ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 2, 2026

MOTIONS

ARTICLE 1. Annual Reports (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 2. Wages for Elected Officials (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials

TITLE	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 REQUEST	FY27 RECOMMEND
MODERATOR	500	500	500
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,640	2,640	2,640
Second/Third Members	2,400	2,400	2,400
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,980	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,800	1,800	1,800
BOARD OF HEALTH			
Chairman	1,980	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,800	1,800	1,800

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 3. Wages for Appointed Officials (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials

TITLE	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 REQUEST	FY27 RECOMMEND
ANNUAL STIPENDS			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	625	625	625
BOARD OF REGISTRARS TOWN CLERK	900	900	900
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	6,444	6,444	6,444
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,764	1,764	1,764
BARN INSPECTOR	1,400	1,400	1,400
IT COORDINATOR	2,352	2,352	2,352
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	6,000	6,000	6,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882
TREE WARDEN	1,764	1,764	1,764
HEARING OFFICER	2,500	2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	3,750	3,750	3,750
FARMERS MARKET ASST MANAGER	750	750	750
SEXTON STIPEND	4,032	4,032	4,032
RATES PER INSPECTION			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
GAS INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
HOURLY RATES	**Ranges/hr.**	**Ranges/hr.**	**Ranges/hr.**
EXTRA CLERICAL	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
ELECTION WORKERS	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75
SUMMER HIGHWAY	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
SNOWPLOW DRIVERS	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	29.00-37.00	29.00-37.00	29.00-37.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00
PARKS & RECREATION	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25
AIRPORT INTERN	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75

SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials

TITLE	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 REQUEST	FY27 RECOMMEND
SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS			
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS			
SECOND SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT	1.25	1.25	1.25
PART TIME DISPATCHERS			
SECOND SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT	1.25	1.25	1.25
PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES	1.00	1.00	1.00

SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	Grade	Range FY2026		Range FY2027	
SALARIED		Start	End	Start	End
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	A	98,027	127,920	100,477	131,118
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	C	76,616	99,938	78,531	102,880
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	C	71,508	93,275	73,298	95,607
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	C	71,508	93,275	73,298	95,607
TOWN CLERK	C	71,508	93,275	73,298	95,607
CHIEF OF POLICE	A	104,562	136,448	107,176	139,859
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	B	89,877	117,270	92,124	120,202
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	C	71,508	93,275	73,298	95,607
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	C	71,508	93,275	73,298	95,607
CWF SUPERINTENDENT	B	89,877	117,270	92,124	120,202
HOURLY					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	28.28	36.90	28.99	37.82
POLICE LIEUTENANT	C	39.29	51.25	40.27	52.53
POLICE CUSTODIAN	I	18.07	23.58	18.52	24.17

Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2027 budgeted wages –

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.....120,507
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN.....102,880
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH.....80,498
TAX COLLECTOR/TREAS.....90,597
TOWN CLERK.....80,498
CHIEF OF POLICE* 165,448
POLICE CUSTODIAN.....24.17
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT 35.65
DPW SUPERINTENDENT 107,280
CWF SUPERINTENDENT..... 113,733
TOWN ACCOUNTANT.....90,597
LIBRARY DIRECTOR.....90,473
POLICE LIEUTENANT.....52.53

*includes additional 25% educational incentive pay

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 4. Town Operating Budget (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $13,815,938 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary charges, with said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY26	REQUEST FY27	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY27
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113	TOWN MEETING	3,180	3,180	3,180
122	SELECTBOARD	324,662	343,147	343,147
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	600	575	575
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	49,000	49,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	101,374	98,297	98,297
141	ASSESSORS	180,122	185,805	185,805
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	208,335	205,816	205,816
151	TOWN COUNSEL	82,475	67,475	67,475
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	103,352	110,279	110,279
159	SHARED COSTS	104,930	107,180	107,180
161	TOWN CLERK	219,144	248,690	248,690
175	PLANNING	142,394	152,701	152,701
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	686	686
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	145,000	146,300	146,300
197	FARMERS MARKET	5,700	5,950	5,950
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,671,968	1,725,081	1,725,081
	PUBLIC SAFETY			
211	POLICE	2,069,965	2,315,855	2,308,855
211	POLICE CRUISER	-	-	-
212	DISPATCH	410,868	448,858	448,858
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	149,926	162,498	162,498
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,944	6,944	6,944
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	24,185	24,817	24,817
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY26	REQUEST FY27	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY27
299	TREE WARDEN	30,474	29,774	29,774
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,701,426	2,997,810	2,990,810
	PUBLIC WORKS			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,810,284	1,875,942	1,875,942
420	EQUIPMENT LEASE PAYMENT	-	-	-
423	SNOW & ICE	324,750	324,750	324,750
433	SOLID WASTE	835,300	873,737	873,737
480	CHARGING STATIONS	3,000	6,500	6,500
491	CEMETERIES	32,150	32,150	32,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	3,005,484	3,113,079	3,113,079
	HUMAN SERVICES			
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	172,144	175,954	175,954
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	77,207	81,085	81,085
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	101,000	81,000	81,000
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	350,351	338,039	338,039
	CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	LIBRARIES	521,033	542,084	542,084
630	PARKS & RECREATION	169,326	179,107	179,107
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,600	1,600	1,600
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	692,459	723,291	723,291
	DEBT SERVICE			
700	DEBT SERVICE	1,160,025	1,175,422	1,175,422
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL			
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	119,041	126,678	126,678
	MISCELLANEOUS			
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,177,301	3,502,336	3,502,336
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	121,202	121,202
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	3,296,901	3,623,538	3,623,538
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	12,997,655	13,822,938	13,815,938

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 5. Clean Water Facility Budget (Sewer Commissioners Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $3,306,973 for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, CWF Budget, with $268,497 to be raised from Taxation and $3,038,476 to be raised from Sewer Revenue.

Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget

	BUDGET FY26	REQUEST FY27	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY27
CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
Wages & Expenses	2,209,442	2,218,829	2,218,829
Capital Outlay	58,500	-	-
Debt Service	485,028	514,159	514,159
Employee Benefits	383,183	488,835	488,835
SUBTOTAL CWF	3,136,153	3,221,823	3,221,823
DPW SUBSIDIARY			
Wages & Expenses	85,150	85,150	85,150
Capital Outlay	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	85,150	85,150	85,150
TOTAL CWF	3,221,303	3,306,973	3,306,973

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 6. Airport Budget (Airport Commission Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $452,272 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, with $18,805 to be raised from Town Sale of Real Estate, $103,167 to be raised from Taxation, and $330,300 to be raised from Airport Revenue.

Schedule V
Airport Budget

	BUDGET FY26	REQUEST FY27	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY27
AIRPORT			
Wages & Expenses	271,625	288,504	288,504
Capital Outlay/Local Share	-	-	-
Debt Service	99,935	101,015	101,015
Employee Benefits	54,172	62,753	62,753
TOTAL AIRPORT	425,732	452,272	452,272

PASSED/ UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7. Colle Budget (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $52,250 for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 8. FCTS Assessment (Franklin County Technical School Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $1,131,215 for the purpose of paying the Franklin County Technical School District for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Franklin County Technical School, with $231,907 to be raised from the Franklin County Technical School Stabilization Fund and $899,308 to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 9. GMRSD Assessment (Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $13,120,375 for the purpose of paying the Gill-Montague Regional School District for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Gill-Montague Regional Schools, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 10. GMRSD Afterschool and Instructional Materials (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $163,717.50 for the purpose of funding the Sheffield afterschool program, and purchase instructional materials for Turners Falls High School, Great Falls Middle School, Hillcrest Elementary School, and Sheffield Elementary School, with$12,424 to be raised from the unexpended balance of Article #21E of the May 22, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, $24,393.50 to be raised from the unexpended balance of Article #9 of the October 16, 2021 Special Town Meeting, $86,900 to be raised from the unexpended balance of Article #23 of the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, and $40,000 to be raised from the unexpended balance of Article #24 of the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

1. Purchase instructional materials and equipment at Sheffield and Hillcrest Elementary Schools ($13,717.50)
2. Purchase textbooks and instruction materials for Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School ($80,000)
3. Fund the Sheffield Elementary School After-School Program in FY27 ($70,000)

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 11. Park Improvements (Parks and Recreation Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $12,634 for the purpose of funding the following Recreation Department projects, including any and all incidental and related costs, with $5,500 to be raised from the unexpended Article #4 of the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting and $7,134 to be raised from the unexpended Article #8 of the October 10, 2023 Special Town Meeting.

1. $5,500 for preventative maintenance at Unity Skatepark.
2. $7,134 for Montague Center Park improvements

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 12. Police equipment and capital purchases (Police Department Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $211,300 for the purpose of the following Police Department equipment and repair requests, and any and all incidental and related costs, with $19,060 to be raised from the unexpended portion of Article #15 of the June 13, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, $13,100 to be raised from the unexpended portion of Article #28 of the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, and $179,140 to be raised from Free Cash.

1. $13,200 for a new evidence refrigerator, replacement radio batteries, and a battery reconditioner
2. $161,000 for the purchase of two new police cruisers.
3. $37,100 for the repairs of the HVAC controls at the Police Station.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 13. Five Year Taser Agreement (Police Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year agreement, for the purchase and maintenance of tasers and related equipment for use by the Police Department, subject to the Selectboard's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 14. Airport Capital Projects (Airport Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $168,500 for the following Airport projects and vehicle, including any and all incidental and related costs, with $5,000 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #25 of the May 16, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, $21,000 to be appropriated from Free Cash, and $142,500 to be appropriated from Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund.

1. $26,000 to upfit and equip a heavy-duty pickup truck
2. $142,500 as a grant match to construct a multi-use path on Industrial Boulevard and complete upgrades to the Pioneer passenger terminal.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 15. Supplement FY26 Turners Falls Municipal Airport Operating Budget (Airport Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $8,144 for the purpose of increasing FY26 Turners Falls Municipal Airport operating budget, including any and all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from Airport Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 16. Clean Water Facility Capital Purchases and Projects (Clean Water Facility Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $233,705.08 for the purpose of the following Clean Water Facility equipment and project requests, and any and all incidental and related costs, with $3,030.48 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #14 of the May 7, 2025 Annual Town Meeting and $230,674.60 to be appropriated from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

1. $85,000 to purchase a heavy-duty work truck with plow.
2. $125,000 to complete a Wastewater Facility Planning study.
3. $23,705.08 to fund the redesign of the Main Generator project.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 17. Authorize bonding for CWF secondary treatment rehabilitation (Clean Water Facility Request)

MOVED: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $966,000 for the purpose of replacing two secondary clarifier mechanisms for the Clean Water Facility, including but not limited to engineering, bidding, and construction, as well as all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, and/or Chapter 29C, or any other lawful enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a financing agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and that the Selectboard, the Clean Water Facility Superintendent, or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project; while the entire borrowing will be issued as a general obligation of the Town payable from all sources of revenues, it is anticipated that the principal and interest due such borrowing shall be repaid in the first instance through sewer user fees; and further to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS 2/3 VOTE

ARTICLE 18. DPW Vehicle Purchases (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $330,000 for the following Department of Public Works vehicles, including all equipment and any and all incidental and related costs, with $2,615.68 to be appropriated from unexpended portion of Article #12 of the May 4, 2024 Town Meeting, $23,633.18 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #13 of the March 14, 2024 Special Town meeting, $125,308.25 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #15 of the May 4, 2024 Annual Town Meeting, $23,334.34 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #20D of the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, and $155,108.55 to be appropriated from Free Cash.

1. $35,000 to replace a compaction roller
2. $80,000 to replace a heavy-duty pickup.
3. $150,000 to purchase a large hydraulic excavator.
4. $65,000 to replace a utility tractor.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 19. DPW capital projects (Department of Public Works Request)
MOVED: That the Town will to appropriate the sum of $75,000, or any other amount, for the following Department of Public Works projects, including any and all incidental and related costs, with $2,505 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #23 of the May 7, 2026 Annual Town Meeting, $2,035 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #26 of the May 6, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, $2,450 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #26 of the May 4, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, and $68,010 to be appropriated from Free Cash.

1. $30,000 to purchase a transfer station automatic security gate.
2. $30,000 to pave other municipal rights of way.
3. $15,000 for sidewalk replacement and repairs.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 20. DPW Equipment Account (Department of Public Works Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $30,785 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 21. Carnegie Library Roof Repairs (Library Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $16,500 for the purpose of funding roof repairs for the Carnegie Public Library, including any and all incidental and related costs, with $12,950 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #25 of the May 4, 2019 Annual Town Meeting and $3,550 to be appropriated from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 22. Authorize Bonding for New Library Building Project (Library Request)
MOVED: That the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $23,704,053 for the purposes of assessment, planning, feasibility and/or design, permitting, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new main library to be located at 38 Avenue A in Turners Falls, and for all other costs incidental or related thereto; and, in order to fund said appropriation, authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow said funds pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor; to authorize the Town to apply for any grants, incentives, or loans available for the project, and accept and expend the grant from the

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, and, further, that the amount of the authorized borrowing under this vote shall be reduced by any grants, incentives, unrestricted grants or gifts received by the Town from any source on account of this project, which is received, prior to the issuance of bonds or notes under this vote; provided however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town at an election to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed under G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

PASSED /DECLARED 2/3 MAJORITY
81 – AYE, 3 – NAY

ARTICLE 23. Authorize real estate transactions for Library project (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town will vote to

A. 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 Parcel 1 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, being a portion of the property described in an Order of Taking recorded with said Registry in Book 2366, Page 337, for library purposes and other purposes incidental thereto, 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; and
B. Convey to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Department of Conservation and Recreation, an easement for parking, placement of a dumpster and related purposes, upon Parcel 1, as described above, and upon the "Alley" located northeasterly of Parcel 1, as shown on the aforementioned plan, 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 to convey said easement.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 24. Shea Theater improvements (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $100,000 for the purpose of implementing accessibility and theatrical upgrades to the Shea Theater, including any and all incidental and related costs, with $19,000 to be appropriated from the unexpended portion of Article #15 of the May 4, 2019 Annual Town Meeting and $81,000 to be appropriated from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 25. Colle Building Tile and HVAC Repairs (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote appropriate the sum of $25,000 for the purpose of Colle building tile and HVAC repairs, including any and all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from the Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 26. Transfers to Reserves (Finance Committee Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the following sums for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, said sums to be raised from Taxation and Free Cash.

Fund	Amount ($)	Funding Source
Franklin County Technical Stabilization	$50,000	Free Cash, $50,000
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	$100,000	Free Cash, $100,000
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	$89,489	Taxation, $39,489 Free Cash, $50,000
OPEB Trust Fund	$100,000	Taxation, $50,000 Free Cash, $50,000
Total:	**$339,489**	**$339,489**

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 27. Postage Machine 5-year Lease Agreement (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement for a postage machine in FY2027, subject to the Selectboard's determination that the contract is in the best interest of the Town, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 28. Accessory Dwelling Units Zoning Bylaw (Planning Board Request)
MOVED: That the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 5.4 - Accessory Uses by inserting the text shown as underlined and deleting text shown as ~~struckthrough~~, by deleting Section 8.5 - Accessory Apartments and replacing it with an entirely new Section 8.5 – Accessory Dwelling Unit, and by amending Section 9.1.2(e) by deleting text shown as ~~struckthrough~~, all as shown below, or take any action relative thereto.

SECTION 5. DISTRICT REGULATION

5.4 Accessory Uses

Any use which is, in Franklin County, customarily accessory and incidental to a permitted Principal Use shall be permitted on the same lot with said Principal Use, or on a lot adjacent thereto in the same ownership, and with the exception of Protected Use Accessory Dwelling

Units, all accessory uses are subject to the general limitation that it shall not be detrimental to the neighborhood or the property in the vicinity, and subject further to the following provision: wherever a Principal Use is allowed by Special Permit then Accessory Uses to the Principal Use shall be subject to a Special Permit, unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, and with the exception of Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Units. The following accessory uses have specific requirements in Section 8
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:

- *Trailers, Mobile Homes, and Campers, §8.1*
- *Home Occupations, §8.3*
- *Boarding of Animals, §8.4*
- *~~Accessory Apartments~~ Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), §8.5*
- *Solar Energy Installations, §8.9*

SECTION 8.5 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT

8.5.1 Purpose

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) allow the Town of Montague to expand and diversify its housing supply by making efficient use of resources without requiring the creation of new lots. ADUs are intended to meet the changing housing needs of the community by providing smaller units in existing residential neighborhoods.

8.5.2 Applicability

The Town of Montague permits two types of Accessory Dwelling Units: a Protected Use ADU in accordance with MGL c. 40A §3 and 760 CMR 71.00, and a Local ADU. Both types of ADUs shall be permitted in any single-family residential zoning district that allows a single-family dwelling as-of-right or by Special Permit, including: AF, AF-2, AF-4, RS-1, RS-2, RB, NB, GB, HI, and SGODs Zoning Districts.

(a) A Protected Use ADU shall meet the State definition per MGL c. 40A §1A, as well as State regulations under 760 CMR 71.00. The use of land or structures for a Protected Use ADU shall be as-of-right, meeting all requirements associated with the issuance of a building permit and meeting certain requirements listed in this section of the Zoning Bylaw, provided, however, that only one ADU on a lot may qualify as a Protected Use ADU.

(b) A Local ADU shall meet the definition and specific requirements in this section of the Zoning Bylaw and shall only be allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. When a lot has a Protected Use ADU and a second Protected Use or Local ADU is proposed, the second ADU shall be permitted by a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

(c) Either ADU type may be completely contained within the Principal Dwelling, attached to a Principal Dwelling, detached as a separate building or within a detached structure (e.g. above an existing detached garage). Any ADU may be within an existing building or new construction.

8.5.2 Definitions

For the purposes of this section of the Zoning Bylaw, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) **Local Accessory Dwelling Unit (Local ADU):** A Local ADU that is not a Protected Use ADU and shall be a self-contained residential dwelling unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking, and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a Principal Dwelling that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is not larger than a Gross Floor Area of 1,200 square feet; and (iii) is subject to such additional requirements found in this section of the Zoning Bylaw.

(b) **Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit (Protected Use ADU)**: Pursuant to MGL c. 40A §1A, and its associated state regulations under 76 CMR 71.00, a Protected Use ADU is a self-contained residential dwelling unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking, and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a Principal Dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is not larger than a gross floor area of 900 square feet, provided that only one ADU on a Lot may qualify as a Protected Use ADU; and (iii) is subject to such additional requirements found in this section of the Zoning Bylaw.

(c) **Gross Floor Area (GFA).** The sum of the areas of all stories of the building of compliant ceiling height pursuant to the Building Code, including basements, lofts, and intermediate floored tiers, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating buildings or dwelling units but excluding crawl spaces, garage parking areas, attics, enclosed porches and similar spaces. Where there are multiple Principal Dwellings on the Lot, the GFA of the largest Principal Dwelling shall be used for determining the maximum size of a Protected Use ADU.

(d) **Principal Dwelling.** A structure, regardless of whether it, or the Lot it is situated on, conforms to Zoning, including use requirements and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, bulk, and height, that contains at least one Dwelling Unit and is, or will be, located on the same Lot as a Protected Use ADU.

(e) **Transit Station**. A Subway Station, Commuter Rail Station, Ferry Terminal, or Bus Station.

(f) **Bus Station**. A location serving as a point of embarkation for any bus operated by a Transit Authority.

8.5.3 General Requirements for Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Units and Local Accessory Dwelling Units

(a) All ADUs shall be located on the same lot as the Principal Dwelling.

(b) There shall be no more than one Local ADU and one Protected Use ADU permitted on the same lot as the Principal Dwelling.

(c) All ADUs are exempt from the additional lot area/dwelling requirements of Section 5.5.1 of the Zoning Bylaw.

(d) All ADUs shall meet the dimensional requirements for accessory structures under Section 5.5.2 of the Zoning Bylaw.

(e) No additional or separate driveway curb cut to serve any ADU shall be permitted unless approved by the Department of Public Works.

(f) All exterior lighting shall be designed and installed so as to be shielded, downcast, and dark sky compliant to avoid light trespass onto adjacent properties.

(g) On-site storage and management of waste and recycling shall be located on the interior of the dwelling, within an attached garage or other accessory outbuilding, or screened appropriately from public view.

(h) To the extent feasible, a newly constructed detached ADU shall be located behind the front building line of the Principal Dwelling closest to the street.

(i) No camper or mobile home, as defined in Section 8.1.2 of the Zoning Bylaw, may be used as a Protected Use or Local ADU, nor may either ADU be mounted on a trailer.

8.5.4 Specific Requirements for Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Units

(a) There is no minimum lot size required for a Protected Use ADU.

(b) The more permissive (i.e. least restrictive) dimensional regulations found in Section 5 of the Zoning Bylaw for a detached single-family dwelling, the Principal Dwelling or an accessory structure, shall apply to the Protected Use ADU.

(c) A minimum of one (1) parking space shall be provided for a Protected Use ADU that is further than 1/2 mile from the nearest transit station. In accordance with 760 CMR, no parking space shall be required for a Protected Use ADU located within ½ mile of a transit station.

8.5.5 Specific Requirements for Local Accessory Dwelling Units

(a) A minimum of one (1) parking space shall be provided for a Local ADU.

(b) A Local ADU shall be designed so that the appearance and scale of the structure is compatible with the Principal Dwelling.

(c) The Gross Floor Area for a Local ADU does not include the area of unfinished basement space used for storage or utilities.

SECTION 9. SITE PLAN REVIEW AND SPECIAL PERMITS

9.1. Site Plan Review

9.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Site Plan Review process is to provide detailed review of certain uses and structures which have a potential for significant impact on the character, infrastructure, and natural resources of the Town of Montague.

9.1.2 Applicability

The following activities and uses are subject to site plan review:

(a) All uses that involve the construction or expansion or change of use of over 3,000 square feet of floor area.

(b) All uses that involve the development of over 130,680 square feet (3 acres) of land.

(c) Any new structure, group of new structures, changes of use, or additions which result in an increase of 500 or more vehicle trips per day, as proposed in an applicant's business plan acceptable to the reviewing authority or estimated by a professional engineer.

(d) All uses that involve the construction or expansion of a parking area that creates ten (10) or more new parking spaces, per §7.2.6

(e) Specific Uses identified elsewhere in this bylaw:

- ~~*Accessory Apartments within existing single family homes, per §8.5*~~
- *Self-storage facilities, per §8.9*
- *Solar energy and battery energy storage facilities, per §8.9*
- *Medical Marijuana Treatment Center or Marijuana retailer, cultivation, production, research or testing, per §8.10*
- *Open Space Residential Development, per §8.11*
- *Planned Unit Development, per §8.12*

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 29. Right-of-Way Authorization for North Leverett Road Bridge Replacement

MOVED: That the town 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.

PASSED AS PRINTED,BUT STRIKING SECTION C/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 30. Right-of-Way Authorization for Intersection Safety Improvements at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard (Selectboard)

MOVED: 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 Bld/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.

PASSED AS PRINTED, BUT STRIKING SECTION B/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 31. Modernize Personnel Policy Bylaw (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to rescind its existing Consolidated Personnel Bylaw and amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding a new Article, as set forth below, entitled "Personnel", the purpose of which shall be 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, as authorized by M.G.L. c. 41 § 108C.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 32. Local Option to permit conversion of "Beer and Wine" licenses to "All-Alcohol" (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.138, §12D, to 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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 33. Initiate Community Electricity Supply Aggregation Program (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the town 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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:32 PM