

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Monday, February 9, 2026**

**AGENDA**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81640728623>**

**Meeting ID: 816 4072 8623      Password: 547525      Dial into meeting: +1 646 558 8656**

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

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Votes May Be Taken**

1. 6:00PM      Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken
2. 6:00      Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting: February 2, 2026, if available
3. 6:00      **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. 6:02      **Chelsey Little, Sewer Commission**
  - CWF FY27 budget summary, including tax share update
  - Local Limits Study update(\*Note: Permit Summary for January will be provided at the next meeting, data has not been verified yet.)
5. 6:10      **Personnel Board**  
Clean Water Facility
  - Appoint Andrew Skiff to Clean Water Facility Wastewater Technician effective February 10, 2026, Grade F, Step 1 at \$25.92/hour. Andrew is being promoted from Laborer/Operator to Wastewater Technician.  
Police Department
  - Request for Cell Phone Stipend for Brandon Bryant, Montague Police Officer/Patrol at the current rate of \$5.77 per week
6. 6:15      **Will Quale- Library Trustees Chairperson**
  - Request for a June 23, 2026, Special Election for the upcoming library building debt exclusion ballot question
7. 6:20      **FY27 Budget Workshop:**
  - proposed preliminary budget overview with deliberation
  - debt capacity and capital project sequencing

**Montague Selectboard Meeting  
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8. 6:50      **Marina Goldman- Proposal for “Volunteer on the Month” acknowledgment program**

9. 6:55      **Town Administrator’s Business**

- Authorize Chair to approve and release executive session minutes from 01/20/2026
- Authorize Chair to sign a support letter to develop a 5 town school regionalization agreement
- Authorize Town Administrator to explore a townwide electricity aggregation program
- Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements.

**Next Meeting:**

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00pm via ZOOM

## Town of Montague Tax Share for I/I

FY26	FY27	Change %
Cost to Remove Grit		
\$5,644	\$4,333	-23.2%
Increased Electrical Costs		
\$7,601	\$5,785	-23.9%
Increased Chlorine Usage		
\$8,034	\$6,681	-16.8%
Increased Labor Costs		
\$117,098	\$118,432	1.1%
Increased Fee for Millers Flow		
\$280,637	\$135,116	-51.9%
I/I as a Percent of Flow		
46.6%	38.7%	-7.90
I/I as a Percent of Solids		
25.3%	17.5%	-7.80
Total Cost of Tax Share to Treat I/I		
\$419,014	<b>\$270,347</b>	-35.5%

**Town of Montague**  
**Personnel Status Change Notice**  
**Rate Changes**

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Selectboard \_\_\_\_\_ Employee # 2121

**General Information:**

Full name of employee: Andrew Skiff \_\_\_\_\_

Department: CWF \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Laborer/Operator→Wastewater Technician Effective date of change: 2/10/26

**Grade/Step/COLA Change:**

Union: UE \_\_\_\_\_

Old Pay: Grade H2 Step \_\_\_\_\_ Wage Rate: \$22.66 (annual/ hourly)

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ weekly

Weekly Incentive: \_\_\_\_\_ (Police Only)

New Pay: Grade F1 Step \_\_\_\_\_ Wage Rate: \$25.92 (annual/ hourly)

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ weekly

Weekly Incentive: \_\_\_\_\_ (Police Only)

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> week if different

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ last week if different

**Stipends**

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ (annual) \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> week if different

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ last week if different

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ (annual) \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> week if different

Wage Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ last week if different

Notes: **Promotion to newly vacant Wastewater Tech position. Employee satisfies requirements as per the job description.**

**Copies to:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Employee  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Department  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Accountant

\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Selectmen  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement Board



# Montague Police Department

180 Turnpike Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-8911  
(413) 863-3210 (fax)



## CELL PHONE STIPEND AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Application Date: 2-2-26

Employee Name:

Brandon Bryant

Department:

**Montague Police**

Please estimate work time percentage spent "out of office" weekly/monthly.

50 % (weekly)

50 % (monthly)

Prioritize those situations which are critical to your being reached while out of the office. It will be expected that cell phones are **on** while away from your office.

**A lot of Sensitive information that can't be shared by radio is communicated by cell phone. Cell phones are also necessary so the officer can be reached when there is an emergency taking place or vacant shifts that need to be filled.**

**Supervisors need to be able to make contact with the officers at all times to discuss cases, investigations and share pertinent information so cell phones are a very important piece of electronic communication equipment for our agency.**

Chief of Police

Jason O. H. A.

Do you currently use a cell phone for work purposes?

YES  NO

If yes, estimate how many minutes per month?

Reserved for use by Board of Selectmen:

Approved by Selectmen

Effective Date

Disapproved by Selectmen

Voted:

Current Rate: \$5.77 a week

Tuesday February 3rd, 2026

To Matt Lord, Chair, Montague Select Board,  
 Members of the Select Board,  
 and Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator,

This spring, Montague voters will decide whether to approve a debt exclusion ballot question for construction of a new main library building at 38 Avenue A, following the anticipated approval by Annual Town Meeting of said ballot question.

On behalf of the Montague Public Libraries Trustees, I request that the Select Board call for a Special Election for the library building debt exclusion ballot question on June 23rd.

A substantial portion of construction funding will be provided through a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The total cost of the project and the exact amount of the state's award are being officially determined this month; the award amount (and thus also the amount which remains Montague's responsibility) will be announced by MBLC on March 5th.

MBLC requires towns to demonstrate they have secured local funding by the end of the fiscal year. The certified results of a debt exclusion vote must be received by MBLC by June 30th (results sent by email will suffice; paper results can arrive after the deadline).

While the Annual Town Election on May 19th falls within this period, we ask for a Special Election in June for this reason:

The Trustees' community outreach and informational campaign can't truly begin until mid-March when we know the official project cost and grant award. We will hit the ground running, holding events and educating the public about the benefits (and costs) of a new library building, but in the months leading to the Annual Town Election the town's attention will likely – and rightly – be focused on elections for town offices including what may be a competitive race for an open Select Board seat.

Not only would the library project's information campaign be competing for limited attention with that, but town office candidates may well stake out positions on the library and spread their own messaging, distracting, confusing, and potentially misleading voters about the library project.

We feel a question with such substantial long-term impact deserves to be considered on its own merits with clear information voters can focus on and discuss without distraction – especially in the weeks immediately prior to the election – well separated from the personalities and politics of candidates seeking office.

Anticipating that a Special Election presents costs to the town and particularly to the Town Clerk, the Trustees have voted to cover one of those costs (out of our donations fund): an additional set of data storage drives for the town's vote tabulators as required by state election data protection law. I have discussed this with our Clerk and Town Administrator, and I have also extended to our Clerk the offer that the Trustees and the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will assist her office in recruiting poll workers and election day staff.

On behalf of the Montague Public Libraries Trustees, I thank you for your consideration of this.



Will Quale  
 Chair, Montague Public Libraries Trustees  
 Member, Library Building Steering Committee



# Office of the Town Administrator Town of Montague

Walter Ramsey, AICP,  
MCCPO  
413) 863-3200 ext. 108  
[Walterr@montague-ma.gov](mailto:Walterr@montague-ma.gov)  
One Avenue A Turners Falls,  
MA

**To:** Selectboard, Finance Committee  
**From:** Town Administrator  
**Re:** FY27 Preliminary Budget Proposal – Overview and Key Assumptions  
**Date:** February 5, 2026

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## Purpose

This memo transmits the Town Administrator's recommended **FY27 Preliminary Budget** and provides context for the Selectboard's review and upcoming actions. This budget is presented in accordance with the Selectboard's direction to develop a preliminary proposal based on a "**level services minus 2%**" framework, with the understanding that the Board may reopen individual departmental budgets or line items to restore level services as a policy matter.

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This preliminary budget includes Town operating departments, the Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment, enterprise funds, capital requests, and projected special article financial impacts.

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## Selectboard Direction and Budget Framework

At its most recent meeting, the Selectboard directed the Town Administrator to:

- Construct a preliminary FY27 budget assuming **blanket acceptance of the "level services minus 2%" scenario** across departments and enterprise funds
- Reserve the right to **reopen departmental budgets or specific line items** to reinstate level services where warranted

Departments that may warrant further review include, but are not limited to, **Council on Aging, Information Technology, Cemetery, and Airport.**

This approach allows the Board to establish a balanced and comprehensive starting point while preserving flexibility to make targeted adjustments during the remainder of the budget cycle.

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## **Preliminary Budget Summary**

### **Overall Balance**

The FY27 preliminary budget **can be balanced without an operating override** under current assumptions.

### **School Assessment**

- The Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment increases by **3.8% (\$478,440)** in FY27. This increase is calculated in accordance with the **affordable assessment formula**.

### **Free Cash and Capital**

- Capital Expenses for the general fund are anticipated to be low this year (approximately \$594,900). This is less than in recent years because there are no major construction projects and no big truck purchases planned for FY26.
- This budget incorporates projected capital requests and special article financial items which can primarily be funded by Free Cash (Balance \$840,400).
- Even with these inclusions, the budget is projected to leave well **over \$180,000 in Free Cash** (Likely more after repurposing of closed special articles)
- Any remaining free cash could be used to fund reserve accounts to help offset future capital expenses.

### **Enterprise Funds**

- Clean Water Facility budget (\$3,222,500) increases by only 0.04% over FY26. The amount required from taxation reduces from \$406,188 to \$272,161 due to reduced overflow charges for Millers Falls. Notably, the CWF budget does not include the

proposed Assistant Mechanic position, which is a decision point for the Selectboard.

- Airport budget increases 5.6% over FY26 and requires \$100,000 from taxation in order to balance their \$449,000 budget. This is the same amount required from taxation as the FY26 budget.

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### **Use of Excess Capacity and Tax Impact**

The preliminary budget uses **\$158,000 of excess levy capacity** to achieve balance.

- Estimated remaining excess capacity after this use: **approximately \$936,528**
- This represents a reduction from last year's balance of **\$1,104,868** excess capacity
- In FY26 the Town used \$342,400 in excess capacity.

**The overall tax impact is estimated to be about \$130 increase to the average single-family tax bill.** \$35 of that would account for the use of excess capacity.

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### **Funding Stabilization Accounts**

A key driver of this balanced budget is the recommendation to **forgo paying from taxation for deposits to the capital and general stabilization funds** as recommended in the Town's Financial Management Policies. **At \$2.6M and \$1.3M respectively- these stabilization funds are considered adequately funded**, allowing this temporary deviation without undermining fiscal stability. The Town could backfill deposits into these stabilization account with any remaining free cash. Notably, we do recommend funding other stabilization per policy. This will require careful consideration by the Finance Committee and Selectboard.

### **Key Assumptions and Uncertainties**

#### **Health Insurance**

- The budget assumes a **16% health insurance rate increase**, based on the most recent discussions with the Town's provider
- Final rates will **not be set until later this month**, and this remains a material uncertainty in the budget

- A lower final rate would create additional flexibility; a higher rate would require offsetting adjustments.
- We are still waiting on the Franklin County Tech School Assessment

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## **Actions to Mitigate Budget Inflation**

The Town is actively pursuing several strategies to reduce cost growth and mitigate future budget pressure:

- 1. Health Insurance Cost Containment**
  - Actively shopping alternative health insurance providers
  - Working with the **Hampshire Group Insurance Trust** to reduce plan costs and limit future increases
- 2. Police Dispatch Regionalization**
  - Exploring opportunities for dispatch regionalization to improve efficiency and sustainability
- 3. Special District Consolidation**
  - Exploring consolidation of special districts
  - While this may not directly affect the Town's operating budget, it is expected to **reduce overall taxpayer burden**.

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## **Known Decision points for Board consideration:**

- Hiring of "Assistant Mechanic" at CWF for FY27 due to anticipated succession plan (not currently built in budget)
- Reconsider 2% reductions on Council on Aging, Information Technology, Cemetery, Airport, and others (not currently in budget)
- Finalize Police Budget (work in progress)
- Forgoe taxation contributions to town and capital stabilization (policy decision)

## **Budget Timeline and Next Steps**

- **February 9:** Presentation of the FY27 Preliminary Budget
- **February 17:** preliminary budget hearing and SB votes recommendations

- **February–March:** Finance Committee review and reconciliation with the Selectboard
- **Late March:** Final budget approval

The preliminary budget is intended to serve as a structured and balanced foundation for continued review and policy discussion with both the Selectboard and the Finance Committee.

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## **Conclusion**

This FY27 preliminary budget reflects the Selectboard's stated priorities, maintains fiscal balance, and preserves flexibility for targeted policy decisions. It addresses known cost pressures while leveraging existing financial capacity and actively pursuing cost-mitigation strategies for FY27 and beyond.

Staff will continue refining assumptions and updating projections as additional information becomes available during the remainder of the budget cycle.

TOC	FY2027 BUDGET SUMMARY	31,562,842	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Budget	FY27 Requested Level Services	FY27 BOS Recommend	Source Taxation	Free Cash	Available Funds	Town Capital Stabilization Funds	Town Debt	GMRSD Stabilization	Sewer Fees	Airport Fees
updated since FY23 budget file															
<b>SOURCES</b>															
NET LEVY															
STATE AID (NET OF CHARGES)	22,222,502	22,222,502	23,193,232	24,230,644	24,230,644	24,230,644									
LOCAL RECEIPTS	2,085,265	2,085,265	2,202,926	2,200,001	2,200,001	2,200,001									
FREE CASH	1,859,096	1,859,096	1,865,969	1,922,342	1,922,342	1,922,342									
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	-	-	-	-	-	-									
Sp Article Balances	-	-	-	7,991	7,991	7,991									
Transportation Infrastructure RRA	-	-	-	-	-	-									
Reserve for Excluded Debt	487	487	-	-	-	-									
Overlay Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-									
Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation	52,250	52,250	52,250	77,250	77,250	77,250									
Sale of Real Estate	26,041	26,041	23,372	18,805	18,805	18,805									
FREE CASH FOR SPECIAL ARTICLES	314,000	314,000	1,255,200	653,900	653,900	653,900									
TOWN CAPITAL STABILIZATION	228,500	228,500	325,000	-	-	-									
TOWN STABILIZATION	-	-	-	-	-	-									
FCTS STABILIZATION	-	-	-	-	-	-									
GMRSD STABILIZATION	-	-	-	-	-	-									
CWF CAPITAL STABILIZATION	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000								5,000	
CANNABIS IMPACT STABILIZATION	-	-	60,000	-	-	-									
CANAL DISTRICT UTILITY IMPR STABILIZ	-	-	67,900	-	-	-									
BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF GRANTS	-	-	-	-	-	-									
TOWN BORROWING	836,500	836,500	1,800,000	-	-	-									
CWF BORROWING	283,800	283,800	1,200,000	966,000	966,000	966,000									
CWF RETAINED EARNINGS	-	-	231,800	228,706	228,706	228,706								228,706	
CWF USER FEES	2,759,825	2,759,825	2,841,377	2,950,402	2,950,402	2,950,402								2,950,402	
AIRPORT RETAINED EARNINGS	-	-	-	8,144	8,144	8,144									
AIRPORT USER FEES	286,043	286,043	302,964	330,300	330,300	330,300									8,144
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCES	30,954,309	30,954,309	35,421,990	33,599,485	33,599,485	28,352,987	653,900	104,046	-	966,000	-	3,184,108	-	338,444	
GENERAL FUND SOURCES - NET OF BORROWING, TFHS DEBT BALANCE, CWF, AIRPORT, COLLE															
						29,038,683									
		FY25 Budget	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Budget	FY27 Requested	FY27 BOS									
GENERAL GOVERNMENT															
113 TOWN MEETING	3,180	1,413	3,180	3,180	3,180	3,180									
122 SELECTBOARD	326,230	308,440	324,662	343,147	343,147	343,147									
131 FINANCE COMMITTEE	600	196	600	575	575	575									
132 RESERVE FUND	50,000	39,004	50,000	49,000	49,000	49,000									
135 TOWN ACCOUNTANT	93,000	113,632	101,374	98,297	98,297	98,297									
141 ASSESSORS	186,059	171,526	180,122	185,805	185,805	185,805									
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	206,965	189,517	208,335	205,816	205,816	205,816									
151 TOWN COUNSEL	87,475	65,587	82,475	67,475	67,475	67,475									
155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	92,252	82,008	103,352	107,479	107,479	107,479									
159 SHARED COSTS	93,499	78,905	104,930	107,180	107,180	107,180									
161 TOWN CLERK	237,224	210,438	219,144	248,690	248,690	248,690									
175 PLANNING	140,788	136,527	142,394	152,701	152,701	152,701									
176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	83	700	686	686	686									
190 PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	140,050	132,041	145,000	146,300	146,300	146,300									
197 FARMERS MARKET	5,200	4,662	5,700	5,950	5,950	5,950									
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,663,222	1,533,978	1,671,968	1,722,281	1,722,281	1,722,281									
PUBLIC SAFETY															
211 POLICE	2,067,608	1,887,490	2,069,965	2,288,855	2,288,855	2,288,855									
211 POLICE CRUISER	60,000	26,917	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000									
212 DISPATCH	410,768	369,870	410,868	448,858	448,858	448,858									
241 BUILDING INSPECTOR	155,082	133,851	149,926	162,498	162,498	162,498									
244 SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182	7,182	7,182	7,182									
291 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,944	6,444	6,944	6,944	6,944	6,944									
292 ANIMAL CONTROL	23,658	22,363	24,185	24,641	24,641	24,641									
294 FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882	1,882	1,882	1,882									
299 TREE WARDEN	30,474	29,824	30,474	29,774	29,774	29,774									
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,763,598	2,485,823	2,701,426	3,030,634	3,030,634	3,030,634									
PUBLIC WORKS															
420 DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,772,006	1,751,908	1,810,284	1,871,282	1,871,282	1,871,282									
DPW CAPITAL LEASE	-	-	-	-	-	-									
423 SNOW & ICE	321,250	307,755	324,750	324,750	324,750	324,750									
433 SOLID WASTE	802,776	774,553	835,300	873,737	873,737	873,737									
480 CHARGING STATIONS	11,980	10,729	3,000	6,500	6,500	6,500									
491 CEMETERIES	32,150	30,405	32,150	32,150	32,150	32,150									
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,940,162	2,875,349	3,005,484	3,108,419	3,108,419	3,108,419									

TOC	FY2027 BUDGET SUMMARY	31,562,842	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Budget	FY27 Requested Level Services	FY27 BOS Recommend	Source Taxation	Free Cash	Available Funds	Town Capital Stabilization Funds	Town Debt	GMRSD Stabilization	Sewer Fees	Airport Fees
updated since FY23 budget file															
HUMAN SERVICES															
<a href="#">511</a> BOARD OF HEALTH	168,004	153,171	172,144	175,954	175,954										
<a href="#">541</a> COUNCIL ON AGING	59,272	56,153	77,207	80,970	80,970										
<a href="#">543</a> VETERANS' SERVICES	77,897	65,910	101,000	81,000	81,000										
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	305,173	275,234	350,351	337,924	337,924										
CULTURE & RECREATION															
<a href="#">610</a> LIBRARIES	518,233	511,548	521,033	542,084	542,084										
<a href="#">630</a> PARKS & RECREATION	164,826	167,301	169,326	179,107	179,107										
<a href="#">691</a> HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500	500	500										
<a href="#">693</a> WAR MEMORIALS	1,600	638	1,600	1,600	1,600										
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	685,159	679,487	692,459	723,291	723,291										
DEBT SERVICE															
<a href="#">700</a> DEBT SERVICE	1,158,857	1,138,854	1,160,025	1,175,422	1,175,422										
INTERGOVERNMENTAL															
<a href="#">840</a> INTERGOVERNMENTAL	116,874	116,423	119,041	128,028	128,028										
MISCELLANEOUS															
<a href="#">910</a> EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,657,083	2,597,665	2,926,701	3,502,280	3,502,280										
<a href="#">946</a> GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	115,717	119,600	121,202	121,202										
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,776,683	2,713,383	3,046,301	3,623,482	3,623,482										
GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	12,409,728	11,818,532	12,747,055	13,849,481	13,849,481										
GF Change	3.8%		2.7%	8.6%											
CLEAN WATER FACILITY															
<a href="#">440</a> CLEAN WATER FACILITY	2,116,590	2,224,464	2,209,442	2,163,351	2,163,351										
CWF CAPITAL OUTLAY	58,500	48,377	58,500												
<a href="#">449</a> DPW SUBSIDIARY	85,150	74,796	85,150	85,150	85,150										
<a href="#">700</a> CWF DEBT	478,365	453,359	485,028	514,159	514,159										
<a href="#">910</a> CWF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	380,719	315,472	383,183	459,903	459,903										
TOTAL CWF	3,119,324	3,116,469	3,221,303	3,222,563	3,222,563	272,161							2,950,402		
<a href="#">482</a> AIRPORT	255,238	318,637	271,625	288,504	288,504	100,767	18,805						330,300		
<a href="#">700</a> AIRPORT DEBT	102,775	102,775	99,935	101,015	101,015										
<a href="#">910</a> AIRPORT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	61,664	45,995	54,172	60,353	60,353										
TOTAL AIRPORT	419,677	467,407	425,732	449,872	449,872	100,767	18,805						330,300		
<a href="#">300</a> EDUCATION															
FCTS	837,356	837,356	841,660	899,308	899,308	899,308									
GMRSD	12,143,442	12,143,442	12,663,178	13,141,618	13,141,618	13,141,618									
TOTAL EDUCATION	12,980,798	12,980,798	13,504,838	14,040,926	14,040,926	14,040,926									
RAISE DEBT SERVICE DEFICIT															
GRAND TOTAL	28,929,527	28,383,205	29,898,928	31,562,842	31,562,842	28,263,335	18,805						2,950,402	330,300	
5.6%															
PLUS SPECIAL ARTICLES/NEW REQUESTS	FY25	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY27										
Policy: Taxation transfer to FCTS Stabilization															
<b>SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>															
Operating Appropriation to OPEB	50,000		50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000									
Add'l Appropriation to OPEB															
Operating Appropriation to CI Stab	46,761		49,664	51,049	-	-									
Operating Appropriation to Town Gen Stab	-		-	76,574	-	-									
Add'l Approp to Town GSF to meet minimum	-		(76,183)	-	-	-									
Add'l Approp to FCTS Stab per policy															
50% Kearsarge Lease - 48.5 % to GM Stab	34,323		38,718	39,489	39,489	39,489									
50% Kearsarge Lease - 51.5 % to Town Cap Stab	36,446		41,113	41,932	-	-									
50% Kearsarge Lease - 51.5 % to Town Cap Stab	36,446		41,113	41,932	-	-									
Add'l to Town Cap Stab															
Add'l CWF Capital Stabilization Fund															
Add Conservation Fund	10,000		10,000	59,000	59,000	59,000									
Smith VoTech Tuition and Transportation	36,000						59,000								

TOC	FY2027 BUDGET SUMMARY	31,562,842	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Budget	FY27 Requested Level Services	FY27 BOS Recommend	Source Taxation	Free Cash	Available Funds	Town Capital Stabilization Funds	Town Debt	GMRSD Stabilization	Sewer Fees	Airport Fees
updated since FY23 budget file						4,900	4,900		4,900						
Reseal Unity Park Skatepark						7,991	7,991			7,991					
Montague Center Park Improvements						16,500	16,500			16,500					
Carnegie Library Repairs						7,500	7,500			7,500					
Funding for Art and Culture															
DPW Discretionary based on balance end of March	64,218			36,470		35,000	35,000		35,000						
Colle RRA	52,250			52,250		52,250	52,250			52,250					
Upfit Airport F450						26,000	26,000		26,000						
Replace 2013 Wacher Neuson Roller						35,000	35,000		35,000						
Replace DPW 2013 F350						80,000	80,000		80,000						
Large used excavator						150,000	150,000		150,000						
Replace 2014 2032R Tractor						65,000	65,000		65,000						
Transfer Station Security Gate						30,000	30,000		30,000						
Alley and Non-Chapter 90 Paving						30,000	30,000		30,000						
Sidewalk replacement and repair						15,000	15,000		15,000						
Shea Facility and Theatrical upgrades						100,000	100,000		100,000						
Colle Building Tile Replacement						25,000	25,000			25,000					
Secondary Clarifier Mechanism (x2)						966,000	966,000				966,000				
Super Duty Work Truck with Plow						85,000	85,000					85,000			
Wastewater Facility Planning Study						125,000	125,000					125,000			
CWF Article Deficits						23,706	23,706					23,706			
Airport FY26 Operating						8,144	8,144						8,144		
Overlay Surplus to OPEB															
Free Cash to Reserves						200,000									
Total Special Articles	2,069,646			5,442,752		2,171,784	2,036,480	89,489	653,900	85,241		966,000		233,706	8,144
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED USES</b>	<b>30,999,173</b>	<b>28,383,205</b>	<b>35,341,680</b>	<b>33,734,626</b>	<b>33,599,322</b>	<b>28,352,824</b>	<b>653,900</b>	<b>104,046</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>966,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,184,108</b>	<b>338,444</b>		
<b>SUMMARY</b>															
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCES</b>	<b>30,954,309</b>	<b>30,954,309</b>	<b>35,421,990</b>	<b>33,599,485</b>	<b>33,599,485</b>	<b>28,352,987</b>	<b>653,900</b>	<b>104,046</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>966,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,184,108</b>	<b>338,444</b>		
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED USES</b>	<b>(30,999,173)</b>	<b>(28,383,205)</b>	<b>(35,341,680)</b>	<b>(33,734,626)</b>	<b>(33,599,322)</b>	<b>(28,352,824)</b>	<b>(653,900)</b>	<b>(104,046)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(966,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,184,108)</b>	<b>(338,444)</b>		
<b>ESTIMATED SHORTFALL</b>	<b>(44,864)</b>	<b>2,571,103</b>	<b>80,310</b>	<b>(135,141)</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>		

	Total Recommended	% of Total	Taxation	Sewer	Airport	Colle RRA	Free Cash	Other Avail Funds	Town Cap Stab	FCTS Stab	GMRSD Stab	CWF Cap St
Available			28,352,987	2,950,402	330,300	458,637	840,400	495,623	2,648,232	312,676	264,728	278,582
Town Operating	13,849,481	41.22%	13,849,481									
CWF Operating	3,222,563	9.59%	272,161	2,950,402								
Colle Operating	52,250	0.16%				52,250						
Aiport Operating	449,872	1.34%	100,767		330,300							
FCTS Assessment	899,308	2.68%	899,308									
GMRSD Assessment	13,141,618	39.11%	13,141,618									
Operating Subtotal	31,615,092		28,263,335	2,950,402	330,300	52,250						
Surplus/Shortfall			89,652	0	-	406,387	840,400	495,623	2,648,232	312,676	264,728	278,582
Add to GMRSD Stab	39,489	0.12%	39,489									
Add to Town Gen Stab	-	0.00%	-									
Add to Town Cap Stab	-	0.00%	-									
Add to OPEB Trust	50,000	0.15%	50,000									
Add to FCTS Cap Stab	-	0.00%	-									
Operating + Policies Subtotal	31,704,581		28,352,824	2,950,402	330,300	52,250						
Surplus/Shortfall			163	0	-	406,387	840,400	495,623	2,648,232	312,676	264,728	278,582
Add to Conservation Fund	-	0.00%	-									
Smith Vocational	59,000	0.18%					59,000					
Reseal Unity Park Skatepark	4,900	0.01%					4,900					
Montague Center Park Improvements	7,991	0.02%							7,991			
Carnegie Library Repairs	16,500	0.05%					16,500					
Funding for Art and Culture	7,500	0.02%					7,500					
DPW Discretionary based on balance end of Marc	35,000	0.10%					35,000					
Upfit Airport F450	26,000	0.08%					26,000					
Replace 2013 Wacher Neuson Roller	35,000	0.10%					35,000					
Replace DPW 2013 F350	80,000	0.24%					80,000					
Large used excavator	150,000	0.45%					150,000					
Replace 2014 2032R Tractor	65,000	0.19%					65,000					
Transfer Station Security Gate	30,000	0.09%					30,000					
Alley and Non-Chapter 90 Paving	30,000	0.09%					30,000					
Sidewalk replacement and repair	15,000	0.04%					15,000					
Shea Facility and Theatrical upgrades	100,000	0.30%					100,000					
Colle Building Tile Replacement	25,000	0.07%				25,000						
Secondary Clarifier Mechanism (x2)	966,000	2.88%										
Super Duty Work Truck with Plow	85,000	0.25%										5,000
Wastewater Facility Planning Study	125,000	0.37%										
CWF Article Deficits	23,706	0.07%										
Airport FY26 Operating	8,144	0.02%										
Overlay Surplus to Reserves		0.00%										
Free Cash to Reserves	-	0.00%	-				-					
Op + Policies + Articles Total	33,599,322	99.99%	28,352,824	2,950,402	330,300	77,250	653,900	7,991	-	-	-	5,000
Final Surplus/Shortfall			163	0	-	381,387	186,500	487,632	2,648,232	312,676	264,728	273,582

## FY27 Revenue Estimates

Revenue Estimates for FY2026	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024	FY2025	FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027
	TOC	Budget Estimates	Actual	Budget Estimates	Actual	Budget Estimates	Actual	Budget Estimates	Proposed Budget Estimates
<b>Tax Levy</b>									
Prior Year Limit	19,683,180	19,683,180	21,041,319	21,041,319	21,944,209	21,944,209	22,716,273	22,716,273	23,511,440
2.50%	492,080	492,080	526,033	526,033	548,605	548,605	567,907	567,907	587,786
New Growth	120,000	866,050	75,000	376,857	75,000	223,459	200,000	227,260	200,000
Debt Exclusion	1,182,556	1,182,556	1,205,071	1,205,068	1,204,232	1,205,984	1,203,586	1,203,579	1,097,946
Excess Capacity	(500,000)	(1,677,412)	(1,149,544)	(1,241,751)	(1,149,544)	(1,447,268)	(1,094,528)	(1,104,868)	(936,528)
<b>Subtotal Tax Levy</b>	<b>20,977,816</b>	<b>20,546,463</b>	<b>21,697,879</b>	<b>21,907,526</b>	<b>22,622,502</b>	<b>22,474,988</b>	<b>23,593,232</b>	<b>23,610,151</b>	<b>24,460,644</b>
<b>Less Allowance for A&amp;E</b>									
Net Levy	(100,000)	(92,465)	(101,000)	(400,781)	(400,000)	(223,557)	(400,000)	(224,587)	(230,000)
	20,877,816	20,453,998	21,596,879	21,506,745	22,222,502	22,251,433	23,193,232	23,385,584	24,230,644
								1,037,412	4.47%
<b>State Aid</b>									
<i>Cherry Sheet</i>									
Unrestricted Aid	1,617,624	1,660,151	1,649,976	1,713,276	1,764,674	1,803,497	1,784,085	1,801,926	1,828,582
Veterans' Benefits	66,176	38,279	66,176	40,519	25,468	31,755	76,475	64,503	55,230
Exemptions V/B/SS/Eld	37,105	8,534	36,734	38,872	36,701	48,465	53,789	63,131	63,762
State Owned Land	252,836	330,057	257,893	366,300	368,422	375,462	375,484	375,484	375,484
Chapter 70 (Smith Vo-Tech)					9,046	9,046	9,046	9,046	-
Public Libraries	18,851	22,120	18,651	25,647	25,647	29,161	28,852	28,852	28,139
less offset	(18,851)	(22,120)	(18,651)	(25,647)	(25,647)	(29,161)	(28,852)	(28,852)	(28,139)
<b>Subtotal Cherry Sheet</b>	<b>1,973,741</b>	<b>2,037,021</b>	<b>2,010,779</b>	<b>2,166,013</b>	<b>2,195,265</b>	<b>2,229,402</b>	<b>2,318,291</b>	<b>2,296,249</b>	<b>2,315,366</b>
									<b>-0.13%</b>
<b>Less State Charges</b>									
Net State Revenue	(93,915)	(94,155)	(95,793)	(104,836)	(110,000)	(106,651)	(115,365)	(115,365)	(122,528)
	1,879,826	1,942,866	1,914,986	2,061,177	2,085,265	2,122,751	2,202,926	2,180,884	2,200,001
									2,196,277
<b>Local Receipts</b>									
<i>Recap Budget</i>									
Motor Vehicle Excise	750,000	776,671	778,490	859,408	775,000	885,130	798,250	815,000	
Other Excise	1,000								
Meals Tax	50,000	71,469	71,000	76,718	71,000	67,445	72,775	72,000	
Penalties & Interest	128,000	137,566	137,000	149,190	137,000	201,201	140,425	145,000	
PILOT	14,000	15,624	15,500	16,396	14,000	14,574	14,350	14,500	
Charges for Trash Disposal	263,000	304,102	304,000	295,082	275,000	320,743	280,500	285,000	
Rental - 50% of Kearsarge + other ren	84,728	84,728	86,235	86,235	70,769	78,769	79,831	81,421	
Other Charges for Service	57,000	79,711	67,000	85,695	59,000	74,895	60,180	65,000	
Building Permits		113,728	112,000	120,292	109,000	122,138	112,270	112,500	
Licenses & Permits	158,000	61,310	57,500	59,391	46,000	57,827	47,380	47,500	
Fines & Forfeits	16,000	10,654	10,000	12,249	8,000	19,378	8,080	10,000	
Investment Income	1,000	31,330	10,000	59,926	2,000	131,581	10,000	30,000	
FCTS reimb for SRO shown below	60,820	91,341	67,030	101,047	79,058	101,251	84,597	85,500	
Miscellaneous Recurring		23,114		281,898		12,445			
Misc. Non-Recurring									
<b>Total Local Receipts For AA</b>	<b>1,583,548</b>	<b>1,801,348</b>	<b>1,715,755</b>	<b>2,203,526</b>	<b>1,645,827</b>	<b>2,087,377</b>	<b>1,708,638</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,763,421</b>
Other Local Receipts									
FCTS SRO Reimb	77,000	96,862	77,500	78,540	77,500	40,055	77,500	77,500	
GMRSR DSO Reimb	65,000	90,125	65,000	66,300	65,000	43,675	-	-	
50% Kearsarge Lease	83,728	83,728	85,235	85,235	70,769	78,769	79,831	81,421	
<b>Grand Total Local Receipts</b>	<b>1,809,276</b>	<b>2,072,063</b>	<b>1,943,490</b>	<b>2,433,601</b>	<b>1,859,096</b>	<b>2,249,876</b>	<b>1,865,969</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,922,342</b>
								56,373	3.02%
<b>Affordable Assessment Impact</b>									
Excess Capacity before change in overlay									
1,149,544									3.52% using prior year budgeted excess capacity figure
1,355,019									2.39% avg of ams shown for FY23 and FY24, although actual FY24 not yet known
1,030,000									4.02% provides 10yr avg AA increase levels. Would also increase town spending potential
adjusted to reflect Burn Dump Agreement reduction									

# FY27 Revenue Estimates<sub>s</sub>

Revenue Estimates for FY2026 <u>TOC</u>	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024	FY2025	FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027 Proposed Budget Estimates	FY2027 Actual	4.00%
	Budget Estimates	Actual	Budget Estimates	Actual	Budget Estimates	Actual	Budget Estimates	Actual			
<b>Available Funds</b>											
Existing Sp Art Balances			12,099	12,099		21,218			7,991		
Capital Stabilization	225,000	225,000	100,000	100,000	228,500	404,000	325,000	325,000		5,000	
CWF Capital Stabilization	130,000	130,000									
GRMRSD Stabilization											
FCTS Stabilization											
Cannabis Impact Stabilization											
Can District Utility Impr Stab											
Transportation Infrastructure											
Res. Excluded Parks	13	13	7	7		487	487				
Town Stabilization for Sp Articles											
Town Stabilization For GM											
Town Gen Stab to make up for lost Rev											
Sale of RE & Chapter 90											
Overlay Surplus			250,000	250,000		26,041	26,041	23,372	23,372	18,805	
Receipts Res for Aprop	49,950	49,950	53,250	53,250	52,250	52,250	52,250	52,250	77,250		
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	<b>643,763</b>	<b>643,763</b>	<b>415,356</b>	<b>415,356</b>	<b>307,278</b>	<b>503,996</b>	<b>528,522</b>	<b>528,522</b>	<b>109,046</b>		
<b>Free Cash</b>											
Individual Article	251,242	251,242	2,180,701	2,180,701	314,000	314,000	1,255,200	1,255,200	653,900		
Reduce Levy											
<b>Total Free Cash</b>	<b>251,242</b>	<b>251,242</b>	<b>2,180,701</b>	<b>2,180,701</b>	<b>314,000</b>	<b>314,000</b>	<b>1,255,200</b>	<b>1,255,200</b>	<b>653,900</b>		
<b>Grand Total General Revenue</b>	<b>25,461,923</b>	<b>25,093,217</b>	<b>28,051,412</b>	<b>28,597,580</b>	<b>26,788,141</b>	<b>27,442,056</b>	<b>29,045,849</b>	<b>27,350,170</b>	<b>29,115,933</b>	<b>70,084</b>	<b>0.24%</b>
less available funds											
<b>Borrowing</b>											
Town					836,500	836,500	1,800,000	1,800,000			
CWF					283,800	283,800	1,200,000	1,200,000			
<b>Total Borrowing</b>					-	1,120,300	1,120,300	3,000,000	3,000,000	966,000	
Sewer User Fees	2,605,938		2,719,224	2,963,720	2,759,825	2,961,338	2,841,377		2,950,402		
CWF Cap Stabilization			50,136	50,136							
Sewer Retained Earnings			352,364	352,364		27,282	231,800	231,800	228,706		
Airport User Fees	316,015	202,189	426,965	227,094	286,043	317,265	302,964		330,300		
Airport Retained Earnings						24,000			8,144		
<b>Grand Total All Sources</b>	<b>28,383,876</b>	<b>25,295,406</b>	<b>31,549,965</b>	<b>32,140,758</b>	<b>30,954,309</b>	<b>31,892,241</b>	<b>35,421,990</b>	<b>30,581,970</b>	<b>33,591,341</b>		
<b>Kearsarge Rental Breakdown</b>											
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,455</b>		<b>170,469</b>		<b>141,538</b>		<b>159,661</b>		<b>162,841</b>		
50% General Revenue -Operating	83,728		85,235		70,769		79,831		81,421		
50% Stabilization	83,728		85,235		70,769		79,831		81,421		
GRMSD 48.5% Operating to Allocation	40,608		41,339		34,323		38,718		39,489		
Town 51.5% Operating to Town Capital	43,120		43,896		36,446		41,113		41,932		
GRMSD 48.5% Capital to GRMSD St	40,608		41,339		34,323		38,718		39,489		
Town 51.5% Capital to Town Capital S	43,120		43,896		36,446		41,113		41,932		
<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>167,456</b>		<b>170,470</b>		<b>141,538</b>		<b>159,662</b>		<b>162,842</b>		

changed 8-8 per 17K annual reduction in Kearsarge lease re: new agreement

To allocate 20% of the Kearsarge lease revenue as general revenue to be included in the affordable assessment calculation. The remaining 50% will be split 48.5% to the GRMSD Stabilization Fund and 51.5% percent to the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee shall then increase the appropriation to the Town Capital Stabilization Fund by our 51.5% of the 40% of general revenue. The GRMSD



# Office of the Town Administrator

## Town of Montague

**Walter Ramsey, AICP, MCCPO**  
(413) 863-3200 ext. 108  
[Walter@montague-ma.gov](mailto:Walter@montague-ma.gov)  
One Avenue A Turners Falls, MA

**To:** Montague Selectboard, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee

**From:** Town Administrator

**Subject: Capital Project Sequencing, Debt Capacity, and Long-Term Fiscal Risk**

**Date:** February 5, 2026

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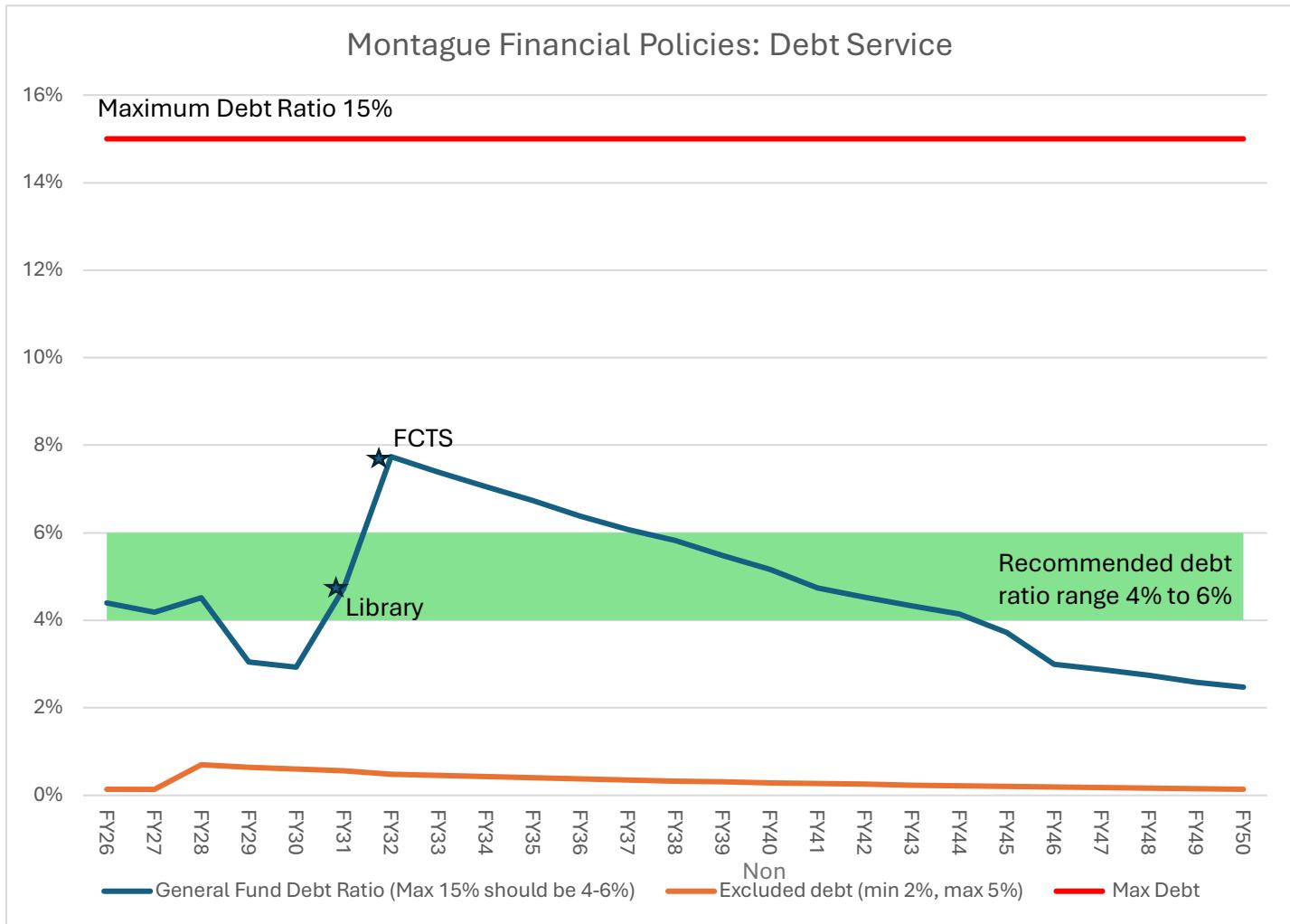
### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide financial decisionmakers with a clear, policy-based framework for evaluating and sequencing major capital decisions currently facing the Town. In particular, this memo is intended to anchor discussion around the **debt projection charts included in this memo**, which illustrates the long-term fiscal impact of advancing the Carnegie Library Replacement and the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) projects.

These charts should be understood as a **reference point** for decision-making. It shows not only what the Town can technically afford, but also the risks associated with operating for an extended period at the upper limits of its debt capacity.

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## Chart 1: Montague Financial Policies: Debt Service



The Town's Financial Management and Operations Policies intentionally establish both:

- A **maximum debt threshold (15% of Prior Year Gross Operating Revenue)** that should not be exceeded except under extraordinary circumstances, and
- A **recommended operating range (4% to 6% of Gross Operating Revenue)** that reflects sustainable, lower-risk financial management.

The debt projection demonstrates that advancing both the Library and FCTS projects would:

- Remain **within the maximum allowable debt ratio**, satisfying the letter of the policy, but
- **will exceed the recommended debt range between FY31 and FY37**, conflicting with the spirit and intent of the policy for an extended duration. **The debt ratio will max out at about 8%.**

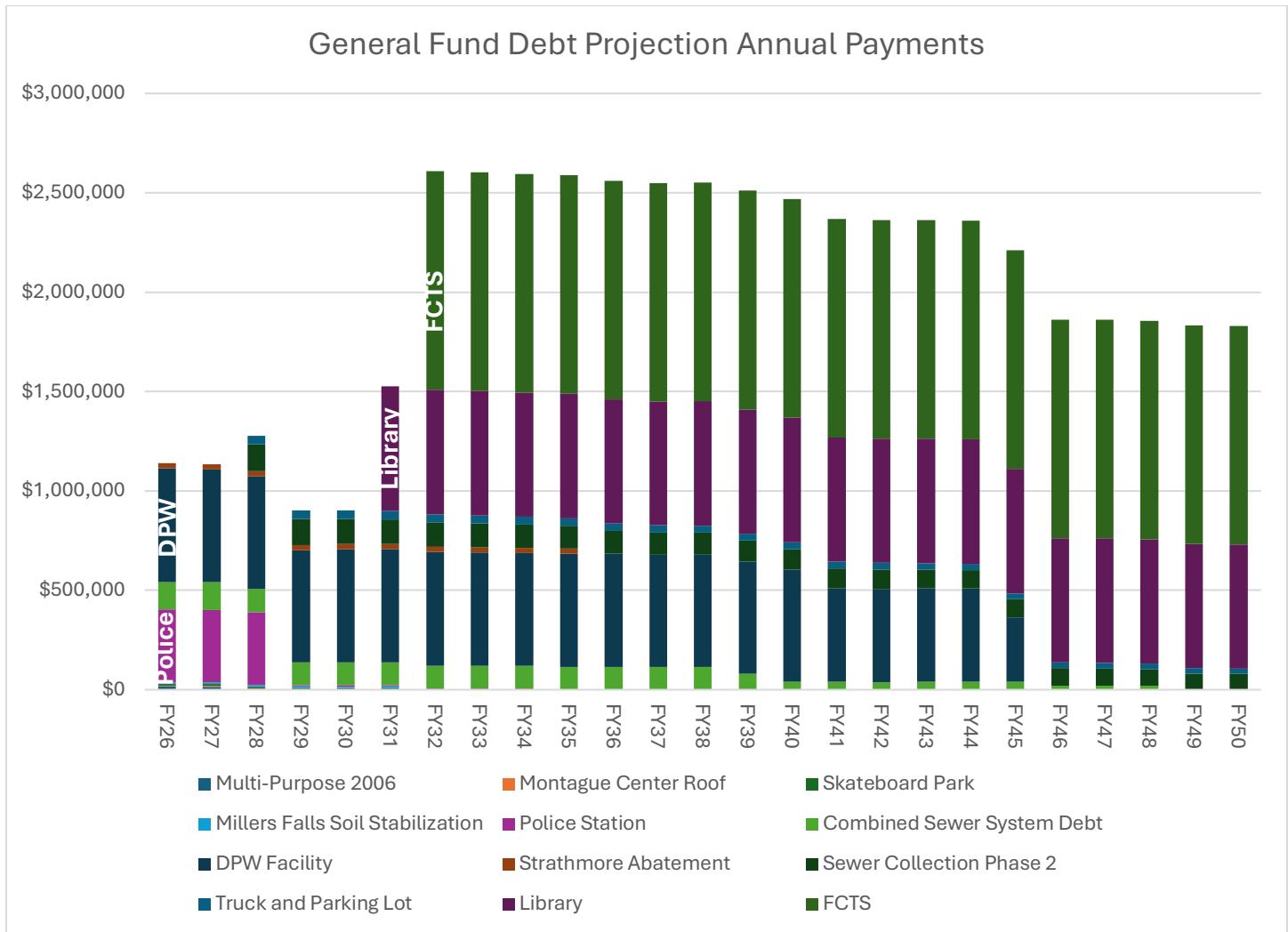
The policies also emphasize:

- Preserving flexibility for future needs
- Avoiding long periods of constrained capacity

- Ensuring that current decisions do not unduly limit future governing bodies

The chart makes clear that approving both projects simultaneously would significantly narrow the Town's margin for taking on additional debt for about a decade.

## Chart 2: General Fund Debt Projection Annual Payments



This chart shows the expected town share to borrow for the library and FCTS projects.

- Police Station Debt will retire in FY28.
- DPW Debt does not retire until FY45.

**If both the FCTS and library project are approved, debt payments will spike in FY32 at about \$2.6M and stay above \$2M until DPW debt expires in FY45.**

Over the next 5 years, the town's debt payments would increase 129% from \$1.1M to 2.6M

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## Project-Specific Context

### Franklin County Technical School Replacement

- The Town's estimated \$33 million share would cost taxpayers approximately \$1.1 million annually for a 30 year term. The debt is projected at a flat 30 year term.
- The FCTS project is time sensitive due to participation in the Mass School Building Authority Program which requires a vote in September 2026 (after the library vote).

**Key Consideration:** FCTS should be treated as a fixed baseline condition in all future capital planning because the decision-making process (Districtwide vote) is out of the control of Montague.

### Carnegie Library Replacement

- The Town's estimated \$10.6 million share would cost the town approximately \$626,000 annually for a 20 year term (This number is an early estimate, to be refined by early March)
- The Library project is time-sensitive due to MBLC program requirements which require a vote by June 30 2026.
- Within the debt chart, the Library project is manageable on its own, but materially contributes to long-term pressure when layered on top of FCTS.

**Key Consideration:** Advancing the Library project consumes a meaningful share of the Town's remaining discretionary debt capacity. However, this project was carefully planned to coincide with the retirement of the Police Station debt in FY28.

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### Implications for Future Capital Decisions

The debt projection chart makes clear that, if both projects advance:

- The Town will have **less room for emergency borrowing** related to infrastructure failure, public safety facilities, or regulatory mandates for a 10 year period.
- The Town would have little capacity for a future MSBA project for the Sheffield Elementary School
- Any additional major General Fund projects could necessitate:
  - Deferral of other priorities,
  - Exceeding recommended policy limits, or
  - A conscious decision to accept elevated fiscal risk.

This does not mean additional projects are impossible, but it does mean they must be approached with heightened caution and clear justification.

The Town currently has \$2.6M in capital stabilization that can help address other capital needs or to help reduce the debt burden on the budget.

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### **Key take-away**

The Town can technically afford both the Tech School and the Library projects within financial policy limits, but doing so places the Town above the recommended debt range for the next 10 years and leaves little room to respond to emergencies or other building projects. The Library and Tech School projects would be excluded debt, meaning they would increase the tax rate outside of the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit. The question before Montague's financial decision makers is not whether these projects are allowable under the town's financial policies, but whether they are sustainable when considered together.

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**TOWN OF  
MONTAGUE  
MASSACHUSETTS**

Selectboard Office  
One Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-863-3200  
Ext. 108

February 9, 2026

To: Greg Snedeker / Six-Town Regionalization Planning Board  
Via Email

Please be advised that the town of Montague has asked the Planning Board to submit a proposed 5-Town Regional Agreement in addition to the proposed 6-Town Regional Agreement, in the event the Town of Warwick does not support the 6-town Regional Agreement.

Some Warwick residents, having a newly formed Municipal School District, may vote not to support a 6-town RA. However, the residents in the 5 towns who are members of the Gill-Montague and the Pioneer Valley Regional Schools Districts may wish to merge these two districts into the proposed Great River regional School District, forming a 5 Town Regional School District.

Therefore, please share this correspondence with DESE as you proceed to craft the proposed 5-Town School District.

Thank you for doing this work on our behalf!

Sincerely,

Matthew Lord, Selectboard Chair

# COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION

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## Competitive Pricing, Price Stability & Local Renewable Energy

Cities and towns are using Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA), also known as municipal aggregation and Community Choice Aggregation, to provide their residents and businesses with new options for their electricity supply.

Your electricity bill has two parts:

- 1. Delivery:** Wires and poles to get the electricity to you. Your utility will always manage delivery.
- 2. Supply:** The electricity itself. You can choose or change your supply at any time.

The utility provides supply by default, called Basic Service. With CEA, a city or town uses a competitive bid to select a new supplier on behalf of all its residents and business currently getting Basic Service supply. The new supply source and rate will be included on the existing utility bill. Participants can opt-out at any time without penalty and can even opt-out before it begins. The utility continues to maintain poles and wires and handles billing. Municipalities work with experienced consultants, like Good Energy, to implement CEA programs.

### Competitive Prices

CEA allows your community the opportunity to purchase electricity when the market is favorable. Good Energy brings industry leading expertise so you can strike at the best time. Savings compared to Basic Service are possible, but cannot be guaranteed.

Good Energy also offers the opportunity to bid with large groups of municipalities, potentially driving even better pricing.

### Stability & Protection

Whereas utility Basic Service prices change every six months, Good Energy can help you secure a fixed rate for one to three years. This kind of long term price stability can help avoid the winter price spikes common with Basic Service supply.

Your CEA will also have strong terms and conditions for consumer protection, in contrast to many of the door-to-door offers in our region.

### Access to Local Renewable Energy

Your CEA's electricity supply can include more renewable energy than Basic Service. Specifically, Good Energy pioneered an approach of including more new, local renewable energy, called MA Class I, which is one of the best ways to spur construction of new renewable energy in our region. Our existing programs have demonstrated this additional renewable energy can be incorporated in a way that is affordable and accessible to all members of your community.

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## CEA Implementation

The CEA implementation process is provided below, and it often takes a year from inception to having a program live with a new supply. Good Energy can help your municipality every step of the way.

- Authorizing Aggregation by City Council or Town Meeting Vote
- Creating the Aggregation Plan with Public Review
- Securing State Regulatory Approval for the Aggregation Plan
- Procuring Electricity & Renewable Energy
- Performing Public Education, Enrollment, and Opt-Out
- Managing the Program on an Ongoing Basis

## Help Build New, Local Renewable Energy

If your CEA includes extra renewable energy, you want to make sure that your purchases will have an impact. This means that your purchases should help to get new renewable energy built, and we refer to CEA programs that do this as green aggregations.

Good Energy's green aggregations exclusively use MA Class I renewable energy. MA Class I is the State of Massachusetts' term for new, local renewable energy. The State requires that every electricity supply, including Basic Service, must have a minimum percentage of MA Class I renewable energy, and that percentage increases every year. This requirement, called the Renewable Portfolio Standard, has been a major driver of the growth of renewable energy in our region. When a CEA voluntarily purchases extra MA Class I renewable energy, it strengthens the economic incentives for developers to build more renewable energy. And as more and more CEAs adopt this approach, the impact multiplies. In fact, by 2021, we estimate that roughly 10% of all MA Class I renewable energy purchases will come from voluntary purchases by green aggregations.

## Going Further: Green Energy Consumers Alliance

Good Energy has partnered with Green Energy Consumers Alliance to provide MA Class I renewable energy in its green aggregations. GECA is a local non-profit that procures renewable energy, typically through longterm contracts that are a prerequisite to bring new renewable projects to life. While MA Class I renewable energy can come from sources all over New England and even parts of Canada and New York, GECA's projects are located exclusively in New England, primarily in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

## Clean Energy Innovation

Good Energy launched some of the first green aggregations with Dedham and Melrose in 2016, followed closely by Arlington, Brookline, Somerville, Sudbury and Winchester in 2017. In addition, Good Energy is working with another dozen municipalities with active or authorized green aggregations. We're always thinking about additional ways to use CEA to support clean energy.

## Get Started Today with Community Electricity Aggregation!

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