

## **MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

**AGENDA**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81883611876>**

**Meeting ID: 818 8361 1876 Password: 756967 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: None Available
3. 6:32 **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. 6:35 **Personnel Board**
  - Health Insurance
    - Discussion and anticipated vote regarding whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 21-23
  - Police Department
    - Appoint Felix Morales to full-time Patrol Officer effective March 15, 2026, Grade P, Step 6 at \$30.94/hour including a \$10,000 sign-on bonus to be dispersed per contract.
    - Authorize phone stipend for Joshua Lemay, Patrol Officer, at the current rate of \$5.77 a week.
  - Clean Water Facility
    - Appoint Jakob Bliven to Laborer/Operator effective 3/23/2026, Grade H, Step 2 at \$22.66/hour
5. 6:50 **Town Administrator's Business**
  - Review slate of Selectboard sponsored articles for Annual Town Meeting (non-financial)
    - Repeal and replace Personnel By-law
    - Authorize Community Electricity Aggregation Program
    - Accept local option G.L. c.138, §12D to allow conversion to all-alcohol licenses
    - Authorize Right-of-Way acquisitions for North Leverett Road Bridge Replacement
    - Authorize Right-of-Way acquisitions for Industrial Boulevard/ Millers Falls Road Intersection Improvements
    - Bonding authority for proposed library
    - Authorize acquisition of lot F (Second Street Public Parking Lot) from Montague EDIC to support proposed Library
    - Topics not anticipated within 48 hour posting period

**Montague Selectboard Meeting**  
**March 9, 2026**  
**Page 2**

6. 7:05 Executive Session in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation involving Laurel Realty Trust relating to Parcel ID 22-0-12, as discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town of Montague.

**Next Meetings:**

Capital Improvements and Finance Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 3/11/2026 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2026, at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Selectboard and Finance Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00pm via Zoom



**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

March 3, 2026

BY CERTIFIED MAIL (Return Receipt Requested)  
 OR HAND-DELIVERY

Nancy McGovern  
 Director Healthcare & Retirement Advocacy  
 Massachusetts Retired State, County, & Municipal Employees Association  
 11 Beacon St. Suite 309  
 Boston, MA 02108

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Proposed Changes to Group Health Insurance Plans

Dear Nancy:

In accordance with 801 CMR 52.02(1), this letter shall serve as notice that the Selectboard, the appropriate public authority for the Town of Montague, shall vote on March 9, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under G.L. c. 32B, §§21-22.

Additionally, pursuant to 801 CMR 52.01(3)(a)(2), the Select Board intends to send all future notices by email. Accordingly, please send your preferred email address to Eileen Seymour, the Town's Treasurer/Tax Collector, at [treasurer@montague-ma.gov](mailto:treasurer@montague-ma.gov) at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Walter Ramsey  
 Town Administrator

cc: Secretary of Administration and Finance ([MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us))  
 Selectboard



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March 3, 2026

BY CERTIFIED MAIL (Return Receipt Requested)  
OR HAND-DELIVERY

Cheryl Clark  
Montague Contributory Retirement IAC Representative  
West Gill Rd.  
Gill, MA 01354

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Proposed Changes to Group Health Insurance Plans

Dear Cheryl:

In accordance with 801 CMR 52.02(1), this letter shall serve as notice that the Selectboard, the appropriate public authority for the Town of Montague, shall vote on March 9, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under G.L. c. 32B, §§21-22.

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Very truly yours,

Walter Ramsey  
Town Administrator

cc: Secretary of Administration and Finance ([MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us))  
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March 3, 2026

**BY CERTIFIED MAIL (Return Receipt Requested)**  
**OR HAND-DELIVERY**

Jake Dlugosz  
President  
New England Police Benevolent Association  
180 Turnpike Rd.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Proposed Changes to Group Health Insurance Plans

Dear Jake:

In accordance with 801 CMR 52.02(1), this letter shall serve as notice that the Selectboard, the appropriate public authority for the Town of Montague, shall vote on March 9, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under G.L. c. 32B, §§21-22.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Walter Ramsey  
Town Administrator

cc: Secretary of Administration and Finance ([MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us))  
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March 3, 2026

BY CERTIFIED MAIL (Return Receipt Requested)  
OR HAND-DELIVERY

Cody Wells  
Union Representative  
New England Police Benevolent Association  
180 Turnpike Rd.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Proposed Changes to Group Health Insurance Plans

Dear Cody:

In accordance with 801 CMR 52.02(1), this letter shall serve as notice that the Selectboard, the appropriate public authority for the Town of Montague, shall vote on March 9, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under G.L. c. 32B, §§21-22.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Walter Ramsey  
Town Administrator

cc: Secretary of Administration and Finance ([MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us))  
Selectboard



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March 3, 2026

BY CERTIFIED MAIL (Return Receipt Requested)  
OR HAND-DELIVERY

David Adams  
Union Representative  
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)  
128 Turners Falls Rd.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Proposed Changes to Group Health Insurance Plans

Dear David:

In accordance with 801 CMR 52.02(1), this letter shall serve as notice that the Selectboard, the appropriate public authority for the Town of Montague, shall vote on March 9, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under G.L. c. 32B, §§21-22.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Walter Ramsey  
Town Administrator

cc: Secretary of Administration and Finance ([MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us))  
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March 3, 2026

**BY CERTIFIED MAIL (Return Receipt Requested)**  
**OR HAND-DELIVERY**

Brandy Patch  
Vice President  
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)  
128 Turners Falls Rd.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Proposed Changes to Group Health Insurance Plans

Dear Brandy:

In accordance with 801 CMR 52.02(1), this letter shall serve as notice that the Selectboard, the appropriate public authority for the Town of Montague, shall vote on March 9, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. whether to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under G.L. c. 32B, §§21-22.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Walter Ramsey  
Town Administrator

cc: Secretary of Administration and Finance ([MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:MunicipalHealth@dor.state.ma.us))  
Selectboard



# Summary of Health Insurance Evaluation and FY27 Recommendations

## Vendor Selection and Network Stability

**Remaining with BCBS** ensures cost competitiveness, quality service, and network continuity, enhancing employee satisfaction and financial stability.

## Pharmacy Benefit Strategy

**Transitioning pharmacy benefits to Employers Health (CVS coalition)** is expected to save \$3.4 million through better contracts and rebate structures amid rising drug costs.

## Plan Design and Cost Management

**Introducing modest deductibles and copayments** aligns with municipal benchmarks, preserving affordability while supporting sustainability and competitiveness. Proposed deductible reduced from \$500/\$1,000 to \$250/\$500 based on feedback and marketing results.

## Financial Stability and FY27 Rate Adjustments

**Recommend 12.48% rate increase with modest benefit design changes** for FY27, which reflects medical trends and actuarial analysis to maintain long-term financial stability for HCGIT. Rate adjustments aim to build the Trust's reserves, providing protection against unexpected claims activity and facilitating the recovery of financial losses from FY26.



**Montague Police  
Department  
180 Turnpike Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376**

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

**Chief Jason D. Haskins**



Dear Felix Morales,

On behalf of the Montague Police Department, I am pleased to extend to you a **conditional offer of employment** for the position of **Full-Time Police Officer**.

This offer allows for employment to **commence prior to the completion of all pre-employment requirements**. Continued employment is expressly **conditional upon the successful completion** of all remaining requirements, including but not limited to:

- A comprehensive background investigation
- Medical examination and psychological evaluation
- Drug screening
- Physical ability testing, if applicable
- Verification of credentials and certifications
- Any additional requirements mandated by Massachusetts law, the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), or departmental policy

Your anticipated start date is **Sunday, March 15, 2026**. You will be starting at the **Patrol** grade, step **6** with a starting wage of **\$30.84** per hour. As a certified police officer, you will receive a sign-on bonus in the amount of \$10,000. It will be dispersed in the following manner: \$2,500 at the completion of the Field Training Evaluation Program, \$2,500 upon reaching six-months and the final \$5,000 upon reaching one-year. During this conditional period, you will serve at the discretion of the Montague Police Department. **Failure to successfully complete any portion of the pre-employment process may result in immediate dismissal.**

This conditional offer does not constitute a contract of employment, nor does it guarantee continued employment or appointment as a permanent Police Officer.

If you wish to accept this conditional offer, please sign and return a copy of this letter by 3/03/26. Should you have any questions regarding this offer or the conditions outlined above, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,  
Jason Haskins  
Chief of Police  
Montague Police Department

Accepted by: Felix Morales

Applicant Signature: [Signature]

Date: 3/3/26

**Town of Montague  
Personnel Status Change Notice  
New Hires**

Employee #2178

Board Authorizing **Appointment:** Selectboard Meeting Date: 3/9/2026

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Authorizing **Wages:** Selectboard Meeting Date: 3/9/2026

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Information:**

Full name of employee: FELIX MORALES Dept: POLICE

Title: PATROL OFFICER Effective date of hire: 3/15/2026

**New Hire:**

Permanent: X Y N If temporary, estimated length of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours per Week: 37.69 Union: NEPBA Local 183

**Wages:**

Union: NEPBA Local 183

Wages: Grade P Step 6 Wage Rate: \$30.84 (Hourly)

Notes: \$10,000 sign-on bonus included. To be paid out per contract.

**Copies to:**

_____ Employee	_____ Department	_____ Selectboard
_____ Accountant	_____ Retirement Board	_____ Town Clerk
_____ Treasurer		

Name: MORALES, FELIX

**MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL**

NAME: FELIX MORALES

DATE: 3/9/2026

COMMITTEE: POLICE DEPARTMENT - PATROL OFFICER

TERM: N/A

TERM EXPIRATION: N/A

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE TERM STARTS: 03/15/26

Matthew Lord

Richard Kuklewicz

Marina Goldman

MORALES, FELIX personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the POLICE DEPARTMENT - PATROL OFFICER according to the foregoing appointment.

Received \_\_\_\_\_ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

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

APPOINTED OFFICIAL

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



# Montague Police Department

180 Turnpike Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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



## CELL PHONE STIPEND AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Application Date: <u>2-22-26</u>	
Employee Name: <u>Joshua Lemay</u>	Department: <b>Montague Police</b>
Please estimate work time percentage spent "out of office" weekly/monthly. <u>50</u> % (weekly) <u>50</u> % (monthly)	
<p>Prioritize those situations which are critical to your being reached while out of the office. It will be expected that cell phones are <u>on</u> while away from your office.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chief of Police <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p>	
Do you currently use a cell phone for work purposes? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, estimate how many minutes per month? _____	
Reserved for use by Board of Selectmen:	
Approved by Selectmen: <input type="checkbox"/>	Effective Date: _____
Disapproved by Selectmen: <input type="checkbox"/>	Voted: _____

Current Rate: \$5.77 a week

# Jakob Bliven



## Professional Summary

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- CDL A
- 2A Hoist
- OSHA 10

## Work Experience

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### **Highway Laborer**

City of Greenfield-Greenfield, MA  
November 2023 to August 2024

- Highway Laborer
- 2A excavator
- Osha 10
- CDL A

### **Warehouse Production Worker**

Apotho Therapeutics-Athol, MA  
January 2023 to October 2023

- Trim & Package department

### **Warehouse Production Worker**

253 Farmacy-Turners Falls, MA  
September 2021 to December 2022

- Trim & Package department

### **Environmental Services**

Baystate Franklin Health-Greenfield, MA  
January 2021 to August 2021

- Environmental Services in Healthcare
- Cleaning & Disinfecting
- Infection Control
- Maintaining a safe environment

### **Warehouse Production Worker**

Heritage Hemp, LLC-Northampton, MA  
May 2020 to December 2020

- Trim & Package department

### **Tire Technician**

Tire Warehouse-Greenfield, MA

January 2014 to April 2020

- Tire & Rim replacements
- Tire Mounting & Rotating
- Customer service
- On call repair & pickup and deliveries
- Road side assistance

### **Laborer**

Leader Home Center-Greenfield, MA

August 2012 to December 2014

- Operator of a fork lift
- Load & unload trucks
- Stock shelves & movement of overstock supplies
- Customer service

## Education

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### **Commercial Driving (CDL School)**

United Tractor Trailer-Holyoke, MA

March 2024 to August 2024

### **Carpentry & Construction (Vocational School)**

Shriver Job Corp-Devons, MA

March 2015 to March 2016

### **High school diploma**

Mohawk Regional High School-Shelburne Falls, MA

January 2008 to December 2012

### **Upper secondary education**

## Skills

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- Heavy equipment operation
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Driving
- Traffic laws
- Dump truck
- Implementation of OSHA safety standards
- Drug and alcohol testing regulations
- Excavation equipment operator experience
- Tree removal

- Maintenance
- Commercial driving
- Machine operation
- Packaging assembly
- Outdoor work
- Passenger vehicle
- Packing
- Proper waste disposal
- Driver safety training
- Performing regular vehicle safety checks
- General construction laborer experience
- Hand tools
- Excavation equipment driver experience
- Snow plowing
- Attention to detail
- Power tools
- Skid steer loader
- Tree care
- Manual transmission

## Certifications and Licenses

---

### **OSHA 10**

- OSHA 10

### **CDL A**

- Class AM (No Restrictions)

### **2A Hoisting License**

- 2A Hoisting

### **DOT Physical Certification**

### **Driver's License**

### **CDL B**

### **CDL**

### **Air Brake Endorsement**

### **Hoisting License**



**Town of Montague • Massachusetts**

**Clean Water Facility**

34 Greenfield Rd  
Montague, MA 01351  
TEL. (413) 773-8865

March 3, 2026

Jakob Bliven  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Dear Jakob,

We are pleased to offer you the position of Laborer/Operator with the Town of Montague Clean Water Facility (CWF.)

Your new position of CWF Laborer/Operator will be classified at Grade H, Step 2, with an hourly rate of \$22.66, and will be governed by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) collective bargaining agreement.

This position is located at the Clean Water Facility and is scheduled for 40 hours per week, with a schedule established in accordance with the terms of the UE collective bargaining agreement.

This position is contingent upon satisfactory results of a CORI check and completion of appointment by the Montague Selectboard, acting in its role as Personnel Board for the Town.

Please indicate your acceptance of the offer by signing below and returning one copy of the letter, with your original signature, to us no later than March 6, 2026. If you have any questions about this offer, please contact Sam Stevens, Foreman, at [SamS@montague-ma.gov](mailto:SamS@montague-ma.gov), 413-773-8865 ext 428.

We look forward to having you as part of our team and believe you will find this opportunity both challenging and rewarding.

Chelsey Little, CWF Superintendent

3/03/2026

Date

**Acceptance of offer:**

Jakob Bliven

3/5/26

Date

**Town of Montague  
Personnel Status Change Notice  
New Hires**

Employee # \_\_\_\_\_

Board Authorizing **Appointment**: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Date: 3/09/2026

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Authorizing **Wages**: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Date: 3/09/2026

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Information:**

Full name of employee: <u>Jakob Bliven</u>	Department: <u>CWF</u>
Title: <u>Laborer/Operator</u>	Effective date of hire: <u>3/23/2026</u>

**New Hire:**

Permanent: <u>X</u> Y ___ N If temporary, estimated length of service: _____
Hours per Week: <u>40</u> Union: <u>UE</u>

**Wages:**

Union: <u>UE</u>
Wages: Grade <u>H</u> Step <u>2</u> Wage Rate: <u>\$22.66</u> ( <u>annual/ hourly</u> )
Notes:

**Copies to:**

_____ Employee	_____ Department	_____ Board of Selectmen
_____ Treasurer	_____ Accountant	_____ Retirement Board
_____ Town Clerk		



# Town of Montague SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING

O FY27 ATM

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

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: N/A Date Prepared: 3/4/2026

Item/Project Title: Amend Personnel By-law

**Proposed article wording:**

To see if the Town will vote to repeal and replace the personnel bylaw, or any votes related thereto.

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

This article repeals the Town’s existing Personnel By-Law and replaces it with updated language establishing the framework for the Town’s personnel administration system under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 108C. The revised bylaw confirms that the Selectboard will serve as the Town’s Personnel Board and will oversee the administration of the Town’s personnel system, including employee appointments and removals where applicable, development of hiring and performance standards, and annual review of compensation and benefits. The bylaw also clarifies that collective bargaining agreements and employment contracts will prevail where their terms conflict with personnel policies adopted under the bylaw.

The article further authorizes the Selectboard to adopt comprehensive personnel policies governing the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of Town employees. These policies will establish key elements of the Town’s personnel system, including recruitment and selection procedures, classification and compensation plans, personnel recordkeeping, and other administrative practices necessary for effective personnel management. Approval of this article will allow the Selectboard to implement and maintain an updated personnel policy manual without requiring future bylaw amendments for routine policy updates.

This marks a significant step in modernizing the town’s human resource functions. Town of Montague has about 87 full time employees.



# PERSONNEL BY-LAW

[Updated \_\_\_\_\_, 2026]

## 1. Authority

This chapter is enacted in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §108C.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish fair and equitable personnel policies and a system of personnel administration based on merit principles that ensures uniform, efficient application of those policies.

## 3. Application

All employees of the Town, excluding elected officials and employees of the School Committee, shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter and any personnel policies adopted pursuant thereto. To the extent that the terms of any collective bargaining agreement or employment agreement conflict with any provision of this chapter or personnel policies adopted pursuant thereto, the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement or employment agreement shall prevail.

## 4. Personnel Administration

The Selectboard shall serve as the Town's Personnel Board and shall have responsibility for the administration of the personnel system and development of a human resources system which meets the needs of the Town. In this capacity, the Personnel Board shall have the authority to carry out the following functions, including, but not limited to:

- Appointment and removal of employees (excluding employees who by statute appointed by a board or commission other than the Selectboard)
- Annual review of compensation and benefits
- Development of methods and standards for selection and appointment of personnel
- Development and administration of performance standards
- Supervision of performance appraisals
- Other functions as circumstances necessitate

## 5. Personnel System

The personnel policies adopted pursuant to this Chapter shall establish a personnel system which shall include, but need not be limited to, the following elements:

- Method of administration: a system which assigns responsibility for the personnel system, including maintenance of personnel records, implementation of effective recruitment and selection processes, maintenance of the classification and compensation plans, oversight of the application of policies, and periodic review and evaluation of the personnel system
- Classification and compensation plan(s), as deemed appropriate;
- Recruitment and selection policies
- Central record keeping system
- Rights and obligations of employees
- Other elements of a personnel system as deemed appropriate and necessary

## **6. Adoption of Policies**

The Personnel Board shall be empowered and authorized by this chapter to adopt comprehensive personnel policies that establish the rights, benefits and obligations of employees subject to this chapter.

## **7. Severability**

The provisions of this chapter and the policies adopted pursuant thereto are severable. In the event any provision of this chapter or any policy adopted pursuant thereto is held invalid, the remaining provisions of the chapter or policy shall remain in full force and effect.

## **8. Effective Date**

This chapter shall take effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.



**Town of Montague**  
**SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING**

O FY27 ATM

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

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: N/A Date Prepared: 3/4/2026

Item/Project Title: Authorize Community Electricity Aggregation Program

**Proposed article wording:**

To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164, Section 134, and further to authorize the Selectboard, or its designee, to research, develop, and participate in a contract or contracts to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and business in the Town, independently or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt out of the aggregation, or take any action in relation thereto.

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

This article authorizes the Town to begin the process of establishing a Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164, Section 134. Through aggregation, the Town may combine the electricity demand of residents and businesses to procure electricity supply competitively on their behalf, potentially providing more stable pricing and additional renewable energy options. CEA is widely adopted in Massachusetts; reportedly 245 of 301 eligible municipalities have implemented a program. Eversource would continue to deliver electricity, maintain infrastructure, respond to outages, and issue bills; only the electricity supply portion of the bill could change. Participation in the program would be automatic, but all residents and businesses would retain the right to opt out at any time and remain on the utility’s Basic Service or choose another supplier. Approval of this article authorizes the Selectboard to research and develop the program and, if appropriate, enter into supply contracts independently or in partnership with other municipalities.

[Empty box]

Enter response

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

No
\$ + / -
\$

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

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

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

[Empty box]

Relative Priority

Overall priority of this item or project to the Town

- Critical
- High
- Moderate
- Low

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

Comments on relative priority:

[Empty box]



Final recommendation of Board of Selectmen:       Support       Not Support

Comments on Recommendation:

[Empty box]





# Town of Montague SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING

O FY27 ATM

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

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: N/A Date Prepared: 3/4/2026

Item/Project Title: Conversion of On-Premises Wine and Malt Only Licenses to All Alcoholic Beverages Licenses

**Proposed article wording:**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.138, §12D, which, if accepted, would allow the Selectboard as the local licensing authority of the Town, to approve a request from a licensee to convert an existing license to sell wines and malt beverages only for on-premises consumption to a license to sell all alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, subject to all other provisions of G.L. c.138, including notice, publication, and certified mailing of, and a public hearing on, such conversion, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

Recent legislation (M.G.L. c.138, §12D) gives towns the option to allow holders of *On-Premises Wine and Malt Only Licenses* to upgrade to *All-Alcoholic Beverages Licenses*. This change streamlines local licensing by removing the need for special approval from the state legislature and allows upgrades regardless of the usual license quota system. In Montague, this change would enable three existing businesses to expand their offerings. It would also make the community more attractive for new restaurants and entertainment venues. By adopting this article, the Town would reduce barriers for local businesses and support more diverse dining and entertainment options in Montague.

*Enter response*

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

No

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\$ + / -

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

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

\$

**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

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

Comments on relative priority:



Final recommendation of Board of Selectmen:

Support

Not Support

Comments on Recommendation:



**Town of Montague**  
**SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING**

O FY27 ATM

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**Please complete this form in its entirety!***

Department:	Selectboard	Submitted by:	Assistant Town Administrator
Item/Project Cost:	N/A	Date Prepared:	3/5/2026
Item/Project Title:	North Leverett Road Bridge Right-of-Way Authorization		

## Proposed article wording:

To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain, on such terms as the Selectboard deems appropriate, the land and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under, over, across and along certain parcels of land located on or near the North Leverett Road Bridge over Sawmill River and approximately shown on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of North Leverett Road Over the Sawmill River (Bridge No. M-28-034) in the Town of Montague Franklin County," prepared by TransSystems, on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended from time to time and/or incorporated into an easement plan, and land within 200 feet of said parcels, for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining ways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, construction, landscaping, and other structures and/or appurtenances, to enable the Town to undertake the Bridge Reconstruction Project and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto; (b) transfer the care, custody, and control of the portions of the Town-owned properties shown on the aforesaid plans from the board or officer having custody of the same for the purposes for which such properties are currently held to the Selectboard for the foregoing purposes and further to dedicate said portions of the Town-owned properties to said bridge and public way purposes, and, if applicable, authorize the Selectboard to submit petitions to the General Court to permit the foregoing under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution or otherwise; (c) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money to fund the foregoing project and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of any land/easement acquisitions, appraisals, and surveys; (d) and, further, authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this article, 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 the background information. Use attachments as needed.)*

This article allows the Selectboard to proceed with acquisitions of easements that are necessary for the replacement of the bridge carrying North Leverett Road over the Sawmill River in Montague. This MassDOT project includes full bridge replacement including new abutments. In addition, the project includes roadway







## Town of Montague

**SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING**

O FY27 ATM

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Please complete this form in its entirety!*

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Assistant Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: N/A Date Prepared: 3/5/2026

Item/Project Title: Industrial Blvd Right-of-Way Authorization

## Proposed article wording:

To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain, on such terms as the Selectboard deems appropriate, the land and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under, over, across and along certain parcels of land located on or near the intersection of Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road, and approximately shown on plans entitled “Town of Montague ROW Plans FRTA-Industrial Blvd/Millers Falls Rd Bus Stop Improvements,” prepared by Fuss & O’Neill, on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended from time to time and/or incorporated into an easement plan, and land within 200 feet of said parcels, for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bus stop, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining ways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, construction, landscaping, and other structures and/or appurtenances, to enable the Town to undertake the Industrial Boulevard/Millers Falls Road Bus Stop Project and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto; (b) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money to fund the foregoing project and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of any land/easement acquisitions, appraisals, and surveys; (c) and, further, authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this article, 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 the background information. Use attachments as needed.)*

This article allows the Selectboard to move forward with the acquisition of easements necessary for the proposed safety improvements at the intersection of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard, with assistance from a Shared Streets and Spaces grant received by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA).

Enter response

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

No
\$ + / -
\$

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

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

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

This project is expected to result in considerable safety improvements to what is currently a hazardous area for pedestrians and transit users. FRTA's Shared Streets and Spaces funding must be expended this year.

Relative Priority

Overall priority of this item or project to the Town

- Critical
- High
- Moderate
- Low

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

Comments on relative priority:



Final recommendation of Board of Selectmen:       Support       Not Support

Comments on Recommendation:





Town of Montague  
SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING

O FY27 ATM

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

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Assistant Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: N/A Date Prepared: 3/4/2026

Item/Project Title: Library Project Bonding Authority

Proposed article wording:

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend Massachusetts Public Library Construction grant funds and to assess an additional sum in real estate and personal property taxes, for a total not to exceed \$23,704,053, for the purposes of planning, designing, permitting, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new main library to be located at 38 Avenue A in Tumers Falls.

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

This article is considering whether to provide funding for completing the design and construction of a new Main Branch for the Montague Public Libraries. The new facility would be located at the former Cumberland Farms location at 38 Avenue A. It has been determined to be the most cost-effective option that offers the features which the Library Building Steering Committee and Board of Library Trustees believe are essential to the immediate and long-term needs of the Montague Public Libraries.

This facility would replace the aging Carnegie Library at 201 Avenue A. The current facility is significantly antiquated relative to building code and meeting the community’s needs, and has serious shortfalls from the lens of accessibility. It is also not suitable for renovation or expansion due to building and lot constraints. The current building would ultimately be sold for redevelopment after the new facility is built, and any new development would be subject to preservation requirements of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The project is currently budgeted at \$23,704,053. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners voted on March 4, 2026, to award \$11,206,589 to the project, with the remaining \$12,497,465 to be raised locally. These costs include substantial allotments for contingencies. The assumed term of bonding would be \_\_\_ years at \_\_\_% interest. Voting the present figure does not require the Town to spend the full sum, but does cap what can be spent.

The current plans available are schematic renderings that are expected to be finalized by the hired design team as part of the building project. Several choices remain that could potentially reduce costs or add functionality,



## Town of Montague

### SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – NO FUNDING

O FY27 ATM

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Please complete this form in its entirety!*

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Assistant Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: N/A Date Prepared: 3/5/2026

Item/Project Title: Acquire Ownership of Second Street Public Parking Lot from EDIC

#### Proposed article wording:

To see if the town will vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, or the current owner, the real property located at Second Street, Turners Falls, Montague, and shown as Assessor's Map 04-0-0280, and being Lot F on a plan entitled "Turners Falls Heritage Park in Montague, Massachusetts Surveyed for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Management," dated July 14, 1989, recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 75, Page 48, described in an Order of Taking recorded with said Registry in Book 2474, Page 334, for general municipal purposes, including but not limited to, library purposes, on such terms and conditions as the Selectboard shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary for said acquisition, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

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

The property containing the Second Street public parking lot is currently owned by the Montague Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC), a quasi-Town entity. The site, which provides parking for downtown and the Great Falls Discovery Center, has been owned by EDIC since the 1990s. EDIC has made several attempts to attract private developers to the site, including most recently in 2016 and 2019. However, none of these attempts have been successful, due to a variety of economic circumstances.

In more recent years, the Montague Public Libraries began considering the neighboring property at 38 Avenue A as a possible location for a new main branch, and this was identified as one of two locations to be studied in Montague's ongoing participation in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner's Public Library Construction Program. In August 2025, the Library Building Steering Committee and Library Trustees voted unanimously to move forward with this site as the location for a new library, contingent upon the acquisition of state grant funds for construction and approval by Montague voters via a debt exclusion question anticipated for Spring 2026. In October 2025, Town Meeting voters authorized the acquisition of the parcel at 38 Avenue A from EDIC, however the transaction has not yet taken place due to the pending nature of the Library project.

During the library project's schematic design phase, it became apparent that the property at 38 Avenue A did not contain sufficient space to meet the proposed facility's stormwater drainage needs on its own, and would

require underground infrastructure to be installed under the Second Street Parking lot. This installation will require the current parking lot to be excavated and re-paved, but should not impact its long-term viability to continue serving the parking needs of downtown, the Discovery Center, and the new Library. EDIC voted on \_\_\_\_\_ to authorize the transfer of this parcel to the Town, contingent upon the Library project moving forward.

*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

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

Comments on relative priority:

Final recommendation of Board of Selectmen:                       Support                       Not Support

Comments on Recommendation:

[Empty rectangular box for comments]