

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, July 7, 2025 AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89142261033>

Meeting ID: 891 4226 1033 Password: 674706 Dial into meeting: +1 646 558 8656

This meeting/hearing of the Selectboard will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.

Topics may start earlier than specified, unless there is a hearing scheduled

Meeting Being Taped

Votes May Be Taken

1. 6:30PM Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken
2. 6:30 Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting June 30, 2025, if available
3. 6:30 **Public Comment Period:** Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment
4. 6:32 **Ryan Paxton, Health Director and Board of Health**
 - Recommendation to petition for Town of Montague to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District
5. 6:45 **Personnel Board**
 - Appoint 5 members to Police Chief Search Committee, terms ending June 30, 2026
 - Appoint Judith Lorei to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025, for a 1 year term ending 6/30/2026
 - Appoint Annabel Levine to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025, for a 2 year term ending 6/30/27
 - Appoint Mary Mattiace to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025, for a 2 year term ending 6/30/2027
 - Appoint Jamie Fuller to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025, for a 3 year term ending 6/30/2028
 - Appoint James Simpson to Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2025, for a 3 year term ending 6/30/2028
 - Rescind 6/30 appointments to Montague Economic Development & Industrial Corporation due to clerical error

Montague Selectboard Meeting
July 7, 2025
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6. 7:10 **Assistant Town Administrator's Business**
- Updates on Shea Theater lease renewal process
 - Updates on First Street site cleanup, development
 - Other project updates
7. 7:20 **Town Administrator's Business**
- Topics not anticipated within 48 hour posting requirements

Next Meeting:

Selectboard: July 21, 2025, at 6:30PM via ZOOM



Ryan Paxton, MPH, RS

Director of Public Health

Town of Montague

Board of Health

June 26, 2025

Montague Selectboard
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, Ma 01376

Dear Honorable Selectboard,

On Wednesday June 18, 2025, the Montague Board of Health voted to recommend that the Selectboard petition for Montague join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. This recommendation comes after many different discussions that occurred at public meetings in 2024 and 2025.

The Montague Board of Health recommends joining this Mosquito Control District (MCD) based on the importance of surveillance in preventing arbovirus transmission in our community.

Membership for each fiscal year would cost the Town approximately \$5,250 and would be funded by the Mosquito Control account that was funded through appropriation at the 2021 annual Town meeting. After the initial appropriation, the Montague Board of Health intends on incorporating the expense into our regular department budget requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Paxton,
Director of Public Health



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
One Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413-863-3200, Ext. 203
www.townclerk@montague-ma.gov

Debra A. Bourbeau
Town Clerk

Kathern F. Pierce
Asst. Town Clerk

ANNAUL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF MONTAGUE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS May 22, 2021

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

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE



[Faint signature and text, likely a stamp or official mark.]



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
One Avenue A
Pioneer Park, MA 01378
413-863-3200, Fax 413-863-3201
www.townclerk@montague-ma.gov

Debra A. Bourbeau
Town Clerk

Christina E. Pitzer
Acting Town Clerk

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 22, 2024**

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

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:

Debra A. Bourbeau
Montague Town Clerk





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TOWN OF MONTAGUE
One Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
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Town Clerk

Kathern F. Pierce
Asst. Town Clerk

ANNAUL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF MONTAGUE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS May 22, 2021

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

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE



THE COPY
Debra A. Bourbeau
Town Clerk



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
One Adams A
Lanes Falls, MA 01376
413-863-3200, Ext 200
www.townofmontague.org

Debra A. Bourbeau
Town Clerk

Kathleen F. Pierce
Asst. Town Clerk

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

ARTICLE 38. MOWD. That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of road auto control, and anything incidental or related thereto, which may not be limited to giving an assessment for the Town's membership in the Valley Regional Control District, said sum to be raised from fees.

PASS UNANIMOUS VOTE

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST:

Debra A. Bourbeau
Montague Town Clerk





Police Chief Search Committee Expressions of Interest

From Walter Ramsey <WalterR@montague-ma.gov>

Date Wed 7/2/2025 12:10 PM

To Angie Amidon <AdminAsst-SB@montague-ma.gov>

Enclosed you will find a list of residents who have expressed interest in volunteering for the Police Chief Search Committee (listed in order received). Contact info for individuals available upon request.

Douglas Brown

233 Turnpike Road

I would like to submit my name for consideration to be appointed to the search committee for the Town of Montague's next Police Chief. As a little background of myself, I am 72 years old, a lifelong resident of the Town of Montague. I was also a member of the Montague Police Force from 1984-2009. I had the privilege to serve the residents of the town, as an employee, for over 37 years. During my career as a police officer, I had served under many Chiefs. I witnessed those that took their responsibility, as Chief, to serve the public openly and fairly, enforcing the law fairly, and holding their officers and staff to the same high standards. I have also witnessed and served under those that felt their needs and those of their departments needed to be met before the public they serve. The Town of Montague needs, and deserved leadership that can openly convey the goals of the community they serve, enforce the laws equally and fairly, and keep their house in order by setting the example of what is needed and expected through the rank and file. I believe I can objectively serve to find that candidate, whether it comes from within or outside the department.

Curtis Weaver

42 Dell St

I am writing to express my interest in obtaining a seat on the Police Chief Hiring Committee. I have been a resident of Turners Falls for the last four years and also own property in both Lake Pleasant and Turners Falls. For the past ten years, I have been employed in the law enforcement field, beginning my career in 2015 as a Correctional Officer at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. In 2018, I became a full-time police officer for the town of Bernardston. In January of 2024, I accepted a full-time police officer position in Northfield, where I currently serve as a Detective. Throughout my law enforcement career, I have developed a strong understanding of local government and the workings of towns and Selectboards. I believe my background in public safety, combined with my connection to the community and understanding of small-town governance, uniquely positions me to contribute meaningfully to this hiring process. I understand the importance of selecting a police chief who not only meets the professional requirements of the role but who also embodies the values, accountability, and community-oriented mindset that Turners Falls and the greater Montague area deserve. My experience in multiple facets of law enforcement—from corrections to patrol to investigations—provides me with insight into what effective leadership in a police department should look like. I am also deeply committed to seeing our local departments evolve in ways that foster public trust, transparency, and constructive engagement with all members of the community. Thank you for considering my request to serve on the hiring committee. I would be honored to contribute to the selection of the next police chief and support a process that reflects the best interests of our town. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need any additional information.

Joanna Boody

10 Federal St

I believe my background in Clinical psychology gives me a very deep understanding of how people interact and function in a number of ways and have been involved in de-escalation training and used it in real life experiences both while working and as a civilian. That said, my background in compliance is also something that aligns with public safety in that keeping things in line with "the law or rules" is my daily endeavor. Beyond that, I have been a supervisor and hiring manager and some of my graduate studies to complete my Psych degree focused on Industrial/Organizational psychology. As a consultant to businesses I could assist in hiring, SOPs, effectiveness, and employer/employee relations overall being hopefully positive. Lastly, I've been involved in town politics since moving here in 2018; having been a town meeting member, a school committee member, and ran for Selectboard in 2021. I'm very proud of our community and only want what's best for us all. If you need anything further please do let me know as I'm happy to provide more, etc. PS I wanted to add that I have been doing the food pantry for the library in Millers Falls as well! :) It is sad that it's necessary but I have met so many neighbors and it's such a joy to volunteer! :)

Leigh Rae

5 Center Street

Thank you for the opportunity. It is a privilege to be considered as a candidate to sit on the Search Committee for the new Chief of Police for Montague. As I am sure you have heard from others, I believe this is a really important position in our community because the Chief of Police serves as a shepherd of public safety and as a community builder. This is more important now than ever. I don't have a particular issue that drives my interest except that we are in a critical moment in our nation's history when I believe our local public safety leaders need to be thoughtful and strategic and we as citizens need to understand them more fully just as they need to understand those who they represent.

I would bring my experience as a former leader in the non-profit sector to collaborate with other stakeholders on the Committee to help assure that the recommendation to the Selectboard was balanced and took into account the various needs of our 5 villages. I would also bring my learner's lens as a citizen interested in making our Town better and as a new member of the Finance Committee.

As you know, I served as a member of the hiring committee last year for the DPW Superintendent and I benefited enormously from the experience both because I developed a better understanding of the role of our DPW and because the experience strengthened my relationships with those who serve our town. Hopefully my contribution on the DPW Superintendent Search Committee was beneficial to the process and I am committed to contributing positively to this process.

Stacey Langnecht

North Street

Family Engagement Coordinator for Gill Montague Regional School District
Parent and Family Program Director at Brick House

Chris Boutwell

28 Sunset Drive

Former Selectboard Member

Ed Voudren

17 Stevens Street

Former Selectboard member, former Police Chief for the town of Shelburne, former Federal narcotics investigator, former Montague Police Officer. Support for community policing officer.

Meredith Benson

36 Park Street

I've been a member of the community for 15 years. My partner, Victor Signore and I own our home at 36 Park Street in Turners Falls.

I've taken part in a variety of volunteer opportunities in town; a downtown cleanup in preparation for the one held Crabapple Festival, a Friend of the Library, Brick House cleanup crew and Books Through Bars. I'm a preschool teacher who worked with children and their families at the G Street Head Start. I recently graduated from UMASS Amherst with an M.Ed. Early Childhood Education. My program focused on Children, Families and Schools.

I'm a member of the community with legal blindness, I offer the perspective of an individual who strives to thrive here.

I support the needs, values, identities and rights of ALL people in our community. I'm curious and enjoy hearing diverse perspectives. I am always learning.

Walter Ramsey, AICP | Montague Town Administrator | (413) 863-3200 x 110 | walterr@montague-ma.gov

Name: RAMSEY, WALTER

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Walter Ramsey

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Police Chief Hiring Committee

TERM: Until Position is Filled

TERM EXPIRATION: 9/30/2025

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE **TERM STARTS:** 07/08/25

RAMSEY, WALTER personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Police Chief Hiring Committee according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

This is to acknowledge that I have received a copy of Chapter 30A, Sections 18 - 25, of the General Laws, the Open Meeting law.

APPOINTED OFFICIAL

***If you choose to resign from your appointed position during your term, you must notify the Town Clerk in writing before such action takes effect.

Name: DLUGOSZ, JACOB

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Jacob Dlugosz

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Police Chief Hiring Committee

TERM: Until Position is Filled

TERM EXPIRATION: 9/30/2025

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE **TERM STARTS:** 07/08/25

DLUGOSZ, JACOB personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Police Chief Hiring Committee according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

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Name: LOREI, JUDITH

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Judith Lorei

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Cemetery Commission

TERM: 1 Year

TERM EXPIRATION: 6-30-2026

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE

TERM STARTS: 07/01/25

LOREI, JUDITH personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Cemetery Commission according to the foregoing appointment.

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Name: LEVINE, ANNABEL

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Annabel Levine

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Cemetery Commission

TERM: 2 Years

TERM EXPIRATION: 6-30-2027

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE

TERM STARTS: 07/01/25

LEVINE, ANNABEL personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Cemetery Commission according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

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Name: MATTIACE, MARY

5D

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Mary Mattiace

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Cemetery Commission

TERM: 2 Years

TERM EXPIRATION: 6-30-2027

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE

TERM STARTS: 07/01/25

MATTIACE, MARY personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Cemetery Commission according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

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Name: FULLER, JAMIE

5E

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Jamie Fuller

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Cemetery Commission

TERM: 3 Years

TERM EXPIRATION: 6-30-2028

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE TERM STARTS: 07/01/25

FULLER, JAMIE personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Cemetery Commission according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

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APPOINTED OFFICIAL

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Name: SIMPSON, JAMES

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: James Simpson

DATE: 7/7/2025

COMMITTEE: Cemetery Commission

TERM: 3 years

TERM EXPIRATION: 6-30-2028

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE

TERM STARTS: 07/01/25

SIMPSON, JAMES personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Cemetery Commission according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

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