Correction		<u>-2.90</u>
Net Receipts	1,930,283.04	
Abatements	8,628.81	
Transfers In	3,929.66	
Credit - Posting Error	15.47	
Outstanding June 30, 2024		<u>80,464.38</u>

INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE

\$16,293.81

Eileen M. Seymour
Tax Collector

VETERANS SERVICES

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- ▶ District now brings in \$2,060,625.34 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY24 of \$54,703.81 a month.
- ▶ District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- ▶ District added three more outreach satellite office hours to be more assessable to the Veterans who live in the out skirts of our District.
- ▶ Office attended the yearly Executive Office of Veteran Services for Massachusetts mandatory training and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers annual training.
- ▶ VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load *off* the Senior Centers.
- ▶ Expect a much less increase to Chapter 115 due to inflation coming back under control
- ▶ We project a slight increase from the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2026.
- ▶ The Office has produced 270 claims and 80 appeals with the VA for Veterans and their Dependents this year. A 150 net increase from last FY. Mostly due to the PACT ACT.

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

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 2024 the Board had 5 members and 1 associate members.

The Board had 12 hearings and collected \$1,175.00 in application fees for 2024.

William Ketchen
Zoning Enforcement Officer