

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, February 23, 2026

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87096655176>

Meeting ID: 870 9665 5176 Password: 704410 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. 6:30PM Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken
2. 6:30 Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings: February 17, 2026, 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 **Eileen Seymour, Tax Collector**
 - Request for retroactive pay for Assistant Treasurer Charlene Langenback for step increase granted on 1/26/26 by the Selectboard. Retroactive pay to be back to 7/1/25 in the amount of \$915.03 and will be paid out of the Treasurer/Collector budget.
 - Request for approval of town credit card for Ashley Gough, Board of Health Director, in the amount of \$2,500.00
5. 6:35 **Matthew Lord, Selectboard Chair**
 - Discussion regarding correspondence received from the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts
6. 6:40 **FY27 Budget Workshop**
 - Review of Financial Special Articles (non-capital)
 - Out of district student placement (Smith Vocational)
 - Reseal Unity Skate Park
 - Repurpose funds for Montague Center Park
 - Carnegie Library Roof Repair
 - Police Equipment Purchase

Next Meeting

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:30pm HYBRID

Amended

Town of Montague Personnel Status Change Notice Rate Changes

Authorized Signature: _____ Matthew Lord _____ Employee # 1186

General Information:Full name of employee: Charlene LangenbackDepartment: Treasurer/Tax Collector**7-1-2025**Title: Asst Treasurer/Tax Collector Effective date of change: ~~2-2-2026~~**Grade/Step/COLA Change:**Union: NAGEOld Pay: Grade F Step 4Wage Rate: \$28.33 (hourly)

Wage Rate: _____ weekly

Weekly Incentive: _____ (Police Only)

New Pay: Grade F Step 5Wage Rate: \$29.18 (hourly)

Wage Rate: _____ weekly

Weekly Incentive: _____ (Police Only)

Wage Rate: _____ 1st week if different

Wage Rate: _____ last week if different

Stipends

For: _____

Wage Rate: _____ (annual)

Weekly Amount: _____

Wage Rate: _____ 1st week if different

Wage Rate: _____ last week if different

For: _____

Wage Rate: _____ (annual)

Weekly Amount: _____

Wage Rate: _____ 1st week if different

Wage Rate: _____ last week if different

Notes: Retroactive pay back to 7-1-25 for Step increase approved 1/26/26 (\$28.22 to \$29.18) in the amount of \$915.03 to be paid out of existing Treasurer/Collector budget.

Notes: Voted on 1/26/26

Copies to:

_____ Employee

_____ Department

_____ Board of Selectmen

_____ Accountant

_____ Retirement Board



Town of Montague
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413)863-3200 Fax(413)863-3224
treasurer@montague-ma.gov

February 12, 2026

To: Selectboard

From: Eileen Seymour – Treasurer

Re: Employee Credit Card Requests

Please accept this as a formal request for the following employee of the Town of Montague to be issued a credit card with the requested limit:

Ashley Gough - \$2,500.00
 Board of Health Director

Thank you.

Approved by the Selectboard:

_____ Matthew Lord

_____ Richard Kuklewicz

_____ Marina Goldman

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



To: Our Elected Officials

Fr: Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts

Re: Urgent Information Regarding the Rise of Antisemitism and the Impact of BDS/Exclusionary Pledges in Massachusetts

As the Western Mass central fundraising, organizing, and advocacy organization, uniting local communities we are writing to share critical information regarding the safety and well-being of the Jewish community in Massachusetts.

In December 2025, the **Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism** released its Final Report. This commission—the first of its kind in the nation—documented a disturbing and "normalized" rise in antisemitism. We have included a summary of their findings, specifically focusing on the danger posed by local **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** campaigns and "Apartheid-Free" pledges.

The Rise of BDS in Massachusetts Municipalities: The 2025 Commission report identifies the BDS movement as a primary driver of a hostile climate for Massachusetts Jews. While framed as a human rights initiative, local BDS efforts—such as the 2025 Somerville divestment measure—create immediate harm:

- **Targeting of Local Institutions:** BDS campaigns in Massachusetts have expanded beyond the state level to target local high schools, small businesses, and community organizations (as seen in the 2022 "Mapping Project" which targeted Jewish nonprofits in Boston).
- **A Litmus Test for Inclusion:** By demanding that the city or school board "sever ties" with any entity associated with Israel, these movements create a discriminatory "litmus test" that effectively excludes Jewish residents for whom connection to Israel is central to their identity.
- **Economic and Legal Risks:** BDS resolutions often conflict with Massachusetts Executive Order No. 130 and existing state anti-discrimination laws. Adopting such measures can expose municipalities to costly litigation and prevent the state from contracting with local businesses that follow these discriminatory boycotts.

The Danger of the "Apartheid-Free" Pledge: The "Apartheid-Free" pledge is a specific tactic used by the BDS movement to create "Zionist-free zones" in local neighborhoods.

1. **Normalization of Exclusion:** It encourages local boards and schools to view the Jewish state—and by extension, the Jewish community—as a pariah, leading to the harassment of students and families in our public schools.

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Joel Leavitt*

Irwin Swirsky*

Alexander Hirschhorn*

Jack Levine*

Hugo Roth*

Philip Sacks*

George Koplin*

Arthur Paroshinsky*

Irving Cohen*

Edward Schaffer*

Maurice Kurn*

Walter Aranow*

Harry Fieldman*

Simon Katz*

Joseph Cowett*

Max Katz*

Samual Black*

Joseph Markson*

Samuel Simon*

Bernard Klien, Jr.*

*Of Blessed Memory

2. **Fueling Hostility:** Data from the 2025 Commission shows that where BDS activity is high, antisemitic incidents (including vandalism and physical assault) increase proportionately.

Our Request: Elected officials have a moral and legal duty to ensure that local policies do not facilitate discrimination. We ask that you:

- **Adopt the IHRA Definition:** Use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism to identify when anti-Israel rhetoric crosses into harassment.
- **Reject BDS and Divestment Resolutions:** Oppose any measures that seek to boycott or divest from the only Jewish state, recognizing that these actions isolate your Jewish constituents.
- **Commit to Inclusion:** Ensure that town "Equity and Inclusion" frameworks specifically include the Jewish experience and the unique nature of contemporary antisemitism.

The Jewish community is a vital part of the Massachusetts story. We look forward to working with you to ensure our community remains a safe and inclusive place for all.

Antisemitism & The Impact of BDS in Massachusetts

Key Findings from the 2025 Special Commission Final Report

The Data: A State of Emergency

According to the **2025 Final Report**, Massachusetts has become a primary target for antisemitic activity in the United States.

- **The Surge:** Anti-Jewish hate crimes in Massachusetts rose by over **20% in 2024**, reaching the highest level since record-keeping began in 1991;
- **Disproportionate Targeting:** While Jews represent approximately 3–5% of the state population, they were the targets of **84.4% of all religion-based hate crimes** in the Commonwealth in 2024;
- **The "Normalization" of Hate:** The Commission found that antisemitism is increasingly being "normalized" in schools, workplaces, and local government discourse.

The Danger of Local BDS & "Apartheid-Free" Pledges

The 2025 report highlights that "anti-Zionist" rhetoric and **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** campaigns frequently cross the line into antisemitic harassment and exclusion.

- **Academic Boycotts:** The report specifically condemns efforts to exclude individuals associated with "Israeli institutions," citing the attempted boycott at **UMass Amherst** as a dangerous precedent that violates academic freedom.
- **Discriminatory Litmus Tests:** "Apartheid-Free" pledges often create a climate where Jewish residents and students must renounce their connection to Israel—a core part of Jewish identity for over 80% of the community—to participate in local civic life.
- **The "Pipeline to Violence":** Data shows that municipalities with high levels of BDS activity often see a corresponding spike in localized antisemitic vandalism and physical intimidation.

Key Commission Recommendations for Local Officials

The Commission provides a "roadmap" for municipal leaders, boards of education, and aldermen:

- **Adopt the IHRA Definition:** Use the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)** Working Definition of Antisemitism to identify when political rhetoric targets the Jewish people as a collective.
- **Mandatory Anti-Bias Training:** Implement training for all K-12 faculty, school committees, and municipal employees that specifically includes modules on **contemporary antisemitism** and Jewish heritage.
- **Standardized Reporting:** Establish clear, transparent protocols for reporting and responding to bias incidents in schools and town offices to ensure antisemitism is not minimized or dismissed.
- **Protect Religious Observance:** Ensure school calendars and municipal schedules accommodate Jewish holidays to foster a truly inclusive environment.

"Antisemitism is becoming louder, more visible, and more dangerous in our communities. It quickly turns from words into fear and violence." MA State Treasurer, Deborah Goldberg, Dec 2025

Differentiating Criticism vs. Antisemitism

A Guide for Massachusetts Municipal and Educational Leaders

This table is based on the **IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism**, which was officially recommended for adoption by the **2025 Massachusetts Special Commission**.

Feature	Legitimate Political Criticism	Antisemitic BDS / "Apartheid-Free" Rhetoric
Focus	Specific policies or actions of the Israeli government (e.g., housing, borders).	Denial of the right of the Jewish people to self-determination (e.g., "Israel has no right to exist").
Standards	Applying the same moral and legal standards to Israel as one would to any other democracy.	Double Standards: Singling out Israel for condemnation while ignoring similar or worse actions by other nations.
Imagery	Using standard political language and terminology.	Demonization: Using classic antisemitic tropes (e.g., "bloodthirsty," "controlling the world") or comparing Israeli policy to the Nazis.
Targeting	Aimed at government officials or state policy.	Collective Responsibility: Holding local Massachusetts Jews or Jewish students responsible for the actions of the Israeli state.
Inclusion	Open to dialogue with all stakeholders, regardless of nationality.	Exclusion: Demanding "Zionists" be banned from local spaces or that Jewish groups be excluded from equity coalitions.

The "3D" Test for Antisemitism

Demonization	When Israel is portrayed as the personification of evil.
Delegitimization	When Israel's fundamental right to exist is denied.
Double Standards	When Israel is the only country criticized for behaviors common to many nations.

Demonization	Delegitimation	Double Standards
<p>A statement is antisemitic if it demonizes Israel, portraying it as ultimately evil.</p> <p>One way to do this are comparisons to National Socialism: Is Israeli policy equated with National Socialism?</p>	<p>A statement is antisemitic if it delegitimizes Israel, negating its right to exist. Often, delegitimization will tie in with demonization.</p> <p>Is Israel described as an "Apartheid state?"</p> <p>In delegitimization, anti-Zionism betrays its ultimate goal: Jews are to be denied the right to live peacefully in their own state.</p>	<p>A statement is antisemitic if Israel is held to different standards than other democratic states.</p> <p>Would Ireland's right to defend itself be called into question if Northern Ireland fired thousands of rockets into Irish territory?</p>

Why This Matters in Your District

When a local board considers a **BDS resolution** or an "**Apartheid-Free**" pledge, they are often inadvertently adopting a "Double Standard." By singling out the world's only Jewish state for a municipal boycott—while maintaining ties with numerous countries with documented human rights abuses—the board creates a discriminatory environment.

Data from the **2025 Massachusetts Special Commission** shows a direct correlation between high levels of BDS activity and a rise in local antisemitic incidents. Rejecting these pledges prevents the "normalization" of rhetoric that often targets local Jews for the actions of a foreign government. The **Commission Report** warns that this specific type of targeting leads directly to the "othering" of Jewish constituents, making them targets for local harassment.

Many legal experts argue that boycotting Israel is a form of national-origin discrimination. By rejecting these pledges, legislators protect the state from violating civil rights frameworks that forbid disparate treatment based on origin or religion.

These pledges often act as a political litmus test that excludes Jewish community members. When a community or school board declares itself "Apartheid-Free," it signals to those with deep cultural or religious ties to Israel that they are no longer welcome unless they renounce a core part of their identity.

Massachusetts Resource List: Combating Antisemitism

Policy & Legislative Support

- **Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism:** The primary authority for the 2025 Final Report. Officials can contact the offices of the Co-Chairs for guidance on implementing state-level recommendations.

Contact: Office of Senator [John C. Velis](#) or Office of Representative [Simon J. Cataldo](#)

- **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Boston:** The chief public affairs and advocacy arm of the Jewish community. They provide specialized training for municipal leaders on the impact of BDS and municipal resolutions.

Website: jcrc.org

Municipal & Professional Training

- **ADL New England (Anti-Defamation League):** Offers the "A World of Difference" institute, providing anti-bias training specifically curated for civic leaders, law enforcement, and government employees.

Specialty: Training law enforcement on recognizing and investigating hate crimes.

Contact: newengland.adl.org

- **CJP's Center for Combating Antisemitism (CCA):** A central hub in Boston that awards "Ally Challenge" grants to seed hyperlocal, cross-community partnerships and interfaith dialogue.

- **Specialty:** Workplace inclusion for Jewish Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and campus resiliency.

- **Website:** cjp.org/CCA

- **Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston** The Jewish advocacy group that advances the interests of the Jewish community and contributes to the well-being of broader society.

- **Specialty:** Working with municipalities, organizations, and community members to create synergy for positive relations.

- **Website:** jcrcboston.org

K-12 & Higher Education Resources

- **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):** Following the 2024–2025 legislative sessions, DESE provides a **Curriculum and Professional Development Rubric** to help school boards evaluate instructional materials for bias.
- **Project Shema:** A training organization (often partnering with CJP and AJC) that specializes in helping educators and leaders understand the "anti-Zionist" manifestations of contemporary antisemitism.
- **Facing History & Ourselves:** A Brookline-based international organization providing "Brave Classrooms" training for Massachusetts teachers to address the history of antisemitism and its current impact.

Regional & Community Support

- **AJC New England (American Jewish Committee):** Provides "Antisemitism 101" and "Allyship as Practice" sessions for public officials, focusing on the line between political criticism and delegitimization.
- **Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts:** Provides localized reporting and advocacy resources for Western Massachusetts officials.

What constitutes antisemitic hate speech?

Antisemitic hate speech is
the use of false stereotypes , such
as claims the Jews control governments,
media, or money

Antisemitic hate speech is
holding all Jews responsible
for the actions of one government,
a military, or individual

Antisemitic hate speech is
the portrayal of Jews as less than human,
evil, dirty, dangerous, or deserving of harm

Antisemitic hate speech is
Language, imagery., or messaging that
targets Jews because they are Jewish-by
dehumanizing, stereotyping, threatening,
or scapegoating them.

- Antisemitic hate speech is also**
- Holocaust denial or minimalization
 - Justifying violence against Jews
 - Celebrating violence on Jewish people or institutions

Antisemitic hate speech is not harmless
It is dangerous. It is rising.
It is taking lives and putting people at risk.

Recent Local Press



Owen Zaret: Resolutions aren't enough, confront antisemitism locally

February 4, 2026

Massachusetts didn't suddenly arrive at this moment. We were watching it happen. A Jan. 16 Boston Globe report on hate crime data captured a sobering milestone: antisemitic incidents were the most commonly reported hate crimes in the commonwealth in 2024, with anti-Jewish bias outpacing every other category. Antisemitic bias accounted for about 85% of religious hate crimes and roughly one in four hate-crime reports statewide, with Massachusetts law enforcement recording 147 anti-Jewish hate crimes in 2024.

The numbers are shocking, but for many Jewish residents they are not surprising. Antisemitism didn't begin on Oct. 7, 2023. It was rising long before then: in schools, public discourse, and in the way institutions struggled to respond with clarity. In communities like mine, the warning signs weren't subtle. Even when a 2023 resolution formally condemned antisemitism, the follow-through too often disappeared when it mattered most. The normalization begins when leaders soften language, minimize or conceal incidents, and hesitate to name antisemitism directly. But it doesn't stop there. When protecting optics becomes the priority, when administrators focus more on "how it looks" than what it means for Jewish students, institutions don't reduce harm. They contribute to it. They sanitize the record. They avoid hard conversations to preserve comfort and reputation.

That avoidance has consequences. When advocacy is treated as disruption, the community loses the very voices trying to prevent escalation. When public officials and school leaders discourage speech, redirect concerns into silence, or attempt to discipline those who speak plainly about antisemitism, they become part of the pipeline that produces those statewide statistics.

I worked on a municipal framework to address antisemitism before the state commission even existed, and later testified to it because what I witnessed wasn't theoretical. It was escalating and so was the pressure to stop talking about it.

Massachusetts has a blueprint. Now municipal leaders must choose whether it will be used. Mayors, city councils, and school committees should stop treating antisemitism as a reputational risk to be managed and start treating it as a civil rights obligation to be addressed publicly, consistently, and without euphemism. That also means engaging local Jewish organizations and community partners. Not as a symbolic gesture, but as part of prevention, training, and informed response: naming antisemitism plainly, responding quickly when it appears, tracking and reporting incidents transparently, and protecting the students and residents who speak up.

The test is implementation, town by town, school by school, with moral clarity, transparency, and equal dignity for Jewish residents.

Owen Zaret, former city councilor
Easthampton

The Montague Reporter

Year 24 - No. 6

JANUARY 13, 2026

\$2

editor@montaguerreporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguerreporter.org

Letters to the Editors

Moral Absolutism in New England

I am writing to express our deep concern about Montague's recent adoption of a nonbinding resolution declaring itself to be an "Apartheid Free Community."

Whatever one's views on the war in the Middle East or on the policies of the Israeli government, this pledge does something troubling: it takes a highly charged, international political conflict and imports it into the civic identity of a small New England town. Montague is not a foreign ministry. It is a community of neighbors with widely differing backgrounds, beliefs, and personal connections to that conflict.

By labeling one side of that conflict with a term as morally absolute and historically loaded as "apartheid," the pledge effectively demands that residents publicly endorse a particular political narrative in order to be seen as morally ac-

ceptable. That is not inclusion. It is coercion. It divides neighbors into the righteous and the suspect, the approved and the condemned.

This kind of symbolic politics also has real local consequences. It chills speech, discourages dialogue, and makes Jewish residents in particular feel singled out, even when they hold a wide range of views about Israel and Palestine. When a town declares itself "apartheid free," the implication is that some members of the community are associated with something shameful or illegitimate. That is not how a healthy, pluralistic town should function.

The Town of Montague has a long tradition of encouraging thoughtful debate and mutual respect. Endorsing or promoting a pledge like this moves in the opposite direction. It replaces curiosity with certainty, and conversation with condemnation.

We can oppose human rights abuses anywhere in the world without turning one of our own towns into a political litmus test. We can care deeply about Palestinians and Israelis alike without demanding that Montague take sides in a way that fractures the community.

We urge the readers of the *Montague Reporter*, and the town as a whole, to step back from this pledge and recommit to something far more important: being a place where people of different views, identities, and histories can live together without fear of being labeled or morally indicted by their own neighbors.

Adam M. Solender
Springfield

Chief Philanthropy Officer,
Director of the Jewish

Endowment Foundation,
Jewish Federation of Western MA

Daily Hampshire Gazette

LETTERS

Adam M. Solender: It is moral sorting

January 11, 2026

I am writing to express deep concern as communities in our area consider adopting nonbinding resolutions declaring themselves "Apartheid Free Communities."

Whatever one's views about the war in the Middle East or the policies of the Israeli government, this approach does something troubling: it pulls a deeply polarizing international conflict into the civic identity of local towns. A community is not a foreign policy body. It is a group of neighbors with different histories, beliefs, and personal ties to that conflict who must continue to live together long after slogans fade.

One of the great strengths of democracy is that it allows people who disagree profoundly to share the same civic space. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle." That spirit — disagreement without demonization — is what makes a free society possible.

By applying a term as morally absolute and historically loaded as "apartheid" to one side of a complex conflict, these resolutions do more than express moral concern. They pressure residents to affirm a particular political narrative in order to be seen as morally acceptable. As one local resident put it, "A town should be a home, not a courtroom — we shouldn't be asked to put one another on trial just to belong."

The Montague Reporter

Guided Dialogues Preferable

The recent decision by the Burlington (Vermont) City Council to reject a polarizing "Apartheid-Free" pledge in favor of a "Community Dialogue" resolution offers a masterclass in local governance that Massachusetts communities, from Greenfield to Springfield, should study closely.

Activists in Burlington pushed for a measure that used high-octane labels like "settler colonialism" and "apartheid." While these terms carry weight in international law debates, their importation into a local Town Meeting context in Vermont proved more toxic than transformative.

As our neighbors discovered, when a municipality adopts the language of one side of a global conflict, it doesn't solve a crisis abroad; it creates a new one at home by alienating neighbors and as many Burlington residents feared, fueling local antisemitism.

Massachusetts towns currently grappling with

similar petitions can learn from Burlington's pivot. Instead of a non-binding declaration that offers little more than symbolic division, Burlington chose Councilor Allie Schachter's proposal for "guided group sessions." This acknowledges a fundamental truth: a City Council's primary duty is to the safety and cohesion of its own residents.

By prioritizing dialogue over inflammatory pledges, Burlington signaled that while we cannot control the geopolitics of the Middle East, we can control how we treat the person across the street. We should follow their lead in choosing restorative conversation over the divisive comfort of a manifesto.

Adam M. Solender

Springfield

Chief Philanthropy Officer

Director of the Jewish Endowment Foundation,
Jewish Federation of Western MA

ADAM M. SOLENDER | GUEST VIEWPOINT

An ugly accusation lurks inside push for 'Apartheid-Free' area communities

ACROSS WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, a number of towns are being asked to declare themselves "Apartheid-Free Communities." Supporters present these nonbinding resolutions as moral statements about a distant conflict.

But in practice, they do something far more dangerous: they import a deeply charged, global political struggle into small towns and cities that are supposed to be places of shared civic belonging.

Words matter. In politics, they shape how people see one another. The phrase "apartheid" does not function as neutral critique. It is a term associated with criminality, moral absolutes and historical trauma. When applied to a modern nation — especially one that is deeply tied to Jewish identity — it does not remain a policy disagreement.

It becomes an accusation of fundamental illegitimacy.

That distinction matters because rhetoric does not stay confined to town meeting floors or activist flyers. It travels. It mutates. It gets taken out of context. And sometimes it gets turned into justification for violence.

We have seen this happen repeatedly.

In Australia, a Hanukkah celebration on the beach was targeted after attackers referenced the same charged political slogans

now appearing in these "Apartheid Free" campaigns. In Mississippi, a synagogue was burned, another reminder that when Jews are portrayed as agents of a global evil, someone somewhere decides to act on it.

No one drafting these resolutions intends that outcome. But good intentions do not cancel out consequences.

When a town government endorses language that frames one side of a complex conflict as uniquely criminal and beyond legitimacy, it sends a signal. For Jewish residents, that signal is unmistakable: your identity is now part of a political indictment.

This is not about silencing criticism of Israel. People have every right to oppose Israeli policies, just as they criticize any government. But our towns and cities are not foreign-policy actors. Their role is to provide schools, fire protection, libraries and public works — not to label entire nations with morally loaded verdicts that inevitably spill over onto neighbors.

Western Massachusetts is home to diverse communities that include Jews, Muslims, Palestinians, Israelis and many others with deep personal connections to this conflict. A resolution that divides the world into villains and victims does not bring peace.

It brings suspicion, fear and fracture into



The Western Massachusetts town of Montague joined in the global Apartheid-Free movement with a special Town Meeting vote in October. "When a town government endorses language that frames one side of a complex conflict as uniquely criminal and beyond legitimacy, it sends a signal," author Adam M. Solender writes. "For Jewish residents, that signal is unmistakable: your identity is now part of a political indictment." (IMAGE PROVIDED)

places that should be safe for everyone.

We should be building communities where disagreement does not become dehumanization — and where words are used to heal, not to harden into weapons.

Adam M. Solender is the executive director of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts.



Town of Montague Parks and Rec

QUOTE

Resealing Skatepark

Date: TBD

Timeline: 1 working day

Hey Jon thanks for your interest. Below you'll find your quote. It's too late in the season for this now, but we can schedule this for the very beginning of spring once we get the contract in. Let me know if you have any questions!

Take care,
Scotty Dixon & Rose Bernhard
Owners/Operators
Tailblock Concrete

Quote:

Total cost - \$4900

Scope:

Removing all physical debris from the park

Assess any issues with concrete

Spray on chemical sealer on entirety of concrete surface

This quote valid for 90 days, with the exception of sudden changes in fluctuating material costs



Town of Montague

SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING

*This form is intended for use with special article submissions with no financial request
Please complete this form in its entirety!*

Ask is for...

**X Winter STM
O FY27 ATM**

Department:	Parks & Recreation	Submitted by:	Jon Dobosz, Director
Item/Project Cost:	\$7,991	Date Prepared:	November, 2025
Item/Project Title:	Remaining Montague Center Park Project Funds		

Proposed article wording:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$7,991**, or any other amount, for the purpose of utilizing funds left over from the Montague Center Park Project, originally appropriated from Article 8 of October 10, 2023 including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Description: (Provide a full description of the item or service to be purchased. This will be used for background information. Use attachments as needed.)

The Montague Center Park Project came under budget by \$7,991 and these remaining funds need to return to the General Fund due to language in the original article (8, 10/10/23). Parks & Recreation would like to use this balance to fund additional improvements to the park, that will include the construction of a basketball court.

Enter response

Is this expected to require other investments? (yes/no)

Increased(+) /decreased(-) operational cost (if no, "0")

Increased(+) /decreased(-) equipment or material cost (if no, "0")

No
\$ + / -
\$

Why is it essential that the Town approves this article in the coming fiscal year?

Relative Priority

Overall priority of this item or project to the Town

Critical

High

Moderate

Low

X

O

O

O

If you are submitting more than one non-spending special article, how does this rate relative to the others

First

Second

Third

Fourth or Lower

O

O

O

O

Comments on relative priority:

Final recommendation of Board of Selectmen:

O Support

O Not Support

Comments on Recommendation:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Libraries</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Caitlin Kelley</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$16,500</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>1/5/2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Carnegie Library Roof Repair</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$15,500**, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing the Carnegie Library roof and preventing bat infiltration.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

While the small roof over the Carnegie Library's staff entrance has been recently re-shingled, the main roof of the building requires several repairs to extend the life of the roof. These repairs were outlined in the 2022 Roof Assessment:

(Recommendations – Roof Repairs and Replacement - 2022)

(Proposed Scope of Work)

- Remove existing ridge and hip cap shingles and install new ridge and hip cap shingles manufactured for that specific use.
- Remove and replace any split or damaged shingles with shingles of matching size and color.
- Remove and replace the rear entrance shed roof with a more durable roof covering.
- Remove and replace the lead chimney flashing at both upper roof chimneys.
- Secure upper roof vent flange with blind nailing strips.
- Re-adhere loose EPDM membrane at the base of the dormer valley on the southwest corner.
- Remove all debris from around the roof drains. Reposition drain in the southwest

corner from the underside (if possible) to the center of the EPDM valley. Install tapered insulation sumps around both drains to promote positive drainage. Size of tapered sump limited to width of EPDM valley and thickness of underlying insulation. Clearing of drain baskets should be done at least twice a year and after major weather events.

- Physical removal of moss and lichens from shingles often does more harm than good. The introduction of zinc strips along the top of the moss covered areas will gradually remove moss and lichen growth without damage to the shingles.*

A recent quote noted that this work could be completed “for the sum of Dollars: (\$11,995.00) – Eleven thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars.” The quote excludes: “Any flat work repair other than what is proposed in this proposal because we cannot estimate work properly without getting access to roof, when lift is on site, we will then propose repairs to alleviate ponding.”

Any roof repairs also need to address the Carnegie’s bat problem. In April, 2025, the libraries received the following proposal for bat exclusion for the Carnegie Public from Problem Wildlife:

Library at 201 Ave A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Problem Wildlife would need to check and caulk anywhere wood meets brick and check all drip edge, install back rod and caulk as needed, check flashing and seal on both chimneys, install 2 chimney caps and check and screen the big vent on the roof. We would install bat valves any place there is bat evidence to be able to let the bats out. We would return and remove bat valves and close up holes. The cost would be \$12,000.00, plus the cost of the chimney caps, plus the cost of a lift if it is needed unless provided by town.

The work was not completed in May as it was determined that it would be preferable to incorporate it into a larger roof repair or replacement project, already slated for FY27.

There is some overlap between the Problem Wildlife quote and the DP Carney construction quote. The installation of two chimney caps and bat valves, which were not incorporated in the Carney quote, should be incorporated into project specs. These additions, plus the uncertainty around how much work will need to be done to support the flat roof make me inclined to request a healthy contingency for this project, which is why the request is for \$16,500.

The libraries have \$5,540 in previous capital allocations for the Carnegie roof that could likely be transferred to this project, including: 001-950-5610-001006, CS 23 5/7/16 Carnegie Roof, \$2,505.00 and 001-950-5610-001010, 26 5/6/17 Carnegie Roof \$2,035.00

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

Yes**No**☒☐☐☒☐☒☒☐☐☒☒☐**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

This project will be managed and facilitated by the Library Director with procurement assistance from the Assistant Town Administrator. The Highway Department may be called upon to assist the contractors, as needed.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

This project has already been put off by a year, due to prior uncertainty of whether the building might be expanded. Now that expansion is off the table, it would be wise to make the repairs that were first identified more than three years ago. Clogged roof drains are almost certainly contributing to the infiltration of water into the Carnegie Basement as rainwater pours over the side of the roof and into the foundation.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

○

○

○

Comments and additional information:

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SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department: Police Submitted by: Chief Jason Haskins

Item/Project Cost: \$12,100 Date Prepared: 02/17/26

Item/Project Title: Police Equipment Purchase

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$12,100**, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing a secure pass-through evidence refrigerator, fifteen (15) Motorola portable radio batteries, and a Motorola portable radio battery reconditioning unit.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

This request includes the following items:

- 1.) Secure pass-through evidence refrigerator: \$8,800
- 2.) Fifteen (15) Motorola portable radio batteries: \$1,919.85
- 3.) Motorola portable radio battery reconditioner: \$1,289

Total Request: \$12,100

All pricing is supported by written estimates.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

	Yes	No
Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work? <i>If yes, attach the estimate</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a lease option for this expense?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will this item or project replace a capital asset?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will this create ongoing costs or savings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will this leverage grant or other external funding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed

Who will manage procurement and execution of the project? Will external resources be required for design, engineering, procurement, or construction oversight? Procurement and implementation will be managed by Chief Jason Haskins. No external design or engineering services are required.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

See attached document.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance



Highly Important



Moderately Important



Comments and additional information:

Consequences of Inaction

If this request is not funded this fiscal year:

- The department will continue operating without a functional, repairable evidence refrigeration unit.
- Biological evidence storage will remain vulnerable to temperature or equipment failure.
- Officers will continue working extended shifts with inadequate radio battery redundancy.
- Equipment failures may occur during emergency incidents.

These are preventable risks.

Special Article Request – Financial

Police Equipment Purchase -Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year? ATTACHMENT

This request addresses two core responsibilities of the Police Department: preservation of evidence and officer safety.

1.) Evidence Storage – Legal Integrity and Security

The evidence refrigerator is essential for the proper storage of biological and DNA evidence. These items must be maintained at a consistent cold temperature in a secure environment until they are transported for laboratory analysis.

The current unit is no longer serviceable. Three separate companies were contacted and each confirmed that the unit cannot be repaired.

Failure to replace this equipment creates significant risk, including:

- Compromised biological/DNA evidence
- Chain-of-custody concerns
- Potential evidentiary challenges in court
- Liability exposure to the Town

This is not a convenience purchase; it is necessary to maintain the integrity of criminal investigations and prosecutions.

2.) Portable Radio Batteries – Officer Safety and Operational Reliability

The department's current portable radio batteries are more than three (3) years old and are failing. Officers were issued only one battery each, and we do not have sufficient batteries for new hires or command staff.

Officers regularly work 12–16-hour shifts. Even when new, these batteries typically hold a charge for approximately 10–12 hours. As they age, that capacity decreases significantly.

A failing radio battery directly impacts officer safety. Portable radios are the primary means of communication during:

- Emergency responses
- Officer-involved incidents

- Mutual aid operations
- Calls requiring immediate backup

Officers should be issued two batteries to ensure uninterrupted communication capability throughout their shift. The current situation does not meet that operational standard.

3.) Battery Reconditioner – Cost Control and Equipment Longevity

The battery reconditioning unit will extend the usable life of department-issued batteries by restoring battery capacity and preventing premature failure.

Combined with issuing a second battery per officer, this investment will:

- Improve reliability of communications equipment
- Reduce long-term battery replacement costs
- Enhance overall officer safety

This is a relatively small investment that supports both fiscal responsibility and operational readiness.

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QUOTATION

Quote For:

Chief Jason Haskins
Montague Police Department
180 Turnpike Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Phone: 413-863-8911
Email: jhaskins@montague-ma.gov

Date: February 9, 2026

Quote #: 2926

Expiration: 30 Days

Ship: Freight Not Included

Payment Terms: 50% Down, Balance due prior to shipping.

Quoted By: Ashley Finck

RTF Manufacturing Co., LLC

793 Route 66

Hudson, NY 12534

Phone: 518-828-2180

Email: ashleyf@rtfmanufacturing.com

Name	Price	QTY	Subtotal
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ES-5-HT-B-PT	\$8,800.00	1	\$8,800.00
Pass-through Design Unit. Overall exterior dimensions 36" H x 24" F-B x 24" W. Stainless steel interior/exterior, LED digital temperature display, Microprocessor Control, Solid State high/low temperature alarm system. 4 plexus Configuration.			
FOB Hudson, NY			
	\$0.00	1	\$0.00

Subtotal **\$8,800.00**

Total \$8,800.00

Billing Address:
Montague Police
180 Turnpike Road Turners Falls,
MA 01376
ATTN: Sgt Lapachinski
Turner Falls, MA 01376
US

Shipping Address:
Montague Police Department
180 Turnpike Road Turners Falls,
MA 01376
ATTN: Sgt Lapachinski
Turner Falls, MA 01376
US

Quote Date:11/26/2025
Expiration Date:01/25/2026
Quote Created By:
Kevin MacKenna
Sr Account Executive
Kevin.MacKenna@
motorolasolutions.com
617-529-1711

End Customer:
MONTAGUE POLICE
Peter Lapachinski
plapachinski@montague-ma.gov

Contract: 22564 - PSE01 MA STATE
Payment Terms:30 NET

Summary:

Any sales transaction resulting from Motorola's quote is based on and subject to the applicable Motorola Standard Terms and Conditions, notwithstanding terms and conditions on purchase orders or other Customer ordering documents. Motorola Standard Terms and Conditions are found at www.motorolasolutions.com/product-terms.

Line #	Item Number	Description	Qty	List Price	Sale Price	Ext. Sale Price
1	PMNN4485A	PORTABLE RADIO BATTERY IMPRES 2 LI-ION R IP68 2550T	15	\$185.49	\$127.99	\$1,919.85

Grand Total **\$1,919.85(USD)**

Notes:

- Unless otherwise noted, this quote excludes sales tax or other applicable taxes (such as Goods and Services Tax, sales tax, Value Added Tax and other taxes of a similar nature). Any tax the customer is subject to will be added to invoices.





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/ [Motorola NNTN8844 IMPRES 2 Multi-Unit Charger - APX 6000, 8000](#)



Motorola NNTN8844 IMPRES 2 Multi-Unit Charger - APX 6000, 8000

Part Number: NNTN8844B

\$1,289.00

— 1 +

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Motorola NNTN8844 IMPRES 2 Six-Unit Battery Charger with Displays

Charge batteries up to 40% faster, 6 USB charging ports, and 6 displays to read battery information, and clip-on accessories shelf for an uncluttered workspace

Optional NLN7967 wall mount and NNTN9212 adapter pocket for APX NEXT radios

120V AC, each pocket has a display to read battery data

Replaced the NNTN7073 and the NNTN7065 IMPRES chargers

Compatible with APX 6000, APX 6000XE APX 7000, APX 7000XE, APX 8000, APX 8000XE, SRX 2200

Download [User Guide](#)

12 month warranty

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