SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OCTOBER 28, 2026

MOTIONS & VOTES

ARTICLE 1. Prior Year Bills (Accountant Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $1,643.02 for the purpose of paying prior year unpaid bills of the Police and Shared Services Departments, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 2. Airport FY26 Operating Deficit (Accountant Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $38,550.27 for the purpose of funding the Airport FY26 operating deficit, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 3. Airport FY27 Revenue Deficit (Accountant Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $15,000 for the purpose of funding the operations of the Airport, including the payment of wages and benefits for airport employees, maintenance of property and equipment, the purchase of supplies, debt service, and anything incidental or related thereto, with $10,000 to be used to fund the expected Fiscal Year 2027 revenue shortfall in the Airport Enterprise Fund and $5,000 to increase Airport Overtime, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 4. Grant Deficit Cleanup (Accountant Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $61,502.31 for the purpose of funding structural grant deficits for grants outlined below, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

- Airport FY23 Wildlife Management (-$5,525)
- Airport FY23 Retrofit Approach Lighting (-$714.30)
- Airport FY23 Approach Safety Equipment (-$11,418.99)
- Airport ASMP 2024-OB5-38 Airport Life Safety Systems (-$656.55)
- Airport ASMP 2021-OB5-33 Generator (-$5,013.42)
- Airport ASMP 2022-OB5-38 Beacon (-$6,858.37)
- Airport ASMP 2022-OB5-40 Building Safety (-$22,893.35)
- Selectboard Green Communities (-$8,422.33)

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 5. Cemetery Maintenance/Sexton Stipend (Cemetery Commission Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $12,032 for the purpose of purchasing goods and services related to the maintenance of the cemeteries and providing funds for the FY27 cemetery sexton stipend, with said sum to be raised from Sale of Highland Cemetery Lots.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 6. Non-Capital Equipment and projects (Police/Parks and Recreation Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $16,300 for the following departmental purchases and projects, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

A. $5,600 for the purchase of a walk-behind automatic floor scrubber
B. $7,700 for the purchase of an infield groomer
C. $3,000 for resurfacing Unity Park playground walkway and whale unit area

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 7. Consolidated Elementary School Feasibility Study (Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)
MOVED: That the Town appropriate the sum of one million seven hundred and fifty thousand ($1,750,000) Dollars for a feasibility study and schematic design for necessary improvements at the Sheffield Elementary School, 43 Crocker Avenue, and the Hillcrest Elementary School, 30 Griswold Street, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation the Town will appropriate $500,000 from Capital Stabilization and the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard is authorized to borrow $1,250,000 under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority; that the Town acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the Gill-Montague School District and the MSBA.

PASSED/DECLARED 2/3 MAJORITY
AYE - 59 NAY - 17

ARTICLE 8. Authorize Senior Tax Work Off Program (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5K, authorizing the Selectboard to establish a program whereby persons over the age of sixty may volunteer to provide services to the Town in exchange for a reduction in their real property tax obligations, beginning in Fiscal Year 2028.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 9. 34 Central Street Lease (Selectboard Request)
MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §3 and subject to the applicable requirements of G.L. c. 30B, to lease the Town-owned property and improvements known as the former Central Street School, located at 34 Central Street in Turners Falls, for a term not to exceed thirty (30) years, for educational, child development, community service, or other related purposes determined by the Selectboard to serve the public interest, upon such terms and conditions as the Selectboard determines to be in the best interests of the Town, and to execute any agreements and take any other actions necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this vote.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 PM