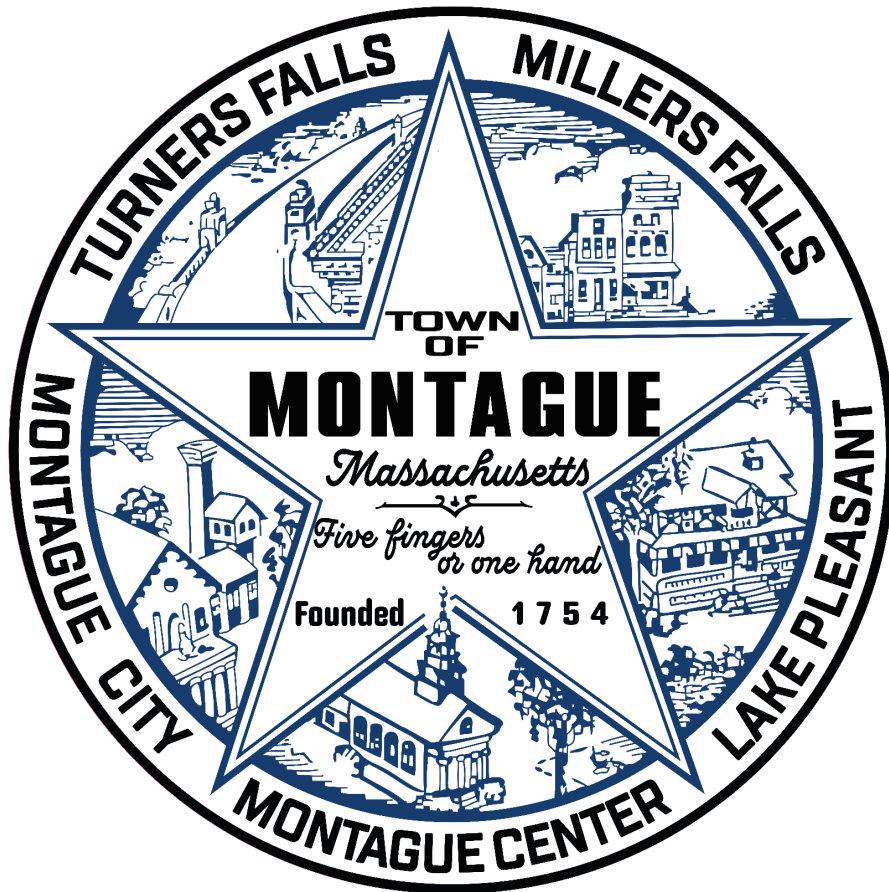


ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town of Montague

Massachusetts



For the Year Ending

December 31, 2025

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SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard is pleased to submit its annual report to the residents of the Town of Montague for calendar year 2025. The Selectboard is the Town's chief policy-making body, elected by voters to serve staggered three-year terms. It provides overall leadership and direction for Town government and is supported by a four-member staff including the Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, Executive Assistant, and Administrative Assistant. The Board oversees key municipal departments, coordinates the work of Town boards and commissions, establishes policy, implements Town Meeting votes, manages the executive budget, and oversees licenses, contracts, and other core administrative functions.

The Selectboard is an elected three-member board. Matt Lord became Chair of the Selectboard in May 2025. Marina Goldman joined the Board that same month following her election to the seat formerly held by Chris Boutwell.

The Town maintained a strong financial position in 2025, supported by substantial and diversified reserve balances and a continued AA bond rating. The Selectboard worked to balance necessary investments in personnel and infrastructure with the goal of moderating tax and sewer rate increases. Excess levy capacity remained approximately \$1.1 million below the tax levy limit, preserving financial flexibility.

The budget faced pressure from a 38% increase in employee health insurance costs and the implementation of new collective bargaining agreements. Through careful financial management and long-range planning, the Town minimized the fiscal impact of these cost increases while sustaining core services.

In 2025, the Selectboard oversaw implementation of a new wage and classification plan and the first year of new three-year agreements with the Town's four employee unions.

The Board led a significant leadership transition in the Police Department, recognizing the retirement of Chief Christopher Williams and appointing Chief Jason Haskins, who began service in December 2025.

Working collaboratively with other elected boards, the Town appointed Adam Tocci as Director of Assessing and Ashley Gough as Director of Public Health. Longtime Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz was appointed Town Clerk, and Fern Smith assumed the role of Executive Assistant in the Selectboard Office.

Throughout 2025, the Selectboard advanced several key strategic initiatives:

- Continued planning efforts for the Farren Property and the Canal District.
- Ongoing support for the long-term sustainability of the Sewer and Airport enterprise funds.
- Advancement of regionalization efforts to sustain services, including ambulance, schools, and emergency dispatch.
- Organization and centralization of Human Resources functions within the Selectboard Office.

- Planning and data development for major upcoming capital projects, including the Montague Public Libraries Main Branch, Franklin County Technical School, and elementary school consolidation and facility upgrades.

Some major victories for the Town celebrated by the Selectboard office in 2025 include (but are not limited to):

- Completion of Phase 4 of the Avenue A Streetscape Improvements project, creating more accessible and welcoming spaces in downtown Turners Falls while honoring the village’s historic character.
- Repaving of public parking lots at Town Hall, Third Street, and Fourth Street.
- Completion of Phase 1 of the Collections System Rehab project, including the relining of more than 50 manholes to improve stormwater drainage and sewer collections.
- Installation of new screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility, replacing more than 40-year-old wastewater infrastructure.
- Installation of a 40-kW rooftop solar array at Town Hall, expected to significantly reduce energy costs.
- Demolition of the Strathmore footbridge in partnership with FirstLight Power, an important step toward cleanup of the former Strathmore Mill site.
- Cleanup of soil at the Town-owned First Street lot, in partnership with the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection and U.S. EPA, making way for Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity’s proposed development of five affordable homeownership opportunities.

The Selectboard and its staff remain committed to delivering responsive, high-quality municipal services. The Board recognizes the wide range of issues that arise in a dynamic community and strives to address residents’ concerns in a thoughtful and timely manner.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Town and district staff, the members of our boards and committees, and the many businesses, agencies, and residents who regularly engage with the Selectboard’s Office. Your collaboration and civic commitment are essential to making Montague a strong and vibrant community.

We thank you for your interest in this report and encourage you to review the annual reports of the Town’s other boards and departments

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS

Matthew Lord, Chairman
 Richard Kuklewicz, Vice Chair
 Marina Goldman, Clerk

SELECTBOARD STAFF

Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator
 Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator
 Fern Smith, Executive Assistant
 Angie Amidon, Administrative Assistant

Town of Montague - ELECTED Officials

Board/Committee/Position	Term End
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	3 YEARS
ANN CENZANO	05/18/2027
ANN L. FISK	05/16/2028
REBECCA SABELAWSKI	05/19/2026
BOARD OF HEALTH	3 YEARS
MELANIE AMES ZAMOJSKI	05/18/2027
MICHAEL M. NELSON	05/19/2026
RACHEL A. STOLER	05/16/2028
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE - MONTAGUE	3 YEARS
LORI-LEE ADAMS	05/18/2027
STEVEN F ELLIS	05/19/2026
CAROL JACOBS	05/18/2027
CLIFFORD SPATCHER	05/19/2026
WENDY THOMPSON	05/16/2028
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 YEARS
PAMELA G. ALLAN	05/18/2027
LYDIA IEVINS	05/19/2026
TAMARA M KAPLAN	05/16/2028
JAMES G. MARTINEAU	05/19/2026
PATRICIA PERHAM	05/18/2027
WILLIAM C. QUALE	05/16/2028
MIRYAM VESSETT	05/19/2026
GRETCHEN W. WETHERBY	05/18/2027
MODERATOR	3 YEARS
VACANT	05/18/2027
JOHN DEMPSEY	<i>Resigned 04/07/2025</i> 05/18/2027
MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY	5 YEARS
KAREN M. CASEY-CHRETIEN	05/16/2028
WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV	05/15/2029
PAULA E. GIRARD	05/16/2030
JUDITH L. HASTINGS	<i>Deceased 05/06/2025</i> 05/19/2026
DEBRA BOURBEAU	<i>Appointed by Selectboard 10/7/2025</i> 05/15/2029
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION	3 YEARS
KENNETH D. DANFORD	05/16/2028
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	05/18/2027
JEFFREY C. SINGLETON	05/19/2026

SELECTBOARD	3 YEARS
MARINA GOLDMAN	05/16/2028
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	05/18/2027
MATTHEW R. LORD	05/19/2026
TREASURER – TAX COLLECTOR <i>Position changed to Appointed</i>	
EILEEN M. SEYMOUR <i>Appointed 5/20/2025</i>	5/20/2025
TRUSTEE, SOLDIER’S MEMORIAL, NON-VETERAN	3 YEARS
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	05/19/2026
SCOTT R. HYMAN	05/18/2027
TRUSTEE, SOLDIER’S MEMORIAL, VETERAN	3 YEARS
LORI-LEE ADAMS	05/19/2026
TODD M BRUNELLE	05/16/2028

Town of Montague - APPOINTED Officials
Calendar Year January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Board/Committee/Position	Term End
ADMINISTRATOR	
WALTER F. RAMSEY <i>Contract</i>	06/30/2027
AIRPORT COMMISSION	3 YEARS
DAVID BRULE	06/30/2028
GARY COLLINS	06/30/2026
JOSHUA LIVELY	06/30/2026
JOSEPH M. MAZESKI	06/30/2027
SETH RUTHERFORD	06/30/2028
AIRPORT MANAGER	1 YEAR
BRYAN CAMDEN	06/30/2026
AIRPORT OPERATIONS MANAGER	1 YEAR
LUKE TIMBERLAKE	06/30/2026
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	3 YEARS
CHRISTOPHER J. NOLAN-ZELLAR <i>Contract</i>	06/26/2027
AUCTION PERMIT AGENT	1 YEAR
WENDY BOGUSZ	06/30/2026
TINA SULDA	06/30/2026

BATTLEFIELD GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
MARK ANDREWS	06/30/2026
TIM BLAGG	06/30/2026
DAVID BRULE	06/30/2026
KIT CARPENTER	06/30/2026
JOE GRAVELINE	06/30/2026
RICH HOLSHUH	06/30/2026
ROGER LONGTOE SHEEHAN	06/30/2026
ELIZABETH SANTANA KISER	06/30/2026
BETTINA WASHINGTON	06/30/2026
BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR	
RYAN PAXTON	<i>Resigned 11/27/2025</i> 06/30/2028
BUILDING INSPECTOR	
WILLIAM KETCHEN	--
BUILDING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE	1 YEAR
DAVID JENSEN	06/30/2026
CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
KRISTI A. BODIN	06/30/2026
JASON BURBANK	06/30/2027
RYNE HAGER	06/30/2027
RICHARD KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2027
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
JASON BURBANK	06/30/2026
ARIEL ELAN	06/30/2026
GREGG GARRISON	06/30/2026
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	06/30/2026
MARLYN H. REYNOLDS	06/30/2027
CEMETERY COMMISSION	1 YEAR
JAMIE FULLER	06/30/2028
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE	06/30/2027
JUDITH LOREI	06/30/2026
MARY K MATTIACE	06/30/2027
JO-ANN PRESCOTT	<i>Resigned 1/31/2025</i> 06/30/2025
JAMES C. SIMPSON	06/30/2028
AMBER KORBY	<i>Sexton</i> --
CLEAN WATER FACILITY SUPERINTENDENT	
CHELSEY LITTLE	<i>Contract</i> 04/10/2026

CONSERVATION COMMISSION	3 YEARS
JOSHUA ANDERSON	06/30/2026
TOBIAS CARTER	06/30/2028
DONNA FRANCIS	06/30/2026
MARK FAIRBRTOHER	06/30/2026
JUSTIN T. FERMANN	06/30/2027
MARGAUX RECKARD	06/30/2026
ANTHONY REIBER	06/30/2027
SEAN WERLE	06/30/2028
CONSERVATION COMMISSION – ASSOCIATE MEMBER	1 YEAR
ALBERT N. AVERILL	06/30/2026
CONSTABLE	1 YEAR
WENDY BOGUSZ	<i>Term End</i> 06/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER SIMS	<i>Appointed 12/22/2025</i> 06/30/2026
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS	06/30/2026
COUNCIL ON AGING	1 YEAR
LINDA ACKERMAN	06/30/2026
DEBRA ANN BOURBEAU	06/30/2026
ELSIE GILMAN	06/30/2026
MARY HILDRETH	06/30/2026
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2026
COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR	
ROBERTA L. POTTER	--
CULTURAL COORDINATOR	
SUZANNE LOMANTO	--
CULTURAL COUNCIL	3 YEARS
MARGARET (MAGGIE) HOMES MARTIN	06/30/2028
KATE MARTINEAU	06/30/2028
JULIE KUMBLE	06/30/2027
CULTURAL COUNCIL continued	3 YEARS
BEN LETCHER	06/30/2026
JON-MARC SEIMON	06/30/2028
DIRECTOR OF ASSESSING	
KAREN TONELLI	<i>Retired</i> 06/30/2025
ADAM TOCCI	<i>Appointed</i> 07/07/2025

DPW SUPERINTENDENT		
SAM URKIEL	<i>Contract</i>	06/30/2027
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION		3 YEARS
LINDA ACKERMAN		06/30/2026
ARIEL ELAN	<i>Appointed 9/8/2025</i>	06/30/2028
JOHN FURBISH		06/30/2027
ELLA J. INGRAHAM		06/30/2026
JAMES MUSSONI	<i>Resigned 02/24/2025</i>	06/30/2025
RICHARD R. RUTH JR.	<i>Resigned 02/24/2025</i>	06/30/2025
ROBERT STEINBERG		06/30/2027
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS		06/30/2026
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		1 YEAR
JOHN ZELLMANN		06/30/2026
ENERGY COMMITTEE		1 YEAR
JASON BURBANK		06/30/2026
DAVID DEMPSEY	<i>Resigned 01/05/2026</i>	06/30/2026
ARIEL S. ELAN	<i>Resigned 09/08/2025</i>	06/30/2026
PAMELA F. HANOLD		06/30/2026
SARAH (Sally) PICK		06/30/2026
RAYMOND SEYBOLD		06/30/2026
TIMOTHY VAN EGMOND		06/30/2026
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT		
WENDY M. BOGUSZ	<i>Moved to Town Clerk Position</i>	6/30/2025
FERN SMITH	<i>Appointed 09/02/2025</i>	--
F. C. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2		1 YEAR
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL SR.		06/30/2026
FINANCE COMMITTEE		3 YEARS
JOSHUA BELL		06/30/2028
DORINDA C. BELL-UPP		06/30/2028
FREDERIC BOWMAN		06/30/2027
JOHN T. HANOLD	<i>Term end, did not seek reappointment</i>	06/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI		06/30/2027
LEIGH RAE		06/30/2027
JENNIFER WARYAS		06/30/2026
FRANCIA E. WISNEWSKI		06/30/2026
FOREST WARDEN		1 YEAR
RICHARD SAWIN JR.		06/30/2026

FOREST WARDEN – DEPUTY	1 YEAR
KYLE COGSWELL	06/30/2026
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS-PLANNING	1 YEAR
ELIZABETH IRVING	06/30/2026
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - COUNCILOR	1 YEAR
RICHARD J. KUKLEWICZ	06/30/2026
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – COUNCILOR, ALT	1 YEAR
WALTER F. RAMSEY	06/30/2026
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – PLANNING BOARD – SELECTBOARD REP	1 YEAR
MAUREEN POLLOCK	06/30/2026
FRANKLIN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD	1 YEAR
MATT LORD	06/30/2026
JEFFREY C. SINGLETON (APPOINTED DESIGNEE)	06/30/2026
GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR	1 YEAR
JOHN LETOURNEAU	06/30/2026
JEFFREY M. BACHE (ALTERNATE)	06/30/2026
GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	1 YEAR
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE <i>Resigned 04/24/2025</i>	06/30/2025
JENNY VANDERBILT <i>Appointed 04/29/2025</i>	06/30/2026
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE – ASSISTANT <i>Appointed 07/01/2025</i>	06/30/2026
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	3 YEARS
CHRIS CLAWSON	06/30/2028
EDWARD P. GREGORY	06/30/2028
JANEL F. NOCKLEBY	06/30/2028
JENNIFER (JEN) VIENCEK	06/30/2027
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	
CAITLIN KELLEY <i>Employment Agreement</i>	10/16/2027
MASS IN MOTION INITIATIVE	1 YEAR
EILEEN DOWD	06/30/2026
CAITLIN KELLEY	06/30/2026
EILEEN MARIANI	06/30/2026
RYAN PAXTON <i>Resigned 11/27/2025</i>	06/30/2026
MAUREEN POLLOCK	06/30/2026
ROBERTA L. POTTER	06/30/2026

ROY ROSENBLATT	06/30/2026
PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR	
JON DOBOSZ	--
POLICE CHIEF	
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS <i>Retired 12/19/2025</i>	12/31/2025
JASON HASKINS <i>Appointed 11/17/2025 Contract</i>	11/16/2028
PLANNING AND CONSERVATION AGENT	
MAUREEN POLLOCK	--
PLANNING BOARD	3 YEARS
GEORGE COOKE	06/30/2027
SAMUEL THOMAS GUERIN	06/30/2026
ELIZABETH IRVING	06/30/2027
ROBERT OBEAR	06/30/2026
RON SICARD	06/30/2028
SAGE WINTER	06/30/2028
REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC)	1 YEAR
JOHN ZELLMANN	06/30/2026
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	3 YEARS
WENDY M. BOGUSZ <i>Resigned 06/30/2025</i>	06/30/2027
STANLEY DOBOSZ	06/30/2027
ELIZABETH IRVING	06/30/2027
TINA SULDA	06/30/2028
RETIREMENT BOARD	3 YEARS
STEVEN F. ELLIS	05/20/2027
RIVERCULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE	3 YEARS
SUSAN BLAUNER	06/30/2027
JONATHAN DOBOSZ	06/30/2027
CAITLIN KELLEY	06/30/2027
ELIZABETH WALBER <i>Appointed 01/27/2025</i>	06/30/2028
SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
DORINDA BELL-UPP	06/30/2026
SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION PLANNING BOARD DISTRICT REGIONAL AGREEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE	3 YEARS
DORINDA C. BELL-UPP	Until Finished
MATTHEW R. LORD	Until Finished

TAX TITLE CUSTODIAN	1 YEAR
EILEEN M. SEYMOUR	06/30/2026
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	
ANGELICA DESROCHES <i>Contract</i>	06/30/2027
TOWN CLERK	
KATHERN F. PIERCE <i>Retired</i>	04/10/2025
WENDY BOGUSZ <i>Appointed 07/01/2025 - Contract</i>	06/30/2028
TOWN COUNSEL	
KP LAW, PC	06/30/2026
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR	
EILEEN SEYMOUR <i>Appointed 05/20/2025 - Contract</i>	05/20/2028
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	1 YEAR
WILLIAM CODINGTON	06/30/2026
DAVID DETMOLD	06/30/2026
CHARLES WALKER KORBY	06/30/2026
ANNABEL (ANNIE) LEVINE	06/30/2026
JULIE MORSE	06/30/2026
ELI SMITH	06/30/2026
TOM SULLIVAN	06/30/2026
JEFFREY WARREN-PUKIS	06/30/2026
TREE WARDEN	1 YEAR
JASON KINGSBURY	06/30/2026
UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERAN'S SERVICES DISTRICT	1 YEAR
JOSHUA ANDERSON	06/30/2026
VETERAN'S BURIAL AGENT	1 YEAR
CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	06/30/2026
VETERAN'S DIRECTOR	1 YEAR
CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	06/30/2026
WELLS TRUST	1 YEAR
RON SICARD	06/30/2025
WIRING INSPECTOR	1 YEAR
WAYNE SHAW <i>Term ended</i>	06/30/2025
HARRY KUENZEL <i>Appointed 07/01/2025</i>	06/30/2026

WIRING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE		1 YEAR
TODD WEED		06/30/2026
THOMAS W. WYMAN	<i>Term ended</i>	06/30/2025
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS		5 YEARS
WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV		06/30/2028
DAVID E. JENSEN		06/30/2027
JOSHUA LIVELY		06/30/2030
ROBERT OBEAR		06/30/2029
RICHARD R. RUTH, JR		06/30/2026
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - ALTERNATE		1 YEAR
PETER J. LAPACHINSKI		06/30/2026
ZAHARIA NICHITA		06/30/2026

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS				
PCT	NAME	ADDRESS	VILLAGE	EXPIRATION
1	ACKERMAN, LINDA	86 TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
1	BLOOMBERG, SHEREE	25 CENTER ST	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
1	CLARK, MALCOLM	BOX 901	HADLEY	18-May-27
1	DEMPSEY, DAVID	143 W CHESTNUT HILL RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	DORAIS, SUSAN	BOX 432, 22 UNION ST	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
1	ELAN, ARIEL	BOX 351, 506 TURNERS FALLS RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	VACANT SEAT			19-May-26
1	FAIRBROTHER, MARK	129 MEADOW RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	FISK, MARK	15 MEADOW RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
1	IRVING, ELIZABETH	7 NEWTON LANE	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	LORD, MATTHEW	59 CENTER ST	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
1	LOREI, JUDITH	7 NORTH ST	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
1	LOVEJOY, SAMUEL	BOX 177, 46 MAIN ST	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	MARIANI, EILEEN	BOX, 63 MAIN ST	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
1	MONOSSON, EMILY	BOX 329, 15 NORTH ST	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	NELSON, MICHAEL	16 SUNDERLAND RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
1	PERHAM, PATRICIA	BOX 185, 93 E TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
1	QUALE, WILLIAM	28 CENTER ST	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
1	REYNOLDS, JOHN	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
1	REYNOLDS, MARLYN	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-27

1	SPATCHER, CLIFFORD	442 TURNERS FALLS RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
2	ATAMIAN, JAN	BOX 236, 1 EIGHTH AVE	LAKE PLEASANT	16-May-28
2	ATWOOD, MATTHEW	BOX 235, 9 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	19-May-26
2	BERGIN, LUCY	255 FEDERAL ST 1	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
2	BOURBEAU, DEBRA	404 MILLERS FALLS RD	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-27
2	CHEVALIER, KATHRYN	190 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
2	CONSTANTINE, STEPHEN	80 SO. PROSPECT ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-27
2	COTA, ALEXIA	5 LYMAN ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-27
2	CROWELL, NANCY	4 GROUT CIRCLE	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-28
2	EAKLOR, TERRY	446 MILLERS FALLS RD	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-28
2	GAJDA, GEORGE	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-27
2	INGHAM JILL ELAINE	2 FRANKLIN COMMONS	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
2	JENSEN, DAVIDE.	PO BOX 44,13 DENTON ST	LAKE PLEASANT	18-May-27
2	JENSEN, HAROLD	25 GREEN POND RD	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-28
2	LIVELY, JOSHUA	194 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
2	MARTINEAU, JAMES	4 GRAND AVE	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-27
2	RICHARDSON, SUE ANN	BOX 10, 30 MASSASOIT ST	LAKE PLEASANT	19-May-26
2	STEIN, JACKLYN	BOX 235, 9 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	16-May-28
2	TOBEY, JENNIFER	10 CRESCENT ST	MILLERS FALLS	16-May-28
2	TOLZDORF, TAMMY	25 EAST MAIN ST	MILLERS FALLS	18-May-27
2	WETHERBY, GRETCHEN	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	19-May-26
2	WISNEWSKI, FRANZIA	196 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-26
3	ADAMS, DAVID	8 WENTWORTH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
3	ADAMS, LORI-LEE	17 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
3	BODIN, KRISTI	199 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
3	BURNHAM, BETSY	67 TURNERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
3	CONARRO, MOLLY	25 WORCESTER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
3	COREY, JASON	126 MILLERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
3	DUCHARME, CHERI	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
3	DUCHARME, RICHARD	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
3	FOGLE, ELIZABETH	115 MONTAGUE ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
3	GLOSKI, CAROL	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
3	GODIN, RAYMOND	4 ALICE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
3	HIRST, JOHN	17 DELL ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
3	HOLMES, JENNIFER	53 MILLERS FALLS RD, #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
3	MARTINEAU, SHANNON	18 CARLISLE AVE	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
3	MICHONSKI, RONALD	32 TURNERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
3	PACKARD.ROLLAND	17 WORCESTER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28

3	PHILLIPS, JOYCE	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
3	STOLER, RACHEL	205 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
3	THOMPSON, WENDY	34 MILLERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
3	VACANT SEAT			19-May-26
3	VACANT SEAT			18-May-27
4	AUDLEY, JENNIFER	27 X ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	BOUTWELL, CHRIS	28 SUNSET DR	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	BOWMAN, FREDERICH	701 FAIRWAY AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	HAGAMEN, THOMAS	BOX 512, 21 MONTAGUE ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	HARMON, DAVID	27 X ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
4	IEVINS, LYDIA	2 MARSHALL ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
4	INGRAHAM, ELLA	31 CROCKER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	KATSOULIS, JAMES	89 HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	KETCH, BEVERLY	39 K ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
4	KUKLEWICZ, RICHARD	66 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	LENTZ JR. JOHN	41 DELL ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	LICATA, BRIDGET	1 DAVIS ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	LITTLE, CHELSEY	34 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	MENEGONI, CHRISTOPHER	37 K ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	MESSICK, RICHARD	14 HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
4	PIERCE, ROBERT	9 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	POTTER, ROBERTA	11 STEVENS ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
4	RUETER, JOANNA	68 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
4	RYDER, SARAH	14 HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
4	SPRENGEL, MADDOX	36 HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
4	WARYAS, JENNIFER	144 SEVENTH ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	AUTLER, LILLIAN	28 SECOND ST #2	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	BELAIR, JOANNE	34 PROSPECT ST #1	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
5	BULLEN, DUNCAN	66 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
5	CALLAHAN, LAURIE	65 FIFTH ST #2B	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
5	COHEN, NATAN	25 CENTAL ST #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
5	CUNHA, EDITE	BOX 149, 161 AVENUE A	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
5	DIPAOLLO, DENISE	46 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	DOBOSZ, STANLEY	29 GROVE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	GOLDMAN, JACOB	77 FIFTH ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	HAGER, RYNE	54 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
5	HANOLD, JOHN	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
5	HANOLD, PAMELA	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28

5	VACANT SEAT			19-May-26
5	LOMANTO, SUZANNE	26 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	NELSON, JACK	65 CANAL ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
5	NOCKLEBY, JANEL	14 THIRD ST, C	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
5	PEDROSA, DIANA	107 AVENUE A #3	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	REIPOLD, APRIL J.	17 CHESTNUT ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
5	RUTH, JR., RICHARD	15 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
5	SINGLETON, JEFFREY	1 K ST #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
5	THAMES, SAGE	1 K ST #1	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
6	BELL-UP, DORINDA	7 SOUTH HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	BILLIEL, FREDERICK	21 TURNPIKE RD	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
6	CROWLEY, ALI	14 MARSTONS ALLEY	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	DEMERS, THOMAS	35 WALNUT ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	HEISIG, LAURA	83 G ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
6	HUDYMA, PETER	82 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
6	JONES, MARY	11 THIRTEENTH ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
6	JUNG, SARAH	385 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	LATKA, KAREN	266 TURNERS FALLS RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
6	LEVINE, ANNABEL	132 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
6	MATTIACE, MARY	370 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
6	MILKEY, DENISE	2 KINGSLEY AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	MUSSONI, JAMES	BOX 262, 149 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	18-May-27
6	PITCHER, BRENT	11 GREENFIELD RD	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
6	SMITH, BRIAN M.	19 ROD SHOP RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	SMITH, ELI	22 ELEVENTH ST #2	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
6	TAPSCOTT, IAN	83 G ST	TURNERS FALLS	18-May-27
6	TRASK, KENNETH	17 POPLAR ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
6	WOLINSKY, LILITH	Box 355, 312 M.C. RD	MONTAGUE	16-May-28
6	ZAMOJSKI, MELANIE	33 0 ST	TURNERS FALLS	16-May-28
6	SARAH K. JACKSON	7 H ST, FLOOR 2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-26
	NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS IN RED			
126				

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 7, 2025
Expected Continuation Date May 14, 2025 (if needed)**

Franklin, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 6:30 PM, with an expected continuation of the meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM (if needed) and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	500	500	500
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,640	2,640	2,640
Second/Third Members	2,400	2,400	2,400

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
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
TREE WARDEN	1,764		

*Changed to appointed STM 2/12/25

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
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
HEARING OFFICER	2,500	2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	4,000	3,750	3,750
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
FARMERS MARKET ASST MANAGER		750	750
SEXTON/PER BURIAL	100.00		
SEXTON STIPEND		2,000	2,000
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
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

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>HOURLY RATES</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
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	29.00-35.00	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

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS</u>			
<u>PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT	1.25	1.25	1.25

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>PART TIME DISPATCHERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT	0.75	0.75	0.75
THIRD SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
<u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u>	0.75	0.75	0.75

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE (placed on FY25 NAGE Scale)					
	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2025</u>		<u>Range FY2026</u>	
<u>SALARIED</u>		Start	End	Start	End
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	103,470	127,339	103,470	127,339
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	94,064	115,764	94,064	115,764
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
TOWN CLERK	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	94,064	115,764	94,064	115,764
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	85,514	105,239	85,514	105,239
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
CFW SUPERINTENDENT	H	85,514	105,239	85,514	105,239
<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	25.01	30.77	25.01	30.77
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	40.95	45.44	40.95	45.44
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	16.76	20.62	16.76	20.62

Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted wages –

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	111,427	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	30.77
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	96,417	DPW SUPERINTENDENT	98,687
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	82,394	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	75,746
TAX COLLECTOR/TREAS	82,394		
TOWN CLERK	77,260	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE*	138,917	CFW SUPERINTENDENT	105,239
POLICE LIEUTENANT	45.44	POLICE CUSTODIAN	20.62

*includes additional 20% educational incentive pay

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,747,055, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**Schedule III
Town Operating Budget**

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET	REQUEST	SELECTBOARD
			FIN COMM RECOMMEND
	FY25	FY26	FY26
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113 TOWN MEETING	3,180	3,180	3,180
122 SELECTBOARD	326,230	324,662	324,662
131 FINANCE COMMITTEE	600	600	600
132 RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135 TOWN ACCOUNTANT	93,000	101,374	101,374
141 ASSESSORS	186,059	180,122	180,122
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	206,965	208,335	208,335

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FINCOM
			RECOMMEND FY26
151 TOWN COUNSEL	87,475	82,475	82,475
155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	92,252	103,352	103,352
159 SHARED COSTS	93,499	104,930	104,930
161 TOWN CLERK	237,224	219,144	219,144
175 PLANNING	140,788	142,394	142,394
176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190 PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	140,050	145,000	145,000
197 FARMERS MARKET	5,200	5,700	5,700
TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,663,222	1,671,968	1,671,968
PUBLIC SAFETY			
211 POLICE	2,067,608	2,069,965	2,069,965
211 POLICE CRUISER	60,000	-	-
212 DISPATCH	410,768	410,868	410,868
241 BUILDING INSPECTOR	155,082	149,926	149,926
244 SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,944	6,944	6,944
292 ANIMAL CONTROL	23,658	24,185	24,185
294 FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882
299 TREE WARDEN	30,474	30,474	30,474
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,763,598	2,701,426	2,701,426
PUBLIC WORKS			
420 DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,772,006	1,810,284	1,810,284
423 SNOW & ICE	321,250	324,750	324,750
433 SOLID WASTE	802,776	835,300	835,300
480 CHARGING STATIONS	11,980	3,000	3,000
491 CEMETERIES	32,150	32,150	32,150
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,940,162	3,005,484	3,005,484
HUMAN SERVICES			
511 BOARD OF HEALTH	168,004	172,144	172,144
HUMAN SERVICES			
541 COUNCIL ON AGING	59,272	77,207	77,207
543 VETERANS' SERVICES	77,897	101,000	101,000
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	305,173	350,351	350,351

DEPARTMENT		BUDGET	REQUEST	SELECTBOARD FINCOM RECOMMEND
		FY25	FY26	FY26
610	LIBRARIES	518,233	521,033	521,033
630	PARKS & RECREATION	164,826	169,326	169,326
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,600	1,600	1,600
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	685,159	692,459	692,459
	DEBT SERVICE			
700	DEBT SERVICE	1,158,857	1,160,025	1,160,025
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL			
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	116,874	119,041	119,041
	MISCELLANEOUS			
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,657,083	2,926,701	2,926,701
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	119,600	119,600
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,776,683	3,046,301	3,046,301
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	12,409,728	12,747,055	12,747,055

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$3,221,303 or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget**

DEPT		BUDGET	REQUEST	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND
NO.		FY25	FY26	FY26
	CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440	Wages & Expenses	2,116,590	2,209,442	2,209,442
440	Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
700	Debt Service	478,365	485,028	485,028
910	Employee Benefits	380,719	383,183	383,183
	SUBTOTAL CWF	3,034,174	3,136,153	3,136,153

449 DPW SUBSIDIARY			
Wages & Expenses	85,150	85,150	85,150
SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	85,150	85,150	85,150
<hr/>			
TOTAL CWF	3,119,324	3,221,303	3,221,303
	(Sewer Commission Request)		

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$425,732, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**Schedule V
Airport Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD
				FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
	AIRPORT			
482	Wages & Expenses	255,238	271,625	271,625
482	Capital Outlay/Local Share	-	-	-
700	Debt Service	102,775	99,935	99,935
910	Employee Benefits	61,664	54,172	54,172
	TOTAL AIRPORT	419,677	425,732	425,732

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to add a new Section 7, Revolving Funds, as shown below, and to establish a spending limit of \$200,000 for the Airport Fuel revolving fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, which spending limit to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to increase the same; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

Section 7: Revolving Funds

- (a) There are hereby established in the Town of Montague, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds:

Revolving Fund	Spending Authority	Revenue Source	Allowed Expenses
Airport Fuel	Airport Commission	Fees from sale of Airport fuel	Purchase of Airport fuel to be sold and used at the Airport

- (b) Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the spending limits established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with MGL c. 44, § 53E 1/2.

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$52,250 or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$841,660, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Franklin County Technical School Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,663,178, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$59,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$125,154, or any amount, for the purpose of funding the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 and National Association of Government Employees for Fiscal Year 2026, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding accessibility repairs and upgrades for the Montague Public Libraries, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$231,800, or any other amount, for the following Clean Water Facility projects, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$60,000 for purchase of used mini-excavator
- B. \$67,800 for purchase of portable generator and Lake Pleasant facility generator
- C. \$104,000 for replacement of two thickened sludge pumps

(Clean Water Facility Request)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating sewer manholes and sewer pipes to address structural defects and potential sources of inflow and infiltration to the Town's sewer collection system, 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, or any other lawful enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; 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.

(Department of Public Works and Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$365,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$325,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a dump truck, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$135,000, or any other amount, for the following Department of Public Works vehicles, including all equipment and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$70,000 for the purchase of a camera van
- B. \$65,000 for the purchase of a pickup truck

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$90,000, or any other amount, for the following Department of Public Works projects, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$60,000 for Oakman Street slope stabilization
- B. \$30,000 for paving alleys and non-chapter 90 eligible roadways

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$200,000, or any other amount, for the replacement of guardrails on Meadow Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$36,470, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$255,200, or any other amount, for the following Town projects and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$39,000 for repairs/renovation to Millers Falls library storefront
- B. \$125,000 for upgrades to Unity Park
- C. \$91,200 for design costs for Montague Center Complete Streets project

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$60,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of FRTA bus stop improvements at Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$67,900, or any other amount, for the purpose of abating and removing utilities from the Keith footbridge over canal, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the following sums, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

Fund	Amount (\$)
Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund	\$10,000
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	\$231,890
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	\$88,718
OPEB Trust Fund	\$100,000
Total:	\$430,608

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Board of Assessors to negotiate, enter into and approve a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement known as a "PILOT" or "Tax Agreement" pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 38H(b), or any other enabling authority, between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Hydro Generating Co., its successors, assignees or affiliates, on such terms and conditions and for such period of time as negotiated by the Select Board and the Board of Assessors, for payment in lieu of taxes related to personal and/or real property associated with an electric generation facility, all as set forth in said PILOT; and further to authorize the Select Board and the Board of Assessors to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard and Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 27: To see if the town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 5, Clause 54, to modify and increase the threshold from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for personal property accounts subject to taxation for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General Bylaws to add a new Section 14B to Article III under Treasurer/Collector, as set forth below entitled “Tax Title Payment Plans”, to authorize the Treasurer-Collector to pursue and establish payment agreements for parcels of land in tax title so as to allow delinquent taxpayers to pay off their tax liens over time, as authorized by M.G.L. c. 60 § 62A, as amended by sections 89-91 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Section 14B: Tax Title Payment Plans

- A. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A, the Town Treasurer-Collector shall have the authority to enter into written payment agreements with any person entitled to redeem ownership of parcels in tax title which have been taken by the Town as a result of nonpayment of real estate taxes. The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with same, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A and this bylaw. The Treasurer-Collector shall not refuse to enter into agreements with eligible taxpayers.
- B. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in the following assessment categories of tax title in the Town:
 - 1. Commercial property;
 - 2. Residential property;
 - 3. Industrial; and
 - 4. Open space.
- C. The following conditions must be met prior to the Town entering into a payment agreement:
 - 1. The Town has not filed a petition to foreclose the rights of redemption with the Land Court, and the recording date of the Instrument of Taking recorded in the Franklin County Registry

of Deeds must be no more than ten (10) years from the date of the proposed agreement;
and

2. All real estate taxes and water/sewer user fees due for the current fiscal year assessed against the parcel must be paid to date.

D. All payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

1. The payment agreement shall be for a term not to exceed ten (10) years provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude the taxpayer from completing payments of the amount owed within a shorter period of time;
2. The payment agreement shall include a waiver of not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the interest that has accrued in the tax title account, but only if the taxpayer fully complies with the terms of the agreement (no taxes or collection costs may be waived); and
3. The payment agreement shall state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which shall be at least ten percent (10%) of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement. The taxpayer must then agree to pay the remaining balance due to the Town in equal monthly installments.

E. During the term of the agreement, the Treasurer-Collector may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title unless payments are not made in accordance with the schedule set out in the payment agreement or timely payments are not made on other amounts due to the Town that constitute a lien on the same parcel.

F. Nothing in this bylaw shall preempt or preclude the authority of the Treasurer-Collector to accept partial payments or to negotiate and enter into payment agreements authorized by M.G.L. c. 60, §§ 22 and § 22A, or any other statutory authority.

(Treasurer Request)

ARTICLE 29: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 200A, §9A, which establishes a procedure for the disposition of abandoned funds, i.e. funds not claimed within one (1) year from the date of delivery, including provisions for notice, claims, appeals and disbursements, the full text of which can be found at <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartII/TitleII/Chapter200a/Section9A>, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Treasurer Request)

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with MGL c. 30B section 12(b), to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a lease not to exceed ten (10) years for the purpose of permitting use of the property known as the Shea Theater, located at 71 Avenue A, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectboard deems in the best interests of the Town, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified; a copy of the proposed amendments is attached in Schedule ---, FRCOG Charter Amendment, or take any action relative thereto.

(Franklin Regional Council of Governments Request)

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, Website, and Town Hall of the Town, at least fourteen days before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make do return of this document with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk fourteen days before said meeting.

Given under our hands this ____ day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Matthew Lord

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA April ____, 2025

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague by posting attested copies of the same in a conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, and the Town Hall of the Town of Montague at least seven days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague

SUMMARY OF ARTICLES

#	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>
1	Annual Reports			
2	Elected Wages			
3	Appointed Wages			
4	Town Operating Budget	12,747,055	36.08%	Taxation
5	CWF Operating Budget	3,221,303	9.11%	Taxation/Sewer User Fees
6	Airport Operating Budget	425,732	1.20%	Taxation/Sale of RE/Airport Rev
7	Airport Fuel Revolving			
8	Colle Operating Budget	52,250	0.15%	Colle
9	FCTS Assessment	841,660	2.38%	Taxation
10	GMRSD Assessment	12,663,178	35.84%	Taxation
11	Smith Voc and Agr High School	59,000	0.17%	Taxation
12	NAGE and UE Wage and Class	125,154	0.35%	Taxation/Sewer User Fees
13	Library Accessibility/Upgrades	10,000	0.03%	Free Cash
14	<u>CWF Articles</u>			
	Used Mini-Excavator	60,000	0.17%	CWF Retained Earnings
	Generators	67,800	0.19%	CWF Retained Earnings
	Two Thickened Sludge Pumps	104,000	0.29%	CWF Retained Earnings
15	Phase 2-Sewer Collection Rehab	3,000,000	8.49%	CWF/Town Debt
16	DPW 10-Wheel Dump Truck	365,000	1.03%	Free Cash
17	DPW Dump Truck	325,000	0.92%	Town Capital Stabilization
18	<u>DPW Vehicles</u>			
	Camera Van	70,000	0.20%	Free Cash
	Pickup Truck	65,000	0.18%	Free Cash
19	<u>DPW Projects</u>			
	Oakman Street Slope Stabilization	60,000	0.17%	Free Cash
	Non-Chapter 90 Paving	30,000	0.08%	Free Cash
20	Meadow Rd Guardrails	200,000	0.57%	Free Cash
21	DPW Equipment	36,470	0.10%	Taxation
22	<u>Town Project Articles</u>			
	Millers Falls Library Storefront	39,000	0.11%	Free Cash
	Unity Park Upgrades	125,000	0.35%	Free Cash
	Montague Center Complete Streets	91,200	0.26%	Free Cash
23	FRTA Bus Stop	60,000	0.17%	Cannabis Impact Stabilization
24	Keith Footbridge	67,900	0.19%	Canal District Utility Impr Stabilization
25	<u>Annual Transfers to Reserves</u>			
	Conservation Fund	10,000	0.03%	Taxation
	Town Capital Stabilization	231,890	0.66%	Taxation/Free Cash
	GMRSD Stabilization	88,718	0.25%	Taxation/Free Cash
	OPEB Trust Fund	100,000	0.28%	Taxation/Free Cash
26	FirstLight Hydro PILOT			
27	Personal Property Thresholds			
28	Tax Title Payment Agreement			
29	Unclaimed Property			
30	Shea Theater Lease			
31	FRCOG Charter	35,342,310	100.00%	

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 7, 2025
Expected Continuation Date May 14, 2025 (if needed)
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, 2025, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
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
TREE WARDEN	1,764		
*Changed to appointed STM 2/12/25			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, 2025, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
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
HEARING OFFICER	2,500	2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	4,000	3,750	3,750
FARMERS MARKET ASST MANAGER		750	750
SEXTON/PER BURIAL	100.00		
SEXTON STIPEND		2,000	2,000
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
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
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>			
	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
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	29.00-35.00	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**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS</u>			
<u>PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT	1.25	1.25	1.25
<u>PART TIME DISPATCHERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT	0.75	0.75	0.75
THIRD SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
<u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u>	0.75	0.75	0.75

<u>NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE</u>		(placed on FY25 NAGE Scale)			
	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2025</u>		<u>Range FY2026</u>	
		<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
<u>SALARIED</u>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	103,470	127,339	103,470	127,339
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	94,064	115,764	94,064	115,764

TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
TOWN CLERK	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	94,064	115,764	94,064	115,764
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	85,514	105,239	85,514	105,239
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	85,514	105,239	85,514	105,239
HOURLY					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	25.01	30.77	25.01	30.77
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	40.95	45.44	40.95	45.44
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	16.76	20.62	16.76	20.62

Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted wages –

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	111,427	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	30.77
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	96,417	DPW SUPERINTENDENT	98,687
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	82,394	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	75,746
TAX COLLECTOR/TREAS	82,394		
TOWN CLERK	77,260	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE*	138,917	CWF SUPERINTENDENT	105,239
POLICE LIEUTENANT	45.44	POLICE CUSTODIAN	20.62

*includes additional 20% educational incentive pay

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 4. Town Operating Budget (Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,747,055 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**

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113 TOWN MEETING	3,180	3,180	3,180
122 SELECTBOARD	326,230	324,662	324,662
131 FINANCE COMMITTEE	600	600	600
132 RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135 TOWN ACCOUNTANT	93,000	101,374	101,374
141 ASSESSORS	186,059	180,122	180,122
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	206,965	208,335	208,335
151 TOWN COUNSEL	87,475	82,475	82,475
155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	92,252	103,352	103,352
159 SHARED COSTS	93,499	104,930	104,930
161 TOWN CLERK	237,224	219,144	219,144
175 PLANNING	140,788	142,394	142,394
176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190 PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	140,050	145,000	145,000

197	FARMERS MARKET	5,200	5,700	5,700
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,663,222	1,671,968	1,671,968
	PUBLIC SAFETY			
211	POLICE	2,067,608	2,069,965	2,069,965
211	POLICE CRUISER	60,000	-	-
				SB/FIN COMM
	DEPARTMENT	BUDGET	REQUEST	RECOMMEND
		FY25	FY26	FY26
212	DISPATCH	410,768	410,868	410,868
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	155,082	149,926	149,926
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,944	6,944	6,944
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	23,658	24,185	24,185
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882
299	TREE WARDEN	30,474	30,474	30,474
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,763,598	2,701,426	2,701,426

**Schedule III
Town Operating
Budget**

	PUBLIC WORKS			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,772,006	1,810,284	1,810,284
423	SNOW & ICE	321,250	324,750	324,750
433	SOLID WASTE	802,776	835,300	835,300
480	CHARGING STATIONS	11,980	3,000	3,000
491	CEMETERIES	32,150	32,150	32,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,940,162	3,005,484	3,005,484
	HUMAN SERVICES			
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	168,004	172,144	172,144
	HUMAN SERVICES			
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	59,272	77,207	77,207
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	77,897	101,000	101,000
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	305,173	350,351	350,351
	CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	LIBRARIES	518,233	521,033	521,033
630	PARKS & RECREATION	164,826	169,326	169,326
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,600	1,600	1,600

TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	685,159	692,459	692,459
700 DEBT SERVICE	1,158,857	1,160,025	1,160,025
840 INTERGOVERNMENTAL	116,874	119,041	119,041
910 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,657,083	2,926,701	2,926,701
946 GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	119,600	119,600
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,776,683	3,046,301	3,046,301
TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	12,409,728	12,747,055	12,747,055

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 5. Clean Water Facility Budget (Sewer Commissioners Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,221,303 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 \$406,188 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,815,115 to be raised from Sewer Revenue.

**Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget**

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440 Wages & Expenses	2,116,590	2,209,442	2,209,442
440 Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
700 Debt Service	478,365	485,028	485,028
910 Employee Benefits	380,719	383,183	383,183
SUBTOTAL CWF	3,034,174	3,136,153	3,136,153
449 DPW SUBSIDIARY			
Wages & Expenses	85,150	85,150	85,150
SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	85,150	85,150	85,150
TOTAL CWF	3,119,324	3,221,303	3,221,303

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 6. Airport Budget (Airport Commission Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$425,732 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, with \$23,372 to be raised from Town Sale of Real Estate, \$99,396 to be raised from Taxation, and \$302,964 to be raised from Airport Revenue.

Airport Budget

			SELECTBOARD FIN COMM
DEPARTMENT	BUDGET	REQUEST	RECOMMEND
	FY25	FY26	FY26
AIRPORT			
482 Wages & Expenses	255,238	271,625	271,625
482 Capital Outlay/Local Share	-	-	-
700 Debt Service	102,775	99,935	99,935
910 Employee Benefits	61,664	54,172	54,172
TOTAL AIRPORT	419,677	425,732	425,732

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7. Airport Fuel Revolving Fund (Airport Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to add a new Section 7, Revolving Funds as shown below, and to establish a spending limit of \$200,000 for the Airport Fuel revolving fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, which spending limit to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to increase the same.

Section 7: Revolving Funds

- (c) There are hereby established in the Town of Montague, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds:

Revolving Fund	Spending Authority	Revenue Source	Allowed Expenses
Airport Fuel	Airport Commission	Fees from sale of Airport fuel	Purchase of Airport fuel to be sold and used at the Airport

- (d) Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the spending limits established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with MGL c. 44, § 53E 1/2.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 8. 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 9. FCTS Assessment (Franklin County Technical School Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$841,660 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, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 10. GMRSD Assessment (Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,663,178 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 11. Smith Vocational and Agricultural (Town Accountant Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$59,000 for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, said sum to be raised from Taxation. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 12. NAGE and UE Contract (Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,154 for the purpose of funding the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 and National Association of Government Employees for Fiscal Year 2026, with \$98,262 to be raised from Taxation and \$26,262 to be raised from Sewer Revenue. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 13. Library Accessibility/Upgrades (Library Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of funding accessibility repairs and upgrades for the Montague Public Libraries, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 14. CWF Mini Excavator, Generators, Thickened Sludge Pumps (Clean Water Facility Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$231,800 for the purpose of the following CWF projects and any and all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from CWF Retained Earnings.

1. \$60,000 to purchase a used mini excavator.
2. \$67,800 to replace the Lake Pleasant generator and the purchase of a portable emergency generator.
3. \$104,000 to replace two thickened sludge pumps.

Mini Excavator Background: The CWF performs many on-site and off-site routine updates and special projects requiring the use of an excavator. The facility is also responsible for managing its own groundskeeping, excavating, and lifting work when necessary. The CWF has borrowed other municipal excavators and spent over \$25,000 on the rental of a small excavator to perform site work on multiple projects for calendar year 2024 and would rather invest that money in the future into purchasing a used excavator to have on site consistently.

NOTE: The facility is not looking to purchase a brand-new excavator, as a used/low hour machine will suffice for the required applications. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 15. Phase 2 Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation (DPW/Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating sewer manholes and sewer pipes to address structural defects and potential sources of inflow and infiltration to the Town's sewer collection system, 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 Public Works 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 on a \$1,200,000 portion of the principal amount of such borrowing shall be repaid in the first instance through sewer user fees; and further to authorize the Selectboard to execute any other documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 16. DPW 10-Wheel Dump Truck (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$365,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 17. DPW Dump Truck (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$325,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a dump truck, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 18. DPW: Camera Van and Pickup Truck (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$135,000 for the following Department of Public Works vehicles, including all equipment and any and all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

1. \$70,000 to purchase and equip a camera van.
2. \$65,000 to purchase and equip a pickup truck.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 19. DPW: Oakman Street Slope, Non-Chapter 90 Paving (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of the following Department of Public Works projects and any and all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

1. \$60,000 to complete the Oakman Street slope stabilization.
2. \$30,000 for the paving of alleys and non-chapter 90 eligible roadways.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 20. DPW Meadow Road Guardrails (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of replacing guardrails on Meadow Road and any and all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/MAJORITY 44-YES 19-NO**

ARTICLE 21. DPW Equipment Account (Department of Public Works Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$36,470 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 Taxation. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 22. Millers Falls Library Storefront, Unity Park Upgrades, Montague Center Complete Streets Design (Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$255,200 for the purpose of the following Town projects, including all incidental and related costs, with said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

1. \$39,000 for repairs/renovation to Millers Falls library storefront.
2. \$125,000 for upgrades to Unity Park.
3. \$91,200 for design costs for Montague Center Complete Streets project.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 23. FRTA Bus Stop Improvements (Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) bus stop improvements at Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 24. Keith Footbridge (Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$67,900 for the purpose of abating and removing utilities from the Keith footbridge over canal, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Canal District Utility Improvement Stabilization.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 25. 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
Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund	\$10,000	Taxation
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	\$231,890	Taxation, \$131,890 Free Cash, \$100,000
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	\$88,718	Taxation, \$38,718 Free Cash, \$50,000
OPEB Trust Fund	\$100,000	Taxation, \$50,000 Free Cash, \$50,000
Total:	\$430,608	

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 26. FirstLight Hydro Generating Co. PILOT (Selectboard + Assessors Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard and the Board of Assessors to negotiate, enter into and approve a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement known as a "PILOT" or "Tax Agreement" pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 38H(b), or any other enabling authority, between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Hydro Generating Co., its successors, assignees or affiliates, on such terms and conditions and for such period of time as negotiated by the Selectboard and the Board of Assessors, for payment in lieu of taxes related to personal and/or real property associated with an electric generation facility, all as set forth in said PILOT; and further to authorize the Selectboard and the Board of Assessors to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 27. Property Tax Threshold (Board of Assessors Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 to modify and increase the threshold from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for personal property accounts subject to taxation for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 28. Tax Title Payment Agreements (Treasurer Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws to add a new Section 14B to Article III under Treasurer/Collector, as set forth below entitled "Tax Title Payment Plans", to authorize the Treasurer-Collector to pursue and establish payment agreements for parcels of land in tax title so as to allow delinquent taxpayers to pay off their tax liens over time, as authorized by M.G.L. c. 60 § 62A, as amended by sections 89-91 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024:

Section 14B: Tax Title Payment Plans

- G. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A, the Town Treasurer-Collector shall have the authority to enter into written payment agreements with any person entitled to redeem ownership of parcels in tax title which have been taken by the Town as a result of nonpayment of real estate taxes. The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of

the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with same, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A and this bylaw. The Treasurer-Collector shall not refuse to enter into agreements with eligible taxpayers.

H. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in the following assessment categories of tax title in the Town:

5. Commercial property;
6. Residential property;
7. Industrial; and
8. Open space.

I. The following conditions must be met prior to the Town entering into a payment agreement:

3. The Town has not filed a petition to foreclose the rights of redemption with the Land Court, and the recording date of the Instrument of Taking recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds must be no more than ten (10) years from the date of the proposed agreement; and
4. All real estate taxes and water/sewer user fees due for the current fiscal year assessed against the parcel must be paid to date.

J. All payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

4. The payment agreement shall be for a term of five (5) years; provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude the taxpayer from completing payments of the amount owed within a shorter period of time;
5. The payment agreement shall include a waiver of fifty percent (50%) of the interest that has accrued in the tax title account, but only if the taxpayer fully complies with the terms of the agreement (no taxes or collection costs may be waived); and
6. The payment agreement shall state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which shall be ten percent (10%) of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement. The taxpayer must then agree to pay the remaining balance due to the Town in equal monthly installments.

K. During the term of the agreement, the Treasurer-Collector may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title unless payments are not made in accordance with the schedule set out in the payment agreement or timely payments are not made on other amounts due to the Town that constitutes a lien on the same parcel.

L. Nothing in this bylaw shall preempt or preclude the authority of the Treasurer-Collector to accept partial payments or to negotiate and enter into payment agreements authorized by M.G.L. c. 60, §§ 22 and § 22A, or any other statutory authority.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 29. Unclaimed Property (Treasurer Request)

MOVED: That the town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 200A §9A, which establishes a procedure for the disposition of abandoned funds, i.e. funds not claimed within one (1) year from the date of delivery, including provisions for notice, claims, appeals and disbursements.

Background: This article will allow the Treasurer to have a more streamlined and efficient process for managing funds that are unclaimed. Specifically, it will allow the Treasurer to consider any funds held in the custody of the town to be presumed abandoned unless claimed by the corporation, organization, beneficiary, or person entitled thereto within 1 (one) year after date prescribed. After completing the process requirements spelled out in Mass General Laws, which

include a detailed process to attempt to notify the owner of the funds, the funds can be turned back over to the town's general fund if they remain unclaimed.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 30. Shea Theater Lease (Selectboard Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote, in accordance with MGL c. 30B section 12(b), to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a lease not to exceed ten (10) years for the purpose of permitting use of the property known as the Shea Theater, located at 71 Avenue A, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectboard deems in the best interests of the Town.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 31. Franklin Regional Council of Governments Charter Change (FRCOG Request)

MOVED: That the Town vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified; a copy of the proposed amendments is attached in Schedule, FRCOG Charter Amendment.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
October 22, 2025**

Franklin, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague in the County of Franklin:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Montague on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$19,559.25, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying prior year unpaid bills of the Board of Assessors, War Memorial, Clean Water Facility, and Solid Waste Departments, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable related equipment for Montague Community Television and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$95,100, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the implementation of collective bargaining agreements with the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 183 (Patrol and Detectives) and Local 184 (Sergeants) for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$26,990, or any other amount, for the purpose of implementing the wage

and class plan for unrepresented employees for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$274,600, or any other amount, for the purpose of additional funding for the Town Health Insurance appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2026, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of rehabilitating culverts on South Street, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to increase spending limit to \$350,000 for the Airport Fuel revolving fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, as authorized by votes of the Selectboard and Finance Committee in accordance with the fourth paragraph of said Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, which spending limit to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to increase the same; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, clause forty-fifth, or any other enabling authority, between the Town of Montague and Kearsarge Turners Falls RE LLC, Kearsarge Millers Falls RE LLC, its successor, assignee or affiliate, on such terms and conditions and for such term as negotiated by the Board of Assessors, for payment in lieu of taxes related to personal and/or real property associated with a solar renewable energy generation facility owned and operated by such entity located 131 Turnpike Road and identified as Assessor's Parcel ID 14-0-214 and 248 Millers Falls Road and identified as Assessors Parcel ID 23-0-67; and further to authorize the Board of Assessors to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder; or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, as created by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 (the "HERO Act"), thereby authorizing an annual cost-of-living adjustment in the amount of the property tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, §5, Clauses 22a-f, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026; or take any other action relative thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, as created by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 (the "HERO Act"), thereby authorizing an additional property tax exemption for veterans on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, §5, Clauses 22a-f, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F, of 50% of the existing veteran exemption amount, subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026; or take any other action relative thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of six (6) percent, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Map to add a new Village Center Mixed Use District (MU-VC) and Design Overlay District (DOD) consisting of parcels of land located at 0, 330-

340 and 356 Montague City Road, identified as parcel numbers 12-0-044, 12-0-051, 12-0-044A and 12-0-050 and to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending:

- a. Section 2, Definitions, to add new terms and definitions;
- b. Section 4, Establishment of Districts, 4.1 – Types of Districts, to add the new Village Center Mixed Use District (MU-VC) and Design Overlay District (DOD);
- c. Section 5, District Regulation, to add a new section 5.2.10 – Village Center Mixed Use District identifying permitted uses, uses allowed by special permit, special regulations and standards pertaining to the MU-VC District;
- d. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.3 – Multiple Principal Uses to exempt the MU-VC District from the provisions of said section;
- e. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.5 – Dimensional Requirements to add a row to the table for dimensional requirements applicable to the MU-VC District;
- f. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.5.3 – Dimensional Relief by amending subparagraph (c) to establish the Planning Board as the Special Permit Granting Authority in the MU-VC District;
- g. Section 7, Sign Requirements, to amend 7.2.3 – District Parking Requirements to add subparagraph (c) relative to parking requirements in the MU-VC District;
- h. Section 7, Sign Requirements, to amend 7.4.2 – Access over front lot line, to exempt the MU-VC from the separate Special Permit requirement;
- i. Section 9, Site Plan Review, section 9.1.2 – Applicability, subparagraph (e) Specific Uses identified elsewhere in this bylaw to add uses requiring Site Plan Review in the MU-VC District;
- j. Section 9, Site Plan Review, section 9.1.3 – Authority, to add text designating the Planning Board as the Site Plan review Authority for the MU-VC District; and
- k. Section 6, Overlay Districts, to add a new section 6.4 – Design Overlay District,

with the full text of the above amendments and a copy of the proposed, revised Zoning Map on file with the Office of the Town Clerk and available on the Town’s website at <https://montague-ma.gov/p/1568/>, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Planning Board Request)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of three (3) parcels of land located at 340-350, and 356 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, and shown as Parcels 12-0-044, 12-0-044A, and 12-0-051, and being Lots B and C on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Montague Massachusetts Surveyed for The Farren Memorial Hospital” dated September 11, 1989, recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 79, Page 4 to the Selectboard for general municipal purposes and for commercial and/or development of housing purposes and to authorize the Selectboard to sell or lease, transfer or convey all or any portion of such property for such sum and upon such terms and conditions determined by the Selectboard to be in the best interests of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all instruments, including deeds, leases or other agreements and take all other actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the vote taken hereunder, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue and abandon 1969 public roadway layout of Burek Drive; accept revised public roadway layout of Burek Drive; accept proposed 15-foot-wide sewer easement under revised public roadway layout of Burek Drive in favor of 4 Burek Drive (Parcel #41-0-17) as shown on “Revised Street Acceptance Plan” Plan of Land in Montague, Massachusetts,” dated August 7, 2025, and prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Burek Drive for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Montague and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. (Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 15: 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 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Montague, and shown as Assessor’s Map 04-0-0041, and being Lot 2 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 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 vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

A RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE TO BE AN APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS All people are equal and should be treated with dignity and respect;

WHEREAS The Palestinian people experience discriminatory legal regimes, forced displacement, movement restrictions, and systematic human rights abuses;

WHEREAS According to legal scholars and the international human rights community, this situation constitutes the crime of Apartheid;

WHEREAS This non-binding measure represents the will of the residents of Montague, who wish to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine, and build an apartheid-free world, starting with our own town;

THEREFORE:

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and All people;

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression;

WE DECLARE ourselves an Apartheid-Free Community, and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

WE RECOMMEND that the Select Board send this resolution to the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor.
(Citizen Petition)

Given under our hands this 6th day of October in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Selectboard, Town of Montague

Matthew Lord, Chair

Richard Kuklewicz, Vice Chair

Marina Goldman, Clerk

Franklin, ss Montague, MA October _____, 2025

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague by posting attested copies of the same in a conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, and the Town Hall of the Town of Montague at least fourteen days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OCTOBER 22, 2025
MOTIONS**

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$19,559.25 for the purpose of paying prior year unpaid bills of the Board of Assessors, War Memorial, Clean Water Facility, and Solid Waste Departments, with \$18,995.85 to be raised from Free Cash and \$563.40 to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable-related equipment for MCTV and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from PEG Access Funds. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 3. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$95,100 for the purpose of funding the implementation of collective bargaining agreements with the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 183 (Patrol and Detectives) and Local 184 (Sergeants) for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, with \$95,100 to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,990 for the purpose of implementing the wage and class plan for unrepresented employees for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, with \$24,505 to be raised from Free Cash and \$2,485 from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

AMENDED ARTICLE 4: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,990 for the purpose of implementing the wage and class plan for unrepresented employees for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, with \$24,505 to be raised from Free Cash and \$2,485 from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings, and to allocate said funds as shown on the handout titled "Revised Schedule II of the Wage and Class Plan". **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE AS AMENDED**

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$274,600 for the purpose of providing additional funding to the Town Health Insurance appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026, with \$250,600 to be raised from Taxation and \$24,000 to be raised from Sewer Revenue. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating culverts on South Street and any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to increase spending limit to \$350,000 for the Airport Fuel revolving fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, as authorized by votes of the Select Board and Finance Committee in accordance with the fourth paragraph of said Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, which spending limit to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to increase the same. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, clause forty-fifth, or any other enabling authority, between the Town of Montague and Kearsarge Turners Falls RE LLC, Kearsarge Millers Falls RE LLC, its successor, assignee or affiliate, on such terms and conditions and for such term as negotiated by the Board of Assessors, for payment in lieu of taxes related to personal and/or real property associated with a solar renewable energy generation facility owned and operated by such entity located 131 Turnpike Road and identified as Assessor's Parcel ID 14-0-214 and 248 Millers Falls Road and identified as Assessors Parcel ID 23-0-67; and further to authorize the Board of Assessors to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, as created by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 (the “HERO Act”), thereby authorizing an annual cost-of-living adjustment in the amount of the property tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, §5, Clauses 22a-f, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, as created by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 (the “HERO Act”), thereby authorizing an additional property tax exemption for veterans on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, §5, Clauses 22a-f, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F, of 50% of the existing veteran exemption amount, subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of six (6) percent, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Map to add a new Village Center Mixed Use District (MU-VC) and Design Overlay District (DOD) consisting of parcels of land located at 0, 330-340 and 356 Montague City Road, identified as parcel numbers 12-0-044, 12-0-051, 12-0-044A and 12-0-050 and to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending:

- a. Section 2, Definitions, to add new terms and definitions;
- b. Section 4, Establishment of Districts, 4.1 – Types of Districts, to add the new Village Center Mixed Use District (MU-VC) and Design Overlay District (DOD);
- c. Section 5, District Regulation, to add a new section 5.2.10 – Village Center Mixed Use District identifying permitted uses, uses allowed by special permit, special regulations and standards pertaining to the MU-VC District;
- d. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.3 – Multiple Principal Uses to exempt the MU-VC District from the provisions of said section;
- e. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.5 – Dimensional Requirements to add a row to the table for dimensional requirements applicable to the MU-VC District;
- f. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.5.3 – Dimensional Relief by amending subparagraph (c) to establish the Planning Board as the Special Permit Granting Authority in the MU-VC District;
- g. Section 7, Sign Requirements, to amend 7.2.3 – District Parking Requirements to add subparagraph (c) relative to parking requirements in the MU-VC District;
- h. Section 7, Sign Requirements, to amend 7.4.2 – Access over front lot line, to exempt the MU-VC from the separate Special Permit requirement;
- i. Section 9, Site Plan Review, section 9.1.2 – Applicability, subparagraph (e) Specific Uses identified elsewhere in this bylaw to add uses requiring Site Plan Review in the MU-VC District;
- j. Section 9, Site Plan Review, section 9.1.3 – Authority, to add text designating the Planning Board as the Site Plan review Authority for the MU-VC District; and
- k. Section 6, Overlay Districts, to add a new section 6.4 – Design Overlay District,

with the full text of the above amendments and a copy of the proposed, revised Zoning Map as shown in the Town Meeting packet.

PASSED/TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town vote to transfer care, custody and control of three (3) parcels of land located at 340-350, and 356 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, and shown as Parcels 12-0-044, 12-0-044A, and 12-0-051, and being Lots B and C on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Montague Massachusetts Surveyed for The Farren Memorial Hospital” dated September 11, 1989, recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 79, Page 4 to the Selectboard for general municipal purposes and for commercial

and/or development of housing purposes and to authorize the Selectboard to sell or lease, transfer or convey all or any portion of such property for such sum and upon such terms and conditions determined by the Selectboard to be in the best interests of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all instruments, including deeds, leases or other agreements and take all other actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the vote taken hereunder.

PASSED/TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to Discontinue and Abandon 1969 Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive; Accept Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive; Accept proposed 15-foot-wide sewer easement under Accepted Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive in favor of 4 Burek Drive (Parcel #41-0-17) as shown on "Revised Street Acceptance Plan" Plan of Land in Montague, Massachusetts," August 7, 2025, and prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Burek Drive for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Montague and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That 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 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Montague, and shown as Assessor's Map 04-0-0041, and being Lot 2 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 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.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 16. RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE TO BE AN APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY.

MOVED: That the town will vote to adopt the following resolution.

WHEREAS All people are equal and should be treated with dignity and respect;

WHEREAS The Palestinian people experience discriminatory legal regimes, forced displacement, movement restrictions, and systematic human rights abuses;

WHEREAS According to legal scholars and the international human rights community, this situation constitutes the crime of Apartheid;

WHEREAS This non-binding measure represents the will of the residents of Montague, who wish to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine, and build an apartheid-free world, starting with our own town;

THEREFORE:

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and All people;

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression;

WE DECLARE ourselves an Apartheid-Free Community, and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

WE RECOMMEND that the Select Board send this resolution to the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

**ELECTION WARRANT TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 20, 2025**

Franklin, ss.

To either of the constables of the Town of Montague in the County of Franklin,
GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in their respective polling places appointed and designated as follows:

Precinct No. 1, the Montague Center Precinct, the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center; Precinct No. 2, the Millers Falls Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls; Precinct No. 3, the upper hill section of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls; Precinct No. 4, the second level of Turners Falls, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls; Precinct No. 5, downtown section of Turners Falls, The Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls; Precinct No. 6, the South End and Montague City Precinct, the Franklin County Technical School Gymnasium, 82 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls on **Tuesday, the Twentieth Day of May, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Five, from Seven A.M. to Seven P.M.** to bring their votes on one ballot to the Election Officers for:

- One Selectboard Member, for three years
- One Assessor, for three years
- One Board of Health Member, for three years
- Three Public Library Trustees, for three years
- One Montague Housing Authority Member, for five years
- One Parks & Recreation Commissioner, for three years
- One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Veteran), for three years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 1, for three years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 2, for three years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for three years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 3, for two years
- Three Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 4, for three years
- Four Town Meeting Members, Precinct 4, for two years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 5, for three years
- Three Town Meeting Member, Precinct 5, for two years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 5, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 6, for three years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 6, for two years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 6, for one year

Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk seven days before said election.

Given under our hands this _____ 5th _____ Day of May in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

Richard J. Kuklewicz

Matthew Lord

Christopher M. Boutwell

RACHEL A. STOLER	249	83	83	111	75	66	667
WRITE-IN'S	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
BLANKS	64	25	15	27	39	18	188
TOTALS	313	110	98	139	114	84	858
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, For three Years							Vote for three
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
WILLIAM C. QUALE	220	72	68	95	63	55	573
TAMARA M. KAPLAN	237	71	67	92	70	52	589
Susan Dorais	142	13	4	14	10	12	195
WRITE-IN'S	20	5	1	0	4	2	32
BLANKS	320	169	154	216	195	131	1185
TOTALS	939	330	294	417	342	252	2574
MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY, For five years							Vote for one
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
PAULA E. GIRARD	240	85	86	105	77	65	658
WRITE-IN'S	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
BLANKS	73	23	12	34	36	19	197
TOTALS	313	110	98	139	114	84	858
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, For three years							Vote for one
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Kenneth Danford	182	18	8	22	30	20	280
WRITE-IN'S	7	3	3	3	3	1	20
BLANKS	124	89	87	114	81	63	558
TOTALS	313	110	98	139	114	84	858
TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEMORIAL (Veteran), For three years							Vote for one
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Todd Brunelle	0	3	1	2	0	0	6
WRITE-IN'S	6	1	3	1	3	4	18
BLANKS	307	106	94	136	111	80	834
TOTALS	313	110	98	139	114	84	858
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For three years							Vote for not more than seven
PRECINCT 1							
David Dempsey	217	*					
Samuel H. Lovejoy	235	*					
Mark Fairbrother	217	*					
Elizabeth M. Irving	212	*					
Ariel S. Elan	213	*					
Patricia Perham	215	*					
Emily Monosson	142	*					
WRITE-IN'S	8						
BLANKS	732						
TOTAL	2191						

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three years		Vote for not more than seven
PRECINCT 2		
Terry Eaklor	67	*
Jennifer Tobey	72	*
Nancy L. Crowell	73	*
Jacklyn Stein	75	*
Harold H. Jensen	68	*
Jan Atamian	18	*
Lucy Bergin	16	*
WRITE-IN'S	10	
BLANKS	371	
TOTALS	770	
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three years		
PRECINCT 3		Vote for not more than seven
Kristi A. Bodin	74	*
John L. Hirst	75	*
Rolland S. Packard	70	*
Elizabeth J. Fogle	74	*
Richard W. Ducharme	76	*
Ronald Michonski	2	*
Betsy Burnham	6	*
WRITE-IN'S	2	
BLANKS	307	
TOTAL	686	
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For two years		Vote for not more than one
PRECINCT 3		
WRITE-IN'S	3	
BLANKS	95	
TOTALS	98	
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For one year		Vote for not more than three
PRECINCT 3		
David Adams	2	*
Molly Conarro	2	*
WRITE-IN'S	3	
BLANKS	287	
TOTALS	294	
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three years		Vote for not more than seven
PRECINCT 4		
Christopher M. Boutwell	87	*
Jennifer R. Audley	94	*
Christopher Menegoni	88	*

James Katsoulis	84	*
Chelsey Little	89	*
Joanna Rueter	24	*
John Lentz	7	*
WRITE-IN'S	37	
BLANKS	463	
TOTALS	973	

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For two years	Vote for not more than four
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PRECINCT 4		
Beverly Ketch	27	*
Richard Messick	7	*
Sarah Ryder	3	*
Lydia levins	19	*
WRITE-IN'S	59	
BLANKS	441	
TOTALS	556	

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For one year	Vote for not more than one
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PRECINCT 4		
Thomas Hagamen	25	*
WRITE-IN'S	9	
BLANKS	105	
TOTALS	139	

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three years	Vote for not more than seven
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PRECINCT 5		
Sage Mykael Thames	59	*
Maureen McNamara	53	
John T. Hanold	56	*
April J. Reipold	65	*
Duncan P. Bullen	55	*
Ryne Hager	63	*
Pamela F. Hanold	64	*
Janel Nockelby	61	*
WRITE-IN'S	28	
BLANKS	294	
TOTAL	798	

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For two years	Vote for not more than three
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PRECINCT 5		
Denise P. DiPaolo	72	*
Lillian Autler	71	*
Jacob Goldman	29	*
WRITE-IN'S	10	

BLANKS	160						
TOTALS	342						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For one year		Vote for not more than one					
PRECINCT 5							
Patricia A. Hartland	34						
WRITE-IN'S	7						
BLANKS	73						
TOTALS	114						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three years		Vote for not more than seven					
PRECINCT 6							
Peter J. Hudyma	52	*					
Melanie K. Zamojski	57	*					
Frederick Billiel	54	*					
Karen Latka	56	*					
Mary Jones	23	*					
Eli Smith	23	*					
Lilith Wolinsky	21	*					
WRITE-IN'S	26						
BLANKS	276						
TOTAL	588						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For two years		Vote for not more than one					
PRECINCT 6							
WRITE-IN'S	23						
BLANKS	61						
TOTALS	84						
TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For one year		Vote for not more than one					
PRECINCT 6							
Ali Crowley	19	*					
WRITE-IN'S	3						
BLANKS	62						
TOTALS	84						
		* = elected official					
<p>This is a return of the total votes cast in the various precincts and returned to the Board of Registrars by the precinct clerks for the Town of Montague.</p>							
BOARD OF REGISTRARS							
Tina Sulda							
Stanley Dobosz							
Elizabeth Irving							
Wendy Bogusz							
Weather: partly sunny, mid 50's F							

Attest:							
Tina Sulda							
Montague Town Clerk							

** These Totals Need to be Combined with the Town of Gill's Election Results **							
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE							
REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF GILL							
SCHOOL COMMITTEE For three years				Vote for not more than one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
JANE A. OAKES	172	67	68	87	67	54	515
WRITE-IN'S	29	2	2	0	1	5	39
BLANKS	112	41	28	52	46	25	304
TOTALS	313	110	98	139	114	84	858
REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
SCHOOL COMMITTEE For three years				Vote for not more than two			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
HEATHER KATSOULIS	184	71	72	93	59	56	535
WENDY THOMPSON	175	67	75	91	56	53	517
WRITE-IN'S	40	13	4	9	21	2	89
BLANKS	227	69	45	85	92	57	575
TOTALS	626	220	196	278	228	168	1716
REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
SCHOOL COMMITTEE For one years				Vote for not more than one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Steve Ellis	140	23	12	34	15	18	242
WRITE-IN'S	9	10	2	1	13	5	40
BLANKS	164	77	84	104	86	61	576
	313	110	98	139	114	84	858

**Town of Montague
Combining Balance Sheet
Year Ended June 30, 2025**

Assets	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo-Only
Cash	6,068,593	2,295,096	4,519,412	1,034,009	7,741,154	21,658,264
Receivables:						-
Personal Property Taxes	68,557					68,557
Real Estate Taxes	658,384					658,384
Allowance For Abatements	(917,183)					(917,183)
Tax Liens	270,930			197,760		468,690
MV Excise	264,309					264,309
Other Excise Taxes	1,248					1,248
User Fees	2,033			241,729		243,762
Utility Liens Added to Taxes				20,031		20,031
Due from Other Governments	1,442	-	-			1,442
Other Receivables	100,450			-		100,450
Tax Foreclosures	335,106			1,261		336,367
Prepays	-			-		-
Due From Other Funds	(150)			-	-	(150)
Total Assets	6,853,719	2,295,096	4,519,412	1,494,790	7,741,154	22,904,170

**Town of Montague
Combining Balance Sheet
Year Ended June 30, 2025**

Liabilities

Warrants Payable	315,566	329,033	323,780	83,802	-	1,052,181
Accrued Payroll	75,811	11,793		20,461		108,066
Withholdings Payable	187,349					187,349
Due To Other Govt	100,450					100,450
Other Liabilities	6,204	9,584		50		15,838
Deferred Revenue:						-
Real & Personal Property	(190,242)					(190,242)
Tax Liens	270,930			197,760		468,690
Foreclosures/Possessions	335,106			1,261		336,367
MV Excise	264,309					264,309
Other Excise	1,248					1,248
User Fees	2,033			241,729		243,762
Utility Liens Added to Taxes				20,031		20,031
Prepaid Taxes/Fees				950		950
Total Liabilities	1,368,765	350,410	323,780	566,044	-	2,608,998

Fund Balance

Reserved For Encumbrances	-			2,898		2,898
Reserved For Continuing Approp.	3,315,177	1,944,686	4,195,632	229,519		9,685,014
Reserved for Debt Service					185,561	185,561
Undesignated Fund Balance	2,169,778				7,555,593	9,725,371
Undesignated Retained Earnings				696,329		696,329
Total Fund Balance	5,484,955	1,944,686	4,195,632	928,746	7,741,154	20,295,173

Total Liabilities and Fund Balance

6,853,719	2,295,096	4,519,412	1,494,790	7,741,154	22,904,170
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Town of Montague
Combining Income Statement
Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo Only
Revenues						
General Government	26,371,111	1,493,840	-	-	469,953	28,334,904
Public Safety	152,544	268,288			729	421,561
Education	-	-			12,585	12,585
Public Works	332,089	544,083	-	3,403,285	7,629	4,287,086
Human Services	82,602	62,702			-	145,304
Culture/Recreation	2,049	329,203			2,557	333,809
Debt	-					-
Intergovernmental	-		1,657,708	-		1,657,708
Miscellaneous	-	220	-	1,216		1,436
Proceeds from Bonds/Notes			-	-		-
Transfers In	1,060,158	-	-	564,137	469,775	2,094,070
Total Revenues & OFS	28,000,554	2,698,335	1,657,708	3,968,638	963,228	37,288,462
Expenditures						
General Government	1,494,975	2,711,361	-	-	-	4,206,336
Public Safety	2,485,824	327,914	-		3,583	2,817,320
Education	12,980,798	-	-		2,200	12,982,998
Public Works	2,875,351	510,455	2,901,231	2,838,080	-	9,125,116
Human Services	275,234	109,898			-	385,132
Culture/Recreation	679,487	224,152	-		-	903,639
Debt	1,138,854			556,134		1,694,988
Intergovernmental	223,074			-		223,074
Miscellaneous	3,532,446	-		828,937		4,361,383
Transfers Out	881,068	84,040	270,062	-	858,900	2,094,070
Total Expenditures & OFU	26,567,110	3,967,820	3,171,292	4,223,151	864,683	38,794,056
Net Revenues - Expenditures	1,433,444	(1,269,486)	(1,513,585)	(254,513)	98,545	(1,505,595)
Beginning Fund Balance	4,051,511	3,214,172	5,709,217	1,183,259	7,642,609	21,800,767
Ending Fund Balance	5,484,955	1,944,686	4,195,632	928,746	7,741,154	20,295,173

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2025

Name	FY2025 ATM	Carryfwd/ Encumbr/	STM Spring 2025	ATM Spring 2025	Transfers/ Other	Total Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forward
GENERAL FUND										
Town Meeting	3,180					-	3,180	1,413	1,767	
Selectboard	326,230					-	326,230	308,440	17,790	
Finance Committee	600					-	600	196	404	
Reserve Fund	50,000		36,000		(39,004)	(3,004)	46,996	-	46,996	
Town Accountant	93,000				23,500	23,500	116,500	113,632	2,868	
Assessors	186,059					-	186,059	171,526	14,533	
Collector/Treasurer	206,965					-	206,965	189,517	17,448	
Town Counsel	87,475					-	87,475	65,587	21,888	
Information Technology	92,252					-	92,252	82,008	10,244	
Shared Costs	93,499					-	93,499	78,905	14,594	
Town Clerk	237,224					-	237,224	210,438	26,786	
Planning	140,788					-	140,788	136,527	4,261	
Zoning Board of Appeals	700					-	700	83	617	
Building Utilities	140,050					-	140,050	132,041	8,009	
Farmers Market	5,200					-	5,200	4,662	538	
Police	2,127,608					-	2,127,608	1,914,407	213,201	
Dispatch	410,768					-	410,768	369,741	41,027	
Building Inspector	155,082					-	155,082	133,851	21,231	
Sealer of Weights/Measures	7,182					-	7,182	7,182	-	
Emergency Management	6,944					-	6,944	6,444	500	
Animal Control	23,658					-	23,658	22,363	1,295	
Forest Warden	1,882					-	1,882	1,882	-	
Tree Warden	30,474					-	30,474	29,824	650	
Education	12,980,798					-	12,980,798	12,980,798	0	
DPW	1,772,006					-	1,772,006	1,751,910	20,096	
Snow & Ice	321,250					-	321,250	307,755	13,495	
Solid Waste	802,776					-	802,776	774,553	28,223	
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	11,980					-	11,980	10,729	1,252	
Cemeteries	32,150				2,200	2,200	34,350	30,405	3,945	
Board of Health	168,004					-	168,004	153,171	14,833	
Council on Aging	59,272					-	59,272	56,153	3,119	
Veteran's Services	77,897					-	77,897	65,910	11,987	
Library	518,233					-	518,233	511,548	6,685	
Parks & Recreation	164,826				2,500	2,500	167,326	167,301	25	
Historical Commission	500					-	500	-	500	
War Memorials	1,600					-	1,600	638	962	
Debt Service	1,158,857					-	1,158,857	1,138,854	20,003	
State Assessments	106,651					-	106,651	106,651	-	
Other Intergovernmental	116,874					-	116,874	116,423	451	
Employee Benefits	2,657,083					-	2,657,083	2,597,665	59,418	

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2025

Name	FY2025 ATM	Carryfwd/ Encumbr/	STM Spring 2025	ATM Spring 2025	Transfers/ Other	Total Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forward
Insurance	119,600					-	119,600	115,717	3,883	
Transfers to Other Funds	681,068					-	881,068	881,068	-	
<u>Special Articles</u>										
S#10 3/2/17 Stab Strathmore	3,352					-	3,352	25		3,327
#44 5/6/17 MF Community Proj	954					-	954	78		876
#18A 5/22/21 Unsafe Buildings	19,232					-	19,232			19,232
#18C 5/22/21 Bid/Proj Overrun	27,723		24,751			24,751	52,475	16,449		36,026
#19 5/22/21 BldgAssess/CapPlan	50,000					-	50,000			50,000
#21E 5/22/21 SchSubAbuseCounsl	12,424					-	12,424			12,424
#9 10/16/21 Subst Abuse Prev	24,394					-	24,394			24,394
#23 5/7/22 Subst Abuse Counsel	173,800					-	173,800			173,800
#24 5/7/22 Afterschool STEM	40,000					-	40,000			40,000
CS #20 5/6/23 11th St Bridge	81,760					-	81,760	77,936		3,824
#23 5/7/25 FRTA Bus Stop				60,000		60,000	60,000			60,000
#24 5/7/25 Keith Footbridge				67,900		67,900	67,900	2,645		65,256
#15 5/4/19 Hydroelectric Val	19,000					-	19,000			19,000
#15 5/4/24 BOA ATB Costs	260,000					-	260,000	134,692		125,308
#25 5/6/23 Locking Fireproof C	25,000					-	25,000			25,000
#15 6/13/20 Fix Walking Paths	19,060					-	19,060			19,060
#18B 5/22/21 Unexp Engineering	22,200					-	22,200			22,200
#25 5/7/22 MF Rd/Industrial BI	25,000					-	25,000			25,000
#28 5/6/23 MVP Grant Match	13,100					-	13,100			13,100
#22 5/7/25 MC Complete Streets				91,200		91,200	91,200			91,200
#21C 5/22/21 Cannabis Intoxica	7,000					-	7,000			7,000
#13 6/13/20 Ctrl Office Canopy	10,000					-	10,000			10,000
#14A 5/22/21 Hillcrest Facade	55,000					-	55,000			55,000
#14B 5/22/21 Sheffield Facade	45,000					-	45,000			45,000
#13 10/13/22 Hillcrest Floors	46,118					-	46,118			46,118
#13 5/6/23 Sheffield Gym Roof	8,295					-	8,295			8,295
#14 5/6/23 Sheffield Sec Door	20,000					-	20,000			20,000
#11 5/4/24 Sheffield Main Off	24,000					-	24,000	4,972		19,028
#13 5/4/24 Smith VocTech Fy25	36,000		20,547		13,004	33,551	69,551	69,551		-
CS #12 5/4/24 Hillcrest Paving	175,500					-	175,500			175,500
#19 5/6/23 DPW Discretionary	29,471					-	29,471	29,471		-
#13 3/14/24 S Ferry Rd Culvert	221,018					-	221,018	197,384		23,633
#18 5/4/24 DPW Equipment	64,218					-	64,218	33,356		30,862
#19 5/4/24 DPW 20 Ton Trailer	40,402					-	40,402	40,401		
#20 5/4/24 10-Wheel Dump Truck	365,000					-	365,000			365,000
#22 5/4/24 Pave 1st St Alley	30,000					-	30,000	8,867		21,133
#16 5/7/25 10 Wheel Dump Truck	365,000			365,000		365,000	365,000			365,000
CS #17 5/725 Dump Truck				325,000		325,000	325,000			325,000
#18 5/7/25 Camera Van				70,000		70,000	70,000			70,000

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2025

Name	FY2025 ATM	Carryfwd/ Encumbr/	STM Spring 2025	ATM Spring 2025	Transfers/ Other	Total Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forward
#18 5/7/25 Pickup Truck				65,000		65,000	65,000			65,000
#19 5/7/25 Oakman St Slope				60,000		60,000	60,000			60,000
#19 5/7/25 Non-Chap 90 Paving				30,000		30,000	30,000			30,000
#20 5/7/25 Meadow Rd Guardrail				200,000		200,000	200,000			200,000
S #8 9/25/01 Capping Burn Dump	8,233				▼	-	8,233			8,233
#14 10/10/23 CS Compliance/Reg	30,721				▼	-	30,721	7,383		23,338
#15 10/10/23 CS COMP	26,584				▼	-	26,584	26,549		35
CS #21 5/4/24 Line Manholes/Pi	78,500				▼	-	78,500			78,500
#2 3/3/22 Cemetery Emerg Exp	6,826				▼	-	6,826			6,826
#1 3/2/23 Green Burial Site Pr	1,084				▼	-	1,084	139		945
#6 10/10/23 HighlandWoodsSigns	857				▼	-	857	200		657
#26 5/22/21 Mosquito Control	9,478				▼	-	9,478			9,478
#2 10/13/20 Senior Ctr Roof	21,899				▼	-	21,899	21,899		-
CS #23 5/7/16 Carnegie Roof	2,505				▼	-	2,505			2,505
#25 5/6/17 Carnegie Air Exchng	5,000				▼	-	5,000			5,000
#26 5/6/17 Carnegie Roof	2,035				▼	-	2,035			2,035
#25 5/4/19 MC Libr Moisture	12,950				▼	-	12,950			12,950
#26 5/4/19 MF Libr Moisture	2,450				▼	-	2,450			2,450
#20C 5/7/22 Carnegie Basement	130,000				▼	-	130,000	130,000		-
#20D 5/7/22 MC Libr Masonry	25,400				▼	-	25,400	2,066		23,334
#13 3/2/23 Main Library Feasib	25,096				▼	-	25,096			25,096
#22 5/6/23 MF Library Repairs	14,000				▼	-	14,000	14,000		-
CS #17 5/4/24 Main Branch Libr	150,000				▼	-	150,000			150,000
#13 5/7/25 Library Accessibili				10,000		10,000	10,000			10,000
#22 5/7/25 MF Library Storefro				39,000		39,000	39,000			39,000
#12 3/2/23 Evaluate Blacksmith	1,000				▼	-	1,000	1,000		-
#23 5/6/23 Unity Garden Well	12,000				▼	-	12,000			12,000
#24 5/6/23 Unity Parking Lot	7,200				▼	-	7,200			7,200
#22 5/7/25 Unity Park Upgrades				125,000		125,000	125,000			125,000
Total General Fund	28,746,083	-	81,298	1,508,100	2,200	1,591,598	30,537,682	26,566,981	655,524	3,315,177

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2025

Name	FY2025 ATM	Carryfwd/ Encumbr/	STM Spring 2025	ATM Spring 2025	Transfers/ Other	Total Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forward
AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND										
Airport Commission	255,238		24,000			24,000	279,238	318,637	(39,399)	
Debt	102,775					-	102,775	102,775	-	
Employee Benefits	61,664					-	61,664	45,995	15,669	
Total Airport	419,677	-	24,000		-	24,000	443,677	467,407	(23,730)	-
CWF ENTERPRISE FUND										
CWF	2,175,090	2,180				2,180	2,177,270	2,272,841	(95,571)	2,898
Highway Subsidiary	85,150					-	85,150	74,796	10,354	
Debt	478,365					-	478,365	453,359	25,006	
Employee Benefits	380,719					-	380,719	315,472	65,247	
<u>Special Articles</u>										
#7 10/29/14 CWF Lab Software	20,000				(20,000)	(20,000)	-			-
#18 5/7/22 CWF Generator	278,999					-	278,999	302,704		(23,705)
#15 3/2/23 Transit Van/Charger	2,520				(1,218)	(1,218)	1,302	1,302		-
#12 10/10/23 Local Limits Study	40,402					-	40,402	15,147		25,255
#13 10/10/23 PS Generators	70,000					-	70,000	70,000		-
#5 2/12/25 CWF Conference Room			27,282		21,218	48,500	48,500	21,605		26,895
#14 5/7/25 Mini Excavator				60,000		60,000	60,000	56,712		3,288
#14 5/7/25 Lake P Generator				67,800		67,800	67,800			67,800
#14 5/7/25 Sludge Pumps				104,000		104,000	104,000			104,000
Total CWF	3,531,245	2,180	27,282	231,800	-	261,262	3,792,507	3,583,938	5,035	206,432

Special Revenue and Trust Funds FY2025

Dept	Name	Balance 7/1/2024	Receipts	Expended	Balance 6/30/2025
Fund 220					
211	Police Extra Duty	(27,406.30)	184,318.46	195,967.16	(39,055.00)
Fund 222	Ins Reimb < \$20K	9,744.80	10,481.28	10,481.28	9,744.80
Fund 223 Highway Improvements					
422	Chapter 90	41,274.43	396,620.55	395,443.61	42,451.37
Fund 225 Other Special Revenue					
122-002	Wage & Classification	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	-
122-008	40R ZIP Grant	-	75,000.00	-	75,000.00
128	ARPA Grant	1,450,073.64	-	1,270,965.43	179,108.21
135	FY25 Community Compact	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00
161	Extended Polling	9,327.77	3,492.00	6,537.77	6,282.00
172	Wetlands Protection	19,817.11	-	4,579.19	15,237.92
174	River Culture	7,216.65	9,319.95	8,690.31	7,846.29
175-175	ConComm SRRHMF Gifts	11,000.00	-	1,875.00	9,125.00
175-177	MVP Planning FY17	20,310.31	-	-	20,310.31
175-178	Green Communities	(20,547.23)	12,124.90	-	(8,422.33)
175-183	MC Road Flooding	(6,880.84)	38,587.36	16,598.00	15,108.52
175-185	Cultural District	24,010.51	15,000.00	19,721.34	19,289.17
175-197	Ferry Rd Culvert Design	2,333.16	-	2,333.16	-
175-198	Pesky Park Audio Tour	1,440.41	-	-	1,440.41
175-201	REDO State Grant	12,894.94	-	12,238.57	656.37
175-203	MVP Climate Resiliency	(44,675.11)	42,625.00	(1,945.11)	(105.00)
175-204	MCC Recovery Grant	6,850.00	-	-	6,850.00
175-206	RC Fiscal Agent Fee	3,695.76	-	1,596.15	2,099.61
175-208	MVP 2.0 Plan/Resilience Seed	28,906.21	50,000.00	25,585.06	53,321.15
175-209	NEFA Making It Public	3,000.00	12,000.00	15,000.00	-
175-210	Community Planning Grant	-	-	6,964.22	(6,964.22)
175-212	HUD Avenue A Streetscape	-	152,598.87	344,337.37	(191,738.50)
175-186	Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge	55,799.03	-	55,799.03	-
181	CDBG FCRHA	-	918,028.95	918,028.95	-
184	Comm Dev Discretionary	73,855.11	30,530.49	30,754.03	73,631.57
197	Farmers Market Grant	500.00	-	-	500.00
211-215	K-9 Vehicle Donations	12,075.10	-	-	12,075.10
211-217	Comfort Dog	1,878.35	1,290.00	229.06	2,939.29
211-218	Drug Forfeiture	8,957.48	1,681.92	-	10,639.40
211-219	K-9 Donations	28,751.14	1,130.00	13,544.71	16,336.43
211-220	Police DMH Grant	1,473.34	-	-	1,473.34
211-221	CONNECT Grant	24,122.14	12,061.07	36,183.21	-

211-222	Defibrillator Grant	2,090.00	-	-	2,090.00
211-223	USDA Cruiser Grant	-	33,000.00	33,000.00	-
212-212	Dispatch Incentive Grant	-	19,174.63	34,292.00	(15,117.37)
212-213	911 Grant	(383.00)	4,320.34	4,066.34	(129.00)
295	Wood Bank Donations	150.00	-	-	150.00
298	Memorial Tree	777.17	830.00	150.00	1,457.17
434	Recycling Dividends Program	499.85	43,311.15	5,553.79	38,257.21
449-003	#11 3/14/24 CWF Asset	114,706.95	74,077.00	50,810.18	137,973.77
449-004	CWF META 12 Grant DEP/MCWT Asset	-	1,774.25	3,312.25	(1,538.00)
449-003	Vulnerability	-	-	55,335.17	(55,335.17)
511	Opioid Settlement	27,905.68	7,074.36	-	34,980.04
541	State COA Grant	18,705.89	37,440.00	40,144.43	16,001.46
541-001	COA MassInMotion Grant	-	4,230.00	4,230.00	-
541-002	COA Gifts Direct Aid	3,000.00	-	534.98	2,465.02
541-003	ARPA Digital Literacy	8,803.78	(518.32)	8,285.46	-
541-004	COA Building Earmark	-	-	46,853.12	(46,853.12)
541-005	MA Tech Digital Equity	-	-	7,664.13	(7,664.13)
545	COA Memorial Gifts	20,311.60	14,475.95	2,186.01	32,601.54
585	Program Income	-	-	-	-
610	State Aid to Library	95,806.24	29,160.59	18,938.36	106,028.47
610-004	ALA Library Website Grant	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	-
610-006	LSTA Beyond Lib Walls	-	6,300.00	4,933.86	1,366.14
610-007	MBLC Planning/Design	-	90,327.97	17,584.09	72,743.88
615	Library Donations	42,266.10	2,950.00	11,511.41	33,704.69
630	Skatepark Donation	305.93	-	-	305.93
636	Montague Center Park	4,639.06	-	4,200.00	439.06
670	Cultural Council	7,782.68	8,613.74	12,966.09	3,430.33
693	War Memorial Grant	9,957.53	-	-	9,957.53
695	PEG Access Funds	-	25,000.00	12,500.00	12,500.00
699	Battlefield Grant	(30,850.00)	83,300.00	41,397.20	11,052.80
	Total Fund 225	2,097,660.44	1,890,312.17	3,245,064.32	742,908.29
Fund 226 Receipts Reserved for Appropriation					
491	Sale of Cemetery Lots	4,200.00	-	-	4,200.00
491	Sale of Highland Lots	51,802.62	28,300.00	2,200.00	77,902.62
942	Sale of Real Estate	653,142.16	219.50	26,041.00	627,320.66
	Total Fund 226	709,144.78	28,519.50	28,241.00	709,423.28
Fund 227 Revolving Funds					
630	Recreation Revolving	(4,489.63)	83,550.55	80,121.10	(1,060.18)
	Total Fund 227	(4,489.63)	83,550.55	80,121.10	(1,060.18)
Fund 228	Colle Operations	397,826.78	104,532.00	12,501.66	489,857.12

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
Year Ended June 30, 2025**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance 7/1/2024</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Transfer In/Out</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance 6/30/25</u>
Town					
Buildings/Infrastructure	5,313,418.01	358,390.87		730,014.52	4,941,794
#1 3/29/18 DPW Facility	52,361.30	-		-	52,361
Airport Capital Projects	660,379.88	1,147,648.25		1,562,746.54	245,282
CWF Capital Projects	(316,942.37)	151,668.68		878,531.24	(1,043,805)
Totals	5,709,217	1,657,708	-	3,171,292	4,195,632

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
DEBT STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

	<u>Outstanding 07/01/24</u>	<u>Issued FY2025</u>	<u>Retired FY2025</u>	<u>Outstanding 06/30/25</u>	<u>Interest FY2025</u>
LONG TERM DEBT					
Clean Water Facility	6,686,442		390,940	6,295,501	201,512
Town	11,423,000	-	730,000	10,693,000	372,536
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	18,109,442	-	1,120,940	16,988,501	574,048
SHORT TERM DEBT					
Tax Anticipation Notes	-	-	-	-	-
Bond Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Grant Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Other Short Term Debt	-			-	
TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT	-	-	-	-	-

BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED

Long-term debt authorizations that have not been issued or rescinded as of June 30, 2025 are as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10-Wheel Dump Truck	365,000
Parking Lot - Town Hall	296,000
Pump Station Upgrade	283,800
Screw Pump	2,500,000
Phase 2 Sewer Collection	3,000,000
	<u>\$ 6,444,800</u>

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

GENERAL FUND

General Revenue

Taxes (net of refunds)

Personal Property	\$ 3,860,350
Real Estate	18,545,765
Tax Liens Redeemed	55,003
Tax Foreclosures	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	885,130
Boat Excise	-
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	201,201
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	10,420
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	11,262
Trailer Park Taxes	3,312
Meals Tax	67,445
Total Taxes	23,639,887

State Revenues

State Owned Land	375,462
Abatements to Veterans/Elderly	48,465
Unrestricted Local Aid	1,764,674
Chapter 90	9,046
Court Fines	2,060
Comm MA Motor Vehicle Infractions	2,086
Other State Revenue	39
Veteran's Benefits (State Reimb)	31,755
Total State Revenue	2,233,587

Other

FCTS SRO Reimb	40,055
GMRSD SRO Reimb	43,675
Earnings on Investments	131,581
Miscellaneous Revenue	12,406
Kearsarge Rental	157,538
Premium from Sale of Debt	-
Transfers from Other Funds	1,060,158
Airport Overhead to Town	4,000
CWF Overhead to Town	50,511
Total Other	1,499,923

Departmental Revenue

Board of Selectmen	23,579
Board of Assessors	7,069
Treasurer/Collector	14,781
Town Clerk	39,619
Planning & Conservation	773
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,975

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

GENERAL FUND

<u>General Revenue, continued</u>	
Farmer's Market	1,830
Police	24,638
Building	123,703
Sealer of Weights & Measures	4,203
Dog Licenses	-
Hwy - Trash	323,708
Hwy - Other	5,034
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	3,346
Board of Health	41,299
Council on Aging - Gill Reimbursement	9,548
Libraries	2,049
Total Departmental Revenue	<u>627,156</u>
Total General Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$28,000,554</u></u>

AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND

Airport PILOTS	\$ 12,211
Rentals/Leases	217,654
Investment Income	809
Other Fees	15,587
Transfer from CPF (FAA Debt Grant)	71,004
Transfer from Other Funds	133,634
Total Airport Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 450,899</u></u>

CWF ENTERPRISE FUND

Tax Liens Redeemed	\$ -
Sewer Liens Redeemed	73,740
Interest & Demands	42,030
Industrial Sewer Fees	334,118
Residential Sewer Fees	1,949,414
Septage Fees	375,876
Trucked-In Solids	174,103
Sewer Permits	125
Investment Income	407
Miscellaneous Receipts	11,524
Transfer from CWF Cap Stab Fund	-
Transfer from General Fund (Tax Share)	359,499
Total WPCF Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 3,320,837</u></u>

AIRPORT

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, overseen by the Airport Commission, completed several projects in 2025 totaling over two hundred thousand dollars. Most notably, the continued rehabilitation of the Pioneer Aviation complex. Work included installation of a composite roof sealant on portions of the Pioneer Aviation hangar, and exterior LED apron lighting. Other notable achievements in 2025 included design and environmental planning as the next steps towards the complete rehabilitation of the pavement of the Pioneer Aviation property. A major accomplishment in 2025 was the completion of the Tech School aviation training hangar, a capital investment of over 4.3 million dollars. In 2025 the airport employed 4 people, consisting of the full-time Airport and Operations Manager, and 2 part time Franklin County Technical School co-op grounds maintenance team members. The steady increase in operations in 2025 totaled 52,000 +/-, of which 38% directly related to flight training and another 28% was passenger arrival or departure related. The grant funded solar canopy, located in the administration office parking lot off Millers Falls Road, generated 32.09 Mwh of clean, renewable energy, offsetting 24% of electricity consumption airport wide. The electric vehicle charging stations dispensed 2,461 kWh of clean energy to users in 2025.

The Pioneer Aviation purchase, completed on April 15th, 2021, continues to be beneficial to the airport and the aviation community. Ongoing property repairs in 2025 included a synthetic roofing coating that will extend the life of the existing roof by at least an additional 10 years. FAA and DOT grants covered 95% of the overall cost of all improvements, and airport staff provided labor-related services to offset additional costs. A new heat pump type heating and air conditioning system installed in 2024 has proven to be a worthwhile investment, replacing the 30+ year old inefficient oil-fired heating system and window unit air conditioner. Fuel sales exceeded the previous year's expected levels for the duration of 2025, totaling just over \$209,800. The Jet-A fueling system, which allows for refueling services to be provided to helicopter and some charter operators continues to provide value. Jet-A sales were previously lost to surrounding airports and generated an additional \$22,000 in annual revenue for 2025. The increase in transient aircraft traffic exceed 73% over 2024, the majority of which are stopping to purchase fuel, with the average fuel sale totaling \$210.00. Recently the purchase of 2 electric bikes and 2 conventional bikes have allowed transient aircraft visitors to travel into the Millers Falls or Turners Falls area for breakfast or lunch, capturing tourism dollars for the local economy. In 2026, the airport will invest both time and energy to increase this activity, with the potential for significant tourism dollars to be captured. It is estimated that each unique visitor would invest \$23 per person, per visit, in food and other purchases in town.

Staffing was maintained at adequate levels for the duties of running the facility. The Operations Manager position continues to oversee the day-to-day operations of the airfield. The co-op student position continues to benefit the airport and is under the supervision of the Operations Manager. The program in its 8th year now has provided critical workforce support to reduce the workload of the Airport Manager. The duties of the Airport Manager have continued to shift over the last few years from a property maintenance person to a business development and customer relations role. Some of the duties for the students and the Operations Manager include but are not limited to snow removal, painting, mowing, grounds upkeep, lighting system repairs, public relations, aircraft fueling, trash removal, vegetation management, and pavement maintenance.

The airport continues to work with airport users to develop new revenues sources. Some new revenue in 2025 included additional outside aircraft rental space, as well as general airport property rental. Unfortunately, at this time the proposed solar development appears no longer to be viable due to the lack of responsiveness in infrastructure development by host utility provider Eversource. Failure by the utility provider to maintain adequate expansion capacity in the distribution network despite the significant increase in demand has left the greater Western Massachusetts area with the electrical distribution network of the third world nation. The airport will continue to seek other revenue sources, including battery energy storage and aircraft shelter development.

Currently the Turners Falls Municipal Airport is home to 42 aircraft, one aircraft less than 2024. The airport is the home to Fly Pioneer Valley, a long-term business offering all aspects of flight training. R.B. Gray Aircraft Maintenance continues to support the flying community with top notch repairs and service. Non-aviation businesses on the airport include Better-body Foods, Altium Packaging, Australis Aquaculture, and Berkshire Hathaway. The airport continues to have a strong work study program with the Franklin County Technical School, located next to the airfield. The Airport Commission thanks the citizens of the Town of Montague for their support as the airport continues to thrive. The entire airport team is looking forward to a successful 2026 as the airport will continue to see a positive return from the continued investment in the facilities.

Airport Commission:

Gary Collins
David Brule
Seth Rutherford
Josh Lively
Joe Mazeski

Airport Manager:

Bryan Camden

BATTLEFIELD ADVISORY BOARD

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Montague applied to the National Park Service for funding a study of the May 19, 1676, event at the Peskeompskut falls, under the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program. This study of the colonial-era Native American battle with the English colonies was one of the first of its kind undertaken by the NPS.

The purpose of the study was to research and document the May 19, 1676, massacre of Indigenous people camped at the Peskeompskut Falls and the counterattack mounted by the Indigenous coalition.

Town Administrator Walter Ramsey, and volunteer Project Coordinator David Brule determined that the study and grant funds would be best overseen by an Advisory Board composed of the Historical Commissioners of the five modern-day towns where the events had taken place, and also Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the five Tribes whose ancestors had been present the time of the massacre and counter-attack.

The Tribes that participated in the Advisory Board were the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuc/k Indians, the Elnu Abenaki, the Aquinnah Wampanoag, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mahican Indians.

The Historical Commissioners represented the Towns of Montague, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield and Northfield.

The Battlefield Advisory Board met at the Montague Town Hall on the first Wednesday of every month over the time span of its existence.

The Advisory Board launched a Request for Proposals and settled on the team of Dr. Kevin McBride as Principal Investigator, with assistance of Dr. David Naumec, and Dr. Ashley Bissonnette.

During the 11-year period of NPS funding, the archaeologists conducted three phases of summer field work and published 3 volumes of findings and research over that period.

The Final Technical Report was filed and printed in September 2025, entitled *The Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut*

May 19, 1676.

In addition, the NPS had funded the development of three educational signs that are placed along the bike path in Unity Park opposite the massacre site in Riverside, Gill.

The signs were developed by the Nipmuck and Abenaki Tribes, plus the archaeologists. Funding for the actual fabrication of the signs was provided by First Light Utilities.

With the publishing of the Final Report, the Advisory board was dissolved by the Montague Board of Selectmen in November 2025.

The members of the Board opted to continue their work as an ad hoc Steering Committee to help organize the commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the attack, and to continue efforts to expand a signage trail and pursue further educational goals put in motion by this study.

Submitted by: David Brule, Montague Historical Commissioner, and Project Coordinator of the Advisory Board.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

This year, the Town hired Adam Tocci to replace Karen Tonelli as the Director of Assessing as of June 2025. The department also reached a settlement with FirstLight MA Hydro LLC in regard to the outstanding valuation challenges for the three prior fiscal years. FirstLight withdrew all outstanding valuation challenges regarding their hydroelectric generation facility, and in return the Town paid FirstLight a settlement of \$800,000. Additionally, the Town and FirstLight entered into a 10-year PILOT agreement in order to avoid future litigation regarding the valuation of the company's real and personal property. This PILOT will run through fiscal year 2035.

As part of the October 2025 Town Hall meeting, the Board of Assessors put forth two special articles which were both approved. The first article was a proposed PILOT agreement between the Town and Kearsarge Energy which encompasses two of their solar sites at 131 Turnpike Rd and 248 Millers Falls Rd. This is a 16-year agreement and encompasses both their real and personal property. Kearsarge agreed to withdraw their outstanding valuation challenges on both sites in return. The second article was the local adoption of a component of the HERO Act which was a piece of legislature passed by the Massachusetts General Legislature in 2024. The Town voted to adopt both Clause I as well as Clause J of the Act. With the adoption of Clause I, the Veteran exemptions will increase annually by a cost-of-living adjustment as determined by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue. With the adoption of Clause J, the Veteran exemptions will also increase by 50%.

Listed below are figures taken from the recent Recapitulation Sheet.

Total Appropriations:	\$30,830,584.00
Offsets to Cherry Sheet:	\$28,400.00
State Assessments:	\$106,651.00
Overlay for Abatements/Exemptions:	\$223,556.54
Court Judgement and Debt Expense:	\$0.00

Total to be Raised: **\$31,189,191.54**

Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources

Cherry Sheet Receipts:	\$2,236,249.00
Local Receipts:	\$1,859,096.00

New Growth:	\$223,459.00
<u>Taxable Valuation:</u>	\$1,250,841,802.00
Total Exempt Valuation:	\$195,717,680.00
Total Tax Levy:	\$22,474,989.12

Respectfully Submitted,

Montague Board of Assessors

Ann M. Cenzano, Chairman

Ann E. Fisk

Rebecca Sabelawski

BOARD OF HEALTH

In 2025, the Montague Board of Health remained committed to strengthening its capacity and enhancing internal processes to implement best practices in local public health. This work is made possible through collaborations with other local initiatives and with support from the Franklin-Hampshire Public Health Training Hub.

Through the continued funding of local public health provided by the Public Health Excellence Grant Program, Montague continues to participate and receive shared services in the Valley Health Regional Collaborative. This collaborative, which includes Greenfield, Montague, Deerfield, Sunderland, Leverett, and Shutesbury, aims to increase local public health capacity and increase uniformity in the delivery of services across our collaborative region.

The Board of Health also recommended that Montague join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, which went into effect in July. The PVMCD is tasked with mosquito control, disease surveillance, and public education and they use an Integrated Pest Management Approach (IPM) to make the best decisions about the mosquito management methods needed to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illness and provide residents with relief from nuisance levels of biting mosquitoes.

Additionally, the Board of Health continues participating in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Division program to address abandoned properties. With the assistance of this program, the Board of Health has pursued receivership and other legal remedies to address blighted and abandoned properties in Montague.

Melanie Ames Zamojski MSN, RN, serves as Board of Health Chair for Montague. Melanie and her family have lived in Montague for over 20 years. Her extensive nursing experience includes nursing at a Regional Trauma Center, local community hospital and as a COVID-19 contact tracing nurse in Franklin County. She is currently Dean of Nursing at Greenfield Community College. She and her family enjoy camping, hiking, and walking their Field Spaniel, Ben on the Canal Trail.

Rachel Stoler was elected to the Board of Health in 2022. She has lived in Turners Falls for the past 23 years, where she raised two children who are now committed voters! She is passionate about community health, and values getting to know her fellow community members. She loves the outdoors, local food, and local music. She is excited about participating in Montague's Municipal Vulnerability Planning Process.

Michael Nelson works full time as a public health emergency preparedness planner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Michael donates considerable time and expertise to Montague's emergency preparedness program. Michael is also the President of the Franklin County Fairgrounds located in Greenfield Massachusetts

Ashley Gough, Director of Public Health. Ashley is the new Director of Public Health, bringing a large amount of experience in code enforcement for food safety, housing, lead paint, and other areas of environmental health. Ashley serves as the Local Public Health representative on the steering committee for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and participates in the steering committees for the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition and the Valley Health Regional Collaborative.

Geneva Bickford, Administrative Assistant. Geneva joined the Board of Health in 2024 and has been an essential addition to the office. Geneva has several years of experience in

municipal government, having worked for the City of Greenfield and the Town of Shutesbury as well as experience in the private sector as an administrative assistant in the legal field. Geneva has been instrumental during interim between the previous Director of Public Health leaving and the onboarding of Ashley Gough.

Brittany Tuttle, RN, Public Health Nurse. Brittany joined the Board of Health in 2023, providing Public Health Nursing services to Montague residents. She monitors infectious disease cases reported through the MAVEN system and holds weekly office hours at the Montague Health Department. Brittany works as a school nurse at the Discovery School at Four Corners.

Kathleen Burek, with over a decade of experience, continues to serve as the Animal Inspector and Barn Inspector. Kathy provides an extensive knowledge of animal husbandry and remains committed to fulfilling both unique roles in our community.

Cause of Death 2025	
Acute Hypoxic Respiratory Failure	2
Acute Myocardial Infarction	1
Cardiac Arrest	2
Cardiopulmonary Arrest	3
Cerebral Vascular Accident	
Congestive Heart Failure	1
Dementia	1
Dehydration	1
Gunshot Wound of the Head	1
Multiorgan Failure	1
Respiratory Arrest	1
Respiratory Failure	1
Not yet determined	5

Director's Report 2025	
Beaver Trapping Permits	1
Body Art Establishment Permits	1
Body Art Practitioner Permits	1
Body Art Apprentice Permits	0
Burial Permits	20
Food Service Establishment Permits	61
Funeral Director Licenses	2
Housing Inspections	108
Mobile Food Permits	4
Mobile Home Park Licenses	2
Nuisance Investigations	117
Percolation Tests	8
Records Requests	3
Recreational Camps Permitted	2
Residential Kitchen Permits	2
Retail Food Permits	10
Retail Tobacco Permits	9
Septage Hauling Licenses	6
Septic Installers License	11
Septic System Plan Approval and Inspections	16
Temporary Food Permits	6
Complaint Investigations	100
Trash Hauler's Licenses	9
Well Construction Permits	3

Confirmed Infectious Disease Cases in 2025	
Babesiosis	1
Calicivirus/Norovirus	12
Giardia	1
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C	9
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	7
Influenza	61
Lyme	32
Novel Coronavirus	13
Pertussis (and other Bordetella sp.)	0
Salmonellosis	1
Shinga toxin-producing organisms	1
Tuberculosis	1
Varicella	1

Animal & Barn Inspector Report 2025	
Humans with Animal Bites	5
Animal with Bites of unknown origin	12
Humans Bitten by bats	0
Bat Encounters	2
Animal Census Count	811
Number of Barns Inspected	43

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department received a steady flow of permit applications for 2025. The amount of building permits decreased from 546 for 2024 to 429 in 2025. There was an increase in plumbing permits from 65 in 2024 to 68 in 2025. There was an increase in gas permits from 37 in 2024 to 43 in 2025. Electrical permits decreased from 220 in 2024 to 212 in 2025. Home Occupation permits stayed the same with 40 issued in 2025. The online permitting system is continuing to be an important asset in achieving our goal of 100% customer satisfaction.

We continue to strive for quality and timely customer service.

The majority of the permits that were issued were for renovations to existing buildings. The most common permits issued were for new roofs, insulation and window upgrades, and solar photovoltaic installations.

INCOME FROM PERMIT FEES-2025

Building Permits	429	\$83,424.00
Gas Permits	43	\$3,273.00
Plumbing Permits	68	\$9,020.00
Electrical Permits	<u>212</u>	<u>\$22,898.00</u>
Total Construction Permits	752	\$118,615.00
Home Occupation Permits	<u>40</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>792</u>	<u>\$119,015.00</u>

William Ketchen
Inspector of Buildings

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) met frequently throughout 2025 to hear and evaluate capital requests, and issue recommendations for funding to the Selectboard, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting.

A summary of capital requests recommended and advanced to Annual and Special Town Meeting in calendar year 2025 appears below.

Special Town Meeting February 12, 2025	Recommended
Description	Appropriation
Clean Water Facility – Conference Room/Break Room Renovation (Main Generator Project Phase 2)	\$48,500
Annual Town Meeting May 7-14, 2025	Recommended
Description	Appropriation
Clean Water Facility – Purchase Used Mini-Excavator	\$60,000
Clean Water Facility – Portable Emergency Generator	\$30,000
Clean Water Facility – Lake Pleasant Station Generator	\$37,800
Clean Water Facility – Thickened Sludge Pump Replacement (x2)	\$104,000
Public Works/Selectboard – Phase 2 – Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation	\$3,000,000
Public Works – Replace 2003 International 7400 10 Wheel Dump Truck	\$365,000
Public Works – Replace 2002 International 4900 6 Wheel Dump Truck	\$325,000
Public Works – Replace 2001 Ford E450 Camera Van	\$70,000
Public Works – Replace 2007 Ford F-150 Pickup	\$65,000
Public Works – Oakman St Slope Stabilization	\$60,000
Public Works – Meadow Rd Guardrail Work	\$200,000
Public Works – Equipment and Major Repairs (Discretionary)	\$36,470
Public Works – Alley and Non-Ch90 Road Paving	\$30,000
Millers Falls Library Storefront Renovation	\$39,000
Unity Park Playground Improvements	\$125,000
FRTA Bus Stop Improvements (Industrial Blvd/Millers Falls Rd)	\$60,000
Montague Center Complete Streets Design	\$91,200
Keith Footbridge Abatement	\$67,900
Special Town Meeting October 22, 2025	Recommended
Description	Appropriation
Public Works – South St Culvert(s) Sliplining	\$50,000

The full slate of projects addressed through appropriations shows the Town's increased commitment and capacity to address capital needs and implementation of the Long Range Capital Plan. The CIC continues to make considerable headway relative to Montague's high volume of capital needs. However, it recognizes that there are numerous requests on the horizon, including major building projects for the Montague Public Libraries and the Gill-Montague Regional School District. Likewise, the Clean Water Facility will also present major capital expenses in the next decade.

Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller continues to provide staff support to the CIC. He will continue working with the CIC each year to update the 6 Year Capital Plan as part of the annual budget cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Garrison, Chair

Chris Menegoni, Vice-Chair

Ariel Elan

Lynn Reynolds

Jason Burbank

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Montague Cemetery's five-member Commission oversees the town's eight municipal cemeteries. The Commission works with volunteers on a variety of tasks and activities in and for the town cemeteries and welcomes more residents to become involved in this important work.

Burials and plot sales

Highland Cemetery (Millers Falls Road) is Montague's only active town cemetery in which plots are available for purchase. The majority of plot sales are in Highland Woods, the cemetery's natural burial ground established in 2024.

There were 25 plot sales and 10 burials at Highland Cemetery in 2025.

Cemetery maintenance

Volunteers are an essential part of the work it takes to maintain the town cemeteries. Each town cemetery has a cemetery "partner" who monitors the cemetery regularly for maintenance issues and the cemetery's general condition and reports at monthly Commission meetings.

The Commission organized four seasonal work days at Highland Cemetery. A small group of volunteers cleaned out old plantings, brush and debris around headstones and cleared the cemetery of small ground branches and debris. Commission members and volunteers maintain the Path of Reflection on a regular basis to keep the path free of weeds and easily accessible so that visitors can enjoy walking the wooded trail.

Volunteers cleaned headstones at Old South Cemetery during two different work parties in the fall. Volunteer work parties at Old South are planned for 2026. Headstone cleaning at other town cemeteries will follow.

Volunteers worked at Dry Hill cemetery over the summer and fall to clean areas around headstones and footstones. Volunteers created a gravestone plot map, color coded by family grouping, that was added to the town website at the end of the year.

Flags

The Commission is grateful to Boy Scout Troup 6 for placing flags in town cemeteries on Memorial Day weekend.

Donated spring bulbs

The Commission was the fortunate recipient of donated daffodil and narcissus bulbs as part of the Montague Reporter fundraiser. Commission members planted bulbs at Town Cemetery, East Mineral Cemetery and Fairway Cemetery so that all can enjoy the spring blooms.

2025 Montague Cemetery Commission members:

Judith Lorei, Chair	Annabel Levine
Mary Kay Mattiace	Jamie Fuller
Jamie Simpson	

Montague Cemetery Sexton:
Amber Korby

CLEAN WATER FACILITY

The Montague Clean Water Facility (CWF) focuses on highlighting the benefits of wastewater treatment as it impacts the environment, and in acknowledging the crucial and skilled work performed by dedicated professionals that operate the facility daily.

The CWF currently services residences and commercial/ industrial businesses, in Turners Falls, Montague City, Montague Center, Lake Pleasant, and the Riverside section of Gill. As there are no pump stations or gravity mains that connect from Millers Falls to the treatment facility, all residents and businesses located on that collection system are serviced by the Town of Erving Wastewater Treatment Facility. In addition, CWF staff operate and maintain eight remote pump stations and four grinder pump stations.

Financial support is based on Enterprise Funding where the users of the system pay based on the volume of water used. Operational, capital expenditure and debt service expenses are supported by the sewer users with the Town paying an annual Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) surcharge.

The facility's average design flow is 1.83 million gallons per day (MGD) and presently treats an average of 0.59 MGD. The facility currently operates a conventional activated sludge treatment model, which uses primary settling tanks for the separation of settleable solids, aeration tanks for biological degradation, and secondary clarifiers for the separation of sludge from treated wastewater.

The facility has a strong working relationship with its regulatory agencies and continues to work diligently to satisfy the requirements of both its presiding local and federal departments.

The facility has acted as the general contractor for large projects such as the Aeration Blower and Diffuser upgrade. In doing so, the facility has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars on capital project costs, as well as significantly reduced the electrical consumption at the facility. The facility has also taken advantage of multiple grant opportunities equaling over \$858,000; receiving grants for lighting, new blowers, new aeration diffusers, pump station pump replacements, asset management planning, and a composting facility study.

The facility has an unbelievably talented, hard-working staff, who come with many exceptional aptitudes such as carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, and laboratory experience. The CWF takes pride in its highly skilled and motivated personnel, who have been essential to the efficient operations of the facility.

The CWF places priority in protecting the environmental public health of its residents. Without proper treatment, pathogens and diseases such as E. coli, cholera, dysentery, Hepatitis A, and salmonella would become extensive and widespread. The facility is also constantly looking for ways to create a smaller carbon footprint, especially as it pertains to mitigating the effects of climate change and human health.

The facility would like to send a special thank you to all of the departments, committees, boards, and residents it works with throughout the year. Our forward progress wouldn't be possible without your continued support!

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Gill Montague Council on Aging serves residents of Montague and Gill who are 60 years of age and older. The COA's mission is to support older adults in the community with information, resources, health and fitness programs, and opportunities to socialize, all of which foster independence and positive mental and physical health.

This year the COA partnered with LifePath, the Greenfield YMCA, Montague Villages, the Franklin County Tech School, Community Action Pioneer Valley, FRCOG, the Brick House, The Food Bank of Western Mass, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Gill Cultural Council, the Montague Cultural Council, the Valley Regional Health Collaborative, CISA, the Greenfield Savings Bank, the Franklin County Community Meals Program, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, TRIAD, AARP, and the Franklin Area Survival Center to provide various programs and services for Gill and Montague older adults.

Gill and Montague fund the Council on Aging and Senior Center proportionately and the two towns pay the Senior Center utilities and the salary for one part time staff member. The Senior Center building is maintained by the Town of Montague. The Council on Aging receives and administers annual formula grant funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs for both towns. Gill has 641 adults over 60 and Montague has 2,773 adults over 60 by the 2020 census. The Council on Aging's Senior Center provides fitness programs, opportunities to socialize, educational programs, cultural programs and a variety of supportive services involving home repair, benefits counseling, food insecurity, and financial management.

The Senior Center offered fifteen hours of active fitness instruction weekly comprising three varieties of indoor yoga, outdoor yoga, aerobics, chair aerobics, mat yoga, chair dance, and Tai Chi. In addition, we offered semi-monthly blood pressure clinics and information sessions on nutrition and fitness as part of a cooperative program with the Franklin County YMCA. Regularly scheduled social programs at the Senior Center included bingo, card games, potluck lunches, pizza parties, ice cream socials, live performances, and daily drop-in time with coffee, snacks, and newspapers.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts provided food for two monthly distributions, one in the Senior Center for 48 low-income older adults and one in the Senior Center parking lot for up to 200 households. Redfire Farm, in cooperation with CISA, provided the produce for our ten-week summer subsidized Farm Share program for 40 lower income older adults. The Senior Center also distributed over 75 farmers' market coupons to local low-income residents and local farmers.

The Council on aging contracted with Greenfield based "Footcare by Nurses" for a subsidized professional monthly foot clinic for 20 to 24 older adults every month. This year the Senior Center arranged free tax return preparation services through AARP for 42 clients. Approximately 400 Gill and Montague residents use the Senior Center annually either once or twice for specific help or regularly to attend programs and classes. Older community members come to the COA when they don't know where else to turn for food, heat, connections to legal services, problems with Social Security or with housing. The COA has a Direct Aid program to help with safety related home repair services and heating emergencies, and can help with housing issues, medical care access and transportation, scam prevention, and elder abuse reports.

The COA director and volunteer staff regularly assist community members with internet searches, benefit registrations, access to various agencies and businesses online (health care portals, Social Security Administration, Registry of Motor Vehicles, IRS, Massachusetts Department of Treasury, SNAP) housing applications, and other now digital only services. This year with funds from The Massachusetts Broadband Institute for Digital Equity, we distributed laptops, loaned out tablets, provided classes and special topic forums on AI, internet safety, and using Google. We also held a weekly drop-in clinic for technical help. Our Digital Equity program was supported by The Franklin County Tech School Web Design and Programming class and by the Franklin Hampshire United Way.

This year, significant improvements were made to the Senior Center building thanks primarily to a legislative earmark put forward by Senator Jo Comerford. We replaced the bathroom floor and heater, installed a new electrical panel, replaced all our windows, replaced our lighting, repaved and painted our parking lot and insulated the walls and attic. The Montague Highway Department did most of the work. We also had the exterior of the Senior Center building painted by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office work crew at no labor expense to the town.

We also purchased and installed a new digital sign in and data collection system for the Senior Center which will more accurately keep track of our visitors, program attendance, and membership. We will also be able to maintain telephone, e-mail, and mail contact with people who register. Having accurate attendance data will improve future grant applications and reports documents.

The Gill Montague Senior Center continues to be challenged by limited space and staff, and the COA is grateful for the many volunteers who generously help at the Senior Center and especially for the volunteer receptionists who manage the Senior Center so well.

CULTURAL COUNCIL

This year, Montague's cultural life continued to expand in both scale and diversity, reflecting a growing community engagement with the arts, humanities, and sciences across all five of the town's villages.

The Montague Cultural Council (MCC) works to increase the cultural vitality of the town by supporting programs that enrich the lives of residents across Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, and Lake Pleasant.

The MCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects each year. Funding is provided through an annual appropriation from the state legislature to the Mass Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each community.

Council members are volunteers appointed by the Selectboard to three-year terms. Through the LCC program, the MCC distributes grant funding to artists, organizations, and initiatives that bring cultural programming to Montague residents.

In FY2026, the Council received a record 76 applications and awarded 28 grants totaling \$20,600.00. This increased level of funding was made possible through a combination of state support and matching funds from the Town of Montague using ARPA resources.

Awards were granted to projects deemed financially and logistically feasible, that demonstrated clear public benefit to Montague residents, and reflected priorities identified through community input and annual surveys. The Council prioritized:

- Projects that advance cultural equity, diversity, and inclusion, particularly those elevating historically marginalized voices
- Opportunities for artists and participants who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ+, Latinx, immigrant, refugee, or living with disabilities
- Projects grounded in Montague-based history or science
- Locally rooted creative work
- Programs serving Montague schools and youth

The FY2026 grant recipients are as follows:

- The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Inc. — Art Exhibits in honor of the 350th Anniversary of King Philip's War — \$1,400.00
- The Nolumbeka Project, Inc. — A Celebration of Native American Art, Music, and Cultures — \$250.00
- Millers Falls Community Improvement Association — Doug Smith Mural — \$1,800.00
- Jay Mankita — Chain Reactions & Creative Contraptions — \$900.00
- Montague Center Oral History Project — \$200.00
- mica rose — ReCloaking: ReCircling — \$1,500.00
- Weathervane Community Arts Corp — Montague World Music Fest — \$750.00
- Pamela Means — Black, Brown, and Beige: Our Shared History and Present Day — \$450.00
- Abdul Bakti—Robert Roth — Root Fiyah Festival — \$750.00

- Antenna Cloud Farm, Inc. — Spring Residency with Yasmin Williams — \$1,000.00
- Amy Cullen — VAME (Valley Arabic Music Ensemble) — \$300.00
- Piti Theatre Company, Inc. — Inclusion Improv — \$1,000.00
- The Brick House Community Resource Center, Inc. — First Fridays Concert Series — \$650.00
- Anna Hendricks — How Do YOU Dance? — \$850.00
- Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc. — Community Programming Series — \$600.00
- Marshall Escamilla — Following the Dino Tracks: Live Science Events Across Western Mass — \$700.00
- Wes Brown — Selected Work and Influences — \$500.00
- Good Music Makes Good Neighbors — \$750.00
- Robert Comeau — Walking Tour of Five Cemeteries — \$250.00
- Musica Franklin, Inc. — Fun Fest — \$750.00
- Montague Community Band — Old-Fashioned Band Concerts in the Park — \$400.00
- Friends of the Montague Common Hall Corporation — Accessibility Ramp Concert Series — \$1,700.00
- The Heartwing Center, Inc. — Mandalas & Meditative Motifs: Art Making and Cultural Exchange — \$750.00
- The National Spiritual Alliance — The Pond Lily Project — \$1,000.00
- RPM Fest LLC — RPM Fest — \$100.00
- Amandla, Inc. — Fiery Hope Chorus Program at the Gill-Montague Council on Aging — \$300.00
- Pawpaw Culinary Club, Inc. — Pop-Up Events — \$500.00
- Waterway Arts, LLC — Mini Print Shop Residency — \$500.00

Total awarded: \$20,600.00

The Council met through a combination of remote and in-person sessions to review applications and make final funding decisions during this funding cycle. The significant increase in applications reflects growing awareness of the program and continued engagement across the community.

The MCC remains committed to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in all funded projects. Where appropriate, council members worked with applicants to strengthen proposals and to ensure that events are accessible and welcoming to all residents.

The Council continued its collaboration with RiverCulture, under the leadership of Suzanne LoManto, to promote events, support artists, and expand participation across Montague's five villages.

Residents were encouraged to attend MCC meetings and to consider joining the Council. Community participation is essential to sustaining a vibrant and responsive cultural program.

Montague Cultural Council Members:

Jon-Marc Seimon, Chair
 Julie Kumble, Vice Chair
 Kate Martineau, Secretary
 Ben Letcher, Treasurer
 Maggie Martin, Member

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

This year the DPW completed sidewalk replacement on Masonic Ave, granite curbing installation at the town hall parking lot, aided in reconstruction of parking lots at 3rd St, 4th St, Town Hall and Hillcrest School. The taxiway to the newly constructed Franklin County Tech School Aircraft Hangar was installed by the DPW in support of the Turners Falls Airport and School allowing for substantial completion of the building to open for the 25-26 school year and the first class of students to enter this building.

Paving was completed with chapter 90 funds on Taylor Hill Rd and South St. Taylor Hill Rd was reclaimed and injected with emulsion to stabilize the roadway base which will extend the pavement life and allow for much smoother rideability. The paving on South St complimented the replacement bridge opening in the spring. Overlays were completed by DPW crews in house with paving equipment on various streets including Swamp Rd and 1st St alley. The Senior Center parking lot and walkways were overlaid and repainted. The new tack trailer was used to bond the new asphalt to the existing surface reducing delamination of the layers. Annual street sweeping and line painting was also conducted in the spring.

Two new 10 wheeled dump trucks have been received after a long-anticipated delay in buildout due to supply chain delays in equipment needed for the truck body. Both trucks will be used to haul asphalt and materials in the summer months and used as primary winter emergency snow and ice response.

Sewer manhole lining was completed by National Water Main in Turners Falls. Manholes were lined, sealed and reconditioned reducing the inflow of unwanted groundwater into the sewer system. The reduced flow has been noticed at the Clean Water Facility, reducing the need to treat unnecessary volumes of clean water. A CCTV van was purchased to support sewer and drainage inspection equipment that will aid in Phase 2 of the sewer rehab project.

Residents have been able to rely on consistent schedules and timing of curbside collection with Casella.

The region has received significant winter storms this year. A lot of overtime has been spent overnight and early in the morning plowing and treating the roadways, sidewalks and parking lots for safe passage.

A huge thank you to all the hard-working individuals who support the DPW in any way. The support to purchase, repair and operate our equipment, buildings and facilities has been fantastic and we will continue to show we're putting those funds to good use. We couldn't complete these projects without you!

Also, with very large gratitude to all the resilient individuals who work for, with and alongside this department, thanks for doing what you do! It is amazing to see what this team has and continues to accomplish!

Samuel Urkiel
Department of Public Works Superintendent

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

To the Residents of Montague

As your Emergency Management Director, I am responsible for providing management and coordination of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities within the Town of Montague. This is accomplished by hazard mitigation as well as preparation and response planning done in partnership with other Town of Montague departments, other Towns, Cities and County agencies, regional and state level partners, non-profit entities, schools, and the private sector.

The Town of Montague has gone to a new Emergency Notification System called Rave Alerts. Please take time to sign up for these alerts by texting "Montague" to 77295. Please note: Even if you were signed up for a previous Town Alert System (Code Red), you will need to enroll again to receive alerts through Rave Alerts.

I would like to personally thank all who have dedicated their lives and time to serve their community, it is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted
John Zellmann
Emergency Management Director

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE (MEC)

The Montague Energy Committee (MEC) focused much of our energy this year on clarifying and working toward satisfying the requirements to apply for the Climate Leader Community (CLC) program. A strong motivation for Montague achieving membership in the CLC, which is a significant step up in our membership in the Massachusetts Green Communities program, is the opportunity for Montague to receive municipal grants for energy upgrades up to \$1 million. Montague is currently able to apply for much smaller Green Communities grants each year.

When the committee decided to pursue CLC status, MEC collaborated with, researched resources from other communities and organizations, and strategized throughout 2025 on how to approach the required steps to becoming a CLC. It brought members of Ashfield's Energy Committee to speak to MEC about how they approached successfully attaining the requirements to apply for CLC status. Ashfield shared their educational resources and strategies with MEC. The committee also invited high performance home builder, Kent Hicks, to speak at a committee meeting about his experience building small, well insulated homes that would meet the Specialized Stretch Code, one requirement of the CLC program that Town Meeting would have to adopt.

MEC worked closely with the Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, to start to develop the resources and steps needed. The committee also collaborated closely with Chris Mason, the Regional Green Communities Coordinator, to learn more about the CLC process and to develop educational slides. MEC spoke with several select board members and has been researching comparisons in costs to build new buildings to the current Stretch Code required of Green Communities versus building to meet the Specialized Code.

MEC drafted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the CLC and the specific components needing to be adopted, including the Specialized Stretch Energy Code, the Zero Emission Vehicle First Policy (ZEVF), and an introduction to the CLC program. All are posted on the MEC Town webpage. It explored with the Town the idea of adopting the Zero Emission Vehicle First policy and researched incentives, requirements, and other municipalities who have this policy in place. MEC decided to continue gathering resources on the Specialized Stretch Code into 2026 and strategize about bringing the ZEVF policy to the select board when it felt it had sufficient information to address questions.

MEC collaborated closely with Chris Nolan-Zeller, who attended a good portion of most of its meetings:

- Sharing with him that a MA Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap Planning Assistance grant was available to apply for a contractor to develop a comprehensive municipal decarbonization roadmap required by the CLC program application. Chris applied for and received the grant.
- Discussed the memo that Chris wrote about concerns raised by area development agencies regarding adoption of the Specialized Stretch Code.
- Explored ideas for new Green Communities grant applications.
- Brought information to Chris on possible assistance for him, such as a free, part-time fellow from University of Massachusetts, Lowell, to support energy transition projects.

- Asked Chris to request information from the Town Building Inspector about the number and types of new buildings, to get a sense of how many new buildings are typically being built annually, as they would have to comply with the Specialized Energy Code.
- We were kept abreast of grants Chris applied for, such as one for new electric vehicles chargers throughout town and the library's pursuit of an energy efficient new building.
- Received updates from Chris on the Building Decarbonization Roadmap for nine Town facilities, funded by the MA Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, that could be used to help develop a comprehensive decarbonization roadmap required by the CLC.
- Heard from Chris that various Montague Town inspectors who share an all-electric vehicle are pleased with its performance and that there is almost no discernable increase in power costs from charging that electric vehicle (EV) on the charging station connected to Town Hall.
- Chris reported that Green Communities grants paid a partial rebate for the installation of the charging stations and the purchase of the EVs by the town.
- Chris and two MEC members spoke with the building inspector to find out concerns he is hearing from residents regarding adopting the Specialized Code.
- The committee discussed the idea of looking into the potential for the use of heat exchangers in the discharge water to capture heat for heat pumps for the development of the former Farren site.
 - MEC member revisited the University of Massachusetts' solar planning study to look at potential areas that might be used for larger solar PV and/or battery installations, to see if any might be of interest to land trusts for protecting as open space. Most areas are under agricultural protection easements, and the remaining are disturbed sites.

The committee provided public education on energy-related topics:

- Sharing with MEC's large email list the Center for Ecotechnology's webinar on the Energy Saver Home Loan Program.
- Inviting a speaker to a meeting to explain a new technology being developed, enhanced geothermal systems, that could provide a local source of carbon-free power.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is in the midst of the FY27 budget season. The past year saw a steep increase in the cost of health care for Massachusetts municipalities and an increase in Montague town employee salaries after the UMass Colins Center wage and classification study. While real estate valuations held strong, taxation of utilities has been reduced to a lesser, but consistent amount determined by PILOT agreements with Kearsarge and FirstLight energy companies. It was determined that these factors necessitated a level services budget with a 2% reduction for FY27. As our preparations for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting conclude, below is a review of the year prior.

After the FY26 budget season, our priority turned to analyzing the five-year budget forecast. In addition to the regular maintenance of town buildings, infrastructure, and vehicles, there are significant potential projects including the following proposed projects: a new school for the Franklin County Technical School, an addition to Sheffield Elementary, and a new library. When funds are available it is also a priority that we invest heavily in sewer improvements as they save the cost of repair and reduce inflow and infiltration at the Clean Water Facility. Town Accountant, Angelica Desroches, shared a tool that she is using to help with these long-term analyses. We will continue to use this tool to better understand how decisions will affect future years. We will also work with the accountant to examine the factors which affect the forecast and whether they need adjustment.

In preparation for the fall '25 special town meeting we reviewed adoption of the HERO Act. This act provides an annual cost-of-living adjustment in the amount of the property tax exemption granted to disabled veterans and increased the current exemption by 50%. We also considered adopting a tax on short-term rentals at a rate of 6%. Both warrant articles related to the HERO Act were adopted, as well as the tax on short-term rentals. Ultimately, the extent to which the HERO Act reduced available taxation was offset by the additional taxation available through the tax on short term rentals.

During the budget review process for 2026 Annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee met with the Police Department, Library, Gill-Montague Regional School District, Airport, Clean Water Facility, Treasurer/Collector, Town Clerk, Assessor, and the Department of Public Works. We held joint sessions with the Capital Improvement Committee and Montague Selectboard as needed. The constraints of a level-funded minus 2% budget required significant investigation of the priorities of each department. The Police Department budget saw the largest increase, as the new Chief identified necessary upgrades to maintain a safe and secure working environment. The Gill-Montague Regional School District saw the largest budget challenge as they adjusted to a health care cost increase that the town faced the year prior. The Airport budget continues to be closely scrutinized by the Finance Committee, as the budget operates on a thin margin with little room for unanticipated expenses.

Healthy availability of free cash has allowed continued investment in capital needs. This level of free cash is not guaranteed, so the Finance Committee continues to be prudent in maintaining stabilization accounts. As we look ahead to future years with significant capital needs and an unknown grant landscape, we will continue to invest in the development of our forecasting tools and to be mindful of the extent to which our decisions reduce the Town's excess capacity. The Town is in a solid financial state, and our intent is to keep it solid.

Respectfully, Dorinda Bell-Upp (Chair), Leigh Rae (Clerk), Josh Bell, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisenewski, and Jennifer Waryas.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL DOG SHELTER

In 2019, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide Full-time services to these towns. Since its inception, the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program has expanded to provide these services to (20) towns in Franklin County, with the Towns of Deerfield, Montague, Shutesbury, Warwick, and the City of Greenfield joining the program in 2025.

During 2025, ACO Gower departed our agency. ACO Sonn was transition to fulltime, and we added (2) additional full-time officers Hillary Szteliga and Kyle Sweeney.

During 2025, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 1173 total events for service between January 1st and December 31, 2025.

Calls for Service:

- 🐾 **70 – Animal Bite Reports.**
 - 🐾 **643 – Animal Complaints or Concerns.**
(Domestic, Livestock, and Wildlife)
 - 🐾 **120 – Investigations.**
 - 🐾 **175 – Found or Lost animals.**
 - 🐾 **35 – Inspections.**
 - 🐾 **101 – Assistance to other agencies.**
 - 🐾 **29 – Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.**
- *Note: The above does not represent all the calls that were received, this only highlights to majorities.*

Breakdown of calls by Town:

🐾 Bernardston:	<u>56</u>
🐾 Buckland:	<u>46</u>
🐾 Charlemont:	<u>27</u>
🐾 Colrain:	<u>49</u>
🐾 Conway:	<u>36</u>
🐾 Deerfield:	<u>106</u>
🐾 Gill:	<u>54</u>
🐾 Greenfield:	<u>425</u>
🐾 Heath:	<u>47</u>
🐾 Leyden:	<u>19</u>
🐾 Leverett:	<u>45</u>
🐾 Monroe:	<u>7</u>
🐾 Montague:	<u>233</u>
🐾 New Salem:	<u>35</u>
🐾 Northfield:	<u>75</u>
🐾 Shelburne:	<u>56</u>
🐾 Shutesbury:	<u>21</u>
🐾 Warwick:	<u>13</u>
🐾 Wendell:	<u>29</u>
🐾 Whately:	<u>34</u>
🐾 Other*:	<u>126</u>

In the spring of 2025 with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Rob Schmidt and Jaimie Remillard we were able to host rabies clinics in Greenfield and Heath.

Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at animalcontrol@fcso-ma.us or by phone at **413-774-7340**

x2. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer
 Heather Sonn, Regional Animal Control Officer
 Hillary Szteliga, Regional Animal Control Officer
 Kyle Sweeney, Regional Animal Control Officer

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, hauling contracts, trainings, and educational outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2025 shows a 300-ton decrease in recycling tonnage from 2024. District residents recycled just over 2,300 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2025. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Erving Highway Garage, and Whately Transfer Station. Combined, the events served 636 households and collected over 60 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2025 at Greenfield Community College and Orange Transfer Station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 380 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$146,000 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of successful waste management infrastructures and programs.

We also held our first Fix-It Clinic at the Franklin County Tech School in May. Residents brought in broken items and almost everything was repaired by students and teachers from the Tech School as well as resident volunteers. A \$7,500 DEP grant will help us expand this program to more towns in 2026.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - Executive Director
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - Vice-Chair

Chris Boutwell, Montague - Chair
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - Treasurer

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

FY27 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for the 2025-26 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2025, enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2025, the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 579 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students
Bernardston	23	Erving	20	Montague	88	Sunderland	9
Buckland	23	Gill	14	New Salem	10	Warwick	4
Colrain	28	Greenfield	129	Northfield	58	Wendell	7
Conway	4	Heath	19	Orange	78	Whately	13
Deerfield	29	Leyden	12	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 152 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2025. The state has adjusted its measures for evaluating district/school accountability, and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5- point scale, with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility, saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 in capital improvement projects. Trades Women of Tomorrow is a new state initiative over the last several years, providing female students at FCTS, with information and opportunity to experience successfully women business owners working in various non-traditional trade areas.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). FCTS has averaged more than 110 students placed on paid Coop jobs, which are directly correlated to their vocational field of study. FCTS has the strongest Coop placement % in the state of Massachusetts. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational-technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry-recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT), upon program approval, which is anticipated for January 2026. FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FAA equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program includes a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students starting the program in the fall of 2026, will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam. FAA certification will provide our students on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility annually, over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approved for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for a core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We have completed the eligibility and feasibility phases of the project and currently in the schematic design phase. The schematic design phase will be completed in the summer of 2026 and a district wide vote will occur in the fall of 2026 for all 19 member towns on the same day and hours.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.5 million dollars in competitive grants over the last 8 years and a total of 11.5 million since 2014. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 4 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, Electrical, Landscaping & Horticulture, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2025. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs.

FCTS vocational programs have supported the community in the following areas:

Franklin County Technical School remains committed to providing high-quality technical services to our member towns. These projects allow our students to gain real-world experience while delivering significant cost savings and essential services to the community.

Construction & Infrastructure Projects

- Petty Plain Road House Project (Greenfield): A multi-year collaboration between the Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Horticulture programs. Construction is ongoing, with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2026.
- Carpentry Municipal Support:
 - Conway: Framing for the Highway Garage.
 - Erving: Construction of dugouts at Zilinski Park.
 - Bernardston: Construction of dugout benches for Pratt Field.
 - Hatfield & Whately: Library support including bench repairs and a new suggestion box.
- Welding & Fabrication:
 - Montague: Repaired backhoe pins for the DPW and restored wrought iron fencing at the local cemetery.
 - Environmental Art: Fabricated 12 fish silhouettes and a custom bench for the First Light fish ladder.
- Advanced Manufacturing:
 - Produced custom fountain keys for the Town of Warwick.
 - Annual fabrication of "Cool Rides" car show trophies.
 - Ongoing campus maintenance, including the fabrication of soccer net brackets.

Electrical: The Electrical department has managed several large-scale municipal renovations and new constructions:

- Conway Emergency Services: Full electrical support for the remodel and addition of the Fire/EMS/Police garage, including power distribution and data cabling.
- Colrain Town Hall: Modular furniture data remodel, including Cat6 testing and device replacement.
- Heath Town Hall: Energy-efficient lighting retrofit, replacing fluorescent fixtures with LEDs.
- Municipal Facilities: Previous completion of data and fire alarm systems for the Conway DPW and the FCTS Campus.

Programming & Web Development

- Tech Tuesdays & Thursdays: A partnership with area senior centers (Gill-Montague, Erving, and Bernardston) where Programming & Web Development students provide drop-in technical support for laptops, phones, and digital literacy.
- Web Development: Students are currently finalizing a new website for the UCC of Conway (uccofconway.com), scheduled for launch by February 2026.

Agriculture & Environmental Stewardship

- Horticulture:
 - Participated in the Source to Sea River Cleanup in Turners Falls and Erving.
 - Provided seasonal cleanups for the Hill Cemetery in Shelburne and the Franklin County Fairgrounds.
- Animal Science:
 - Offers complimentary bathing and grooming services for local Working K9 units.
 - Student volunteers support operations at the Better Together Dog Rescue in Leverett.
 - Partners with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to host a community rabies clinic.
 - Fundraising events by providing pet services on weekends.

Health and Human Services

- Cosmetology: Operates a public salon offering affordable services (haircuts, color, facials, and manicures). The department actively coordinates with local Councils on Aging to ensure seniors have access to these services.
- Health & Medical Assisting: Students visit the LifePath Community Engagement Center, providing essential support and companionship to clients living with dementia.

Culinary Arts: Provides catering and event support for the Franklin County Fair, Chamber of Commerce breakfasts, the Superintendent's Dinner, Catering service for the Cadet Graduation for the Franklin County Sheriff, and holiday meals for the Montague Housing Authority and the annual catering for Communities That Cares Coalition.

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman

Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

Franklin County Tech Member Towns

ADMINISTRATION

Rick Martin
Liz Bouchard
Brian Spadafino
Ben Niles
John Palumbo
Margaret Nugent
Amber Crochier
Joe Gamache

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Brad Stafford
Adam Griffin
Tammie Powers
John Pelletier
Bob Decker
Jacquie Boyden
Sandy Brown
Paul Doran
Barb Yetter
George VandeLinder
Matthew Duley
Arthur Schwenger
Gerald Levine
Richard Kuklewicz
Christopher Bonnett
Bryan Camden
Laura Earl
Tim Currier
Amber Robidoux
Robert Miller
James Bernotas
Todd Weed
Jeffrey Budine
Amy Lavallee

ROLES

Superintendent-Director
Business Manager
Principal
Asst. Principal
PPS/Guidance Director
CTE Director
Asst. Principal/Curriculum Coor.
Dean of Students

COMMUNITY

Bernardston
Buckland
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Heath
Leyden
Montague
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Orange
Orange
Shelburne
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department helps municipalities plan for the future regarding transportation, livability, economic development, climate resilience and land use, while also working on regional-scale projects as well; the Emergency Preparedness Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

FRCOG reports highlights of regional effort and impacts each year with an organizational annual report; recent year's reports can be found at <https://frcog.org/publications/frcog-annual-report/>. The 2025 Annual Report will be available in March 2026. Find the most extensive list of current and past projects and services on the FRCOG web site.

The following pages list services specific to Montague.

Climate Resilience, Land Use, and Housing

- Worked with the Town Planner to complete the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 process, involving selecting and planning for a Seed Project.
- Prepared comments on MA Department of Environmental Protection's draft 401 Water Quality Certificate and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects. Comments were shared with Montague for preparation of the Town's comment letters.
- Facilitated a monthly meeting with the MA Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Program, which allowed Montague staff to facilitate rehabilitation and eventual occupancy of abandoned housing.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey assessing attitudes and behaviors among middle and high school students. Staff reported results to Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) administrators from 75 students, representing 45% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. Staff reported results to Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) administrators from 253 students, representing 81% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. Survey data is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Met with school district administrators and staff to present their individual district's 2025 survey results, share custom written reports, assist with interpretation and ad hoc analyses, and discuss how the district might use their survey results.
- Supported Montague Mass in Motion Age-friendly initiative on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. Montague used MIM funds to pay a coordinator to coordinate the digital literacy project, funded by a different grant.
- Provided training/stipends to two parent leaders — "PEER Ambassadors" — for outreach to other parents on topics such as positive parenting, youth substance use prevention, and mental health resources. These two PEER Ambassadors spent 235 hours volunteering in the community and connected with 198 parents from Montague and the surrounding towns.
- Staff supported the Town in spending its opioid settlement funds by hosting a regional listening session to ensure compliance with the state settlement agreement.

- To help the Town meet mandated Massachusetts workforce standards, staff mentored and provided training opportunities to the Montague Director of Public Health. They gave technical assistance, reviewed documents, developed and distributed job aids, maintained resource and lending libraries, and taught multi-session courses leading to certification.
- Supported community-building activities in Turners Falls including enhancements to outdoor gathering space in the Unity container parking lot, a series of community cooking nights at The Brick House, and workshops for community gardeners. Provided \$6200 for food supplies to food pantries and the Franklin County Community Meals Program site in Montague with a grant from the State Office of Rural Health.

Economic Development

- Funded environmental site assessment activities through the FRCOG Brownfields Program at four municipally owned sites.
- Administered the state contract for the Rural Downtown District Coordinator Pilot Project, serving Turners Falls.

Emergency Management

- Advanced exploration of Emergency Medical Services models in an effort to improve ambulance service within Montague, focusing, with committee members on data collection for coverage areas, including response times, call volumes, and staffing levels for the Montague Center (MCFD) and the Turners Falls Fire Districts (TFFD). The TFFD currently provides ambulance service for its own district and assists with calls in the MCFD.
- Began reviewing the legal and logistical considerations tied to service improvements and potential regionalization options, including licensing, medical direction, and intermunicipal agreement structures that could support a more coordinated ambulance system in Montague.
- Held meetings with Montague’s municipal leaders and with representatives from both fire districts to clarify priorities, concerns, and opportunities for collaboration, to ensure the work reflects local needs. Leadership from the two districts provided detailed operational and financial data that will help inform development of a future draft budget for an improved or more unified ambulance service model.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions offered to public officials, staff, and residents of all Franklin County municipalities in 2025.

Emergency Preparedness & Homeland Security

- WRHSAC De-escalation Training
- SkyWarn Weather Watch (REPC)

Healthy Youth Partnership

- Active Bystander Training
- Youth Substance Misuse Prevention

Municipal Official Continuing Education Series

- State Contracts & Available Services
- Selectboard 101
- Highway Program Roundtable
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Presentation

Planning, Conservation & Development

- Floodplain Maps Workshop Resilient Watershed Association Tour/Training

Public Health & Community Awareness

- Age-Friendly Symposium
- Dementia Friendly Communities
- Narcan Training
- Budget Advocacy Workshop
- Legislative Advocacy workshop
- ServSafe Training
- BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) Safety Workshop
- Mass in Motion
- Addressing Hate in Schools and Communities
- Community Health Needs Assessment Overview

Transportation

- Assisted with the implementation of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority's project funded through the MA Shared Streets and Spaces Program to improve the bus stop on Millers Falls Road at its intersection with Industrial Boulevard. Provided technical assistance during the development of final design plans and the procurement of construction services.
- Facilitated local awareness of Northern Tier Rail Study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Continued to provide support for the design and fiscal programming of the Route 47 and North Leverett Road Intersection Improvement Project in the Franklin County Transportation Improvement Program.
- Conducted state and town requested traffic counts on various roads.
- Provided support for the development of complete streets improvements plans in Montague Center.
- Developed a Traffic Garden for Sheffield Elementary School.
- Wrote a grant application for funding to conduct age friendly infrastructure walk audits in partnership with the Gill Montague Senior Center in Turners Falls.

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Committee Member	Town	Term Expires
Jane Oakes, Chair	Gill	2028
William Tomb, Vice Chair	Gill	2026
Steve Ellis, Secretary	Montague	2026
Heather Katsoulis, Treasurer	Montague	2028
Lori-lee Adams	Montague	2027
James DeLorenzo	Montague	2027
Carol Jacobs	Montague	2027
Clifford Spatcher	Montague	2026
Wendy Thompson	Montague	2028
Jaquelyn Boyden, Non-Voting	Erving	2026

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Khiarieliex Huertas Hernandez
Olivia Wolbach

Tari N. Thomas, Interim Superintendent as of July 1, 2025
Brian Beck, Superintendent departing June 30, 2025
Joanne Blier, Director of Finance
Ryan Mailloux, District Treasurer

Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Telephone: 413.863.9324 Website: <http://www.gmrtd.org>

To the members of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee and the voters of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, I submit my Annual Report as Superintendent. The report to the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee covers the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. As such, all reports cover the final half of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year and the first half of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Who Are We?

The Gill-Montague Regional School District is a regional school district serving the students of Gill and Montague as well as 7-12 graders of Erving. We have five campuses including three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. In addition, we offer a preschool program. Our district vision is to become a community that empowers every student for continuous learning, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment. In our district, we strive to provide a safe atmosphere for learning and growth for students and their families.

Mission Statement

Challenging and supporting every student to succeed through strong leadership, excellent teaching, and community engagement.

Four Strategic Goals for 2025-2026

Leveraging the supports, processes, and structures established over the past five years, the district has defined four Strategic Objectives for the 2025-2026 school year to ensure a smooth transition to long-term/permanent leadership.

- Goal 1 - Student Discourse: Establish and implement district-wide expectations for improving student verbal and written communication skills, focusing on clear expression, critical thinking, and respectful discourse across all content areas.
- Goal 2 - Professional Culture: Foster a collaborative, growth-oriented professional culture district-wide, emphasizing shared leadership and continuous improvement among all staff.
- Goal 3 - Operational Systems: Develop and implement clear, efficient, and standardized plans, procedures, and routines to improve key district operational systems (e.g., recruitment, safety, communications).
- Goal 4 - Stakeholder Communications: Enhance transparency and build strong relationships by developing and implementing clear, consistent, and effective communication strategies for all stakeholders (parents, staff, community, school committee).

Gill- Montague Teacher of Year for 2025

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award was established by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in 2003, is an annual program honoring outstanding educators in Western Massachusetts. It recognizes over 100 teachers from Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties who demonstrate exceptional dedication, impact, and innovation, providing winners with cash prizes, tuition incentives, and public recognition.

Alyssa Comeau of Turners Falls High School

Earl McGraw Uplift Award-24-25 Recipients

This award is given in memory of former Assistant Principal Earl McGraw. It is presented to one staff member and one student each year for exemplifying outstanding leadership in the areas of kindness, care for others, and care for the community.

Crystal McNary & Khiarieliex Huertas Hernandez

Superintendent's Excellence in Academics Award 2025

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) Superintendent's Excellence in Academics Award, stands as one of the most prestigious forms of recognition for high-achieving public high school seniors across the Commonwealth.

Estes Lemerise Reinking New Personnel

The district welcomed the expertise of the following new faculty/staff members during the 2024-2025 school year:

Central Office & District Wide

- Heather Maynard: Director of Teaching & Learning (Central Office)
- Melanie Lutz: Grounds/Pool (District Wide)

Hillcrest Elementary

- Cynthia Sheehy: Principal & Early Childhood Coordinator
- Tina Wenger: Nurse | Mickalina Reid: Grade 1 | Chase Worthen: Therapeutic SpEd
- Food Service: Jennifer Brown (Lead), Anna Hernandez (Asst)
- Instructional Assistants: Kelly Liimatainen, Susan Lyman, Matt Robinson, Christinah Zukowski

Sheffield Elementary

- Kristin Dietz: Assistant Principal | Kelly Camp: Admin Assistant
- Teachers: Karen Hurley Cudmore (Gr 3), Katie Wheeler (Gr 2), Elizabeth McCoy (Therapeutic), Marci Rohtstein (Speech/Language)
- Custodial: Garry Underwood
- Instructional Assistants: Melissa Bamford, Mia Gonzalez, Sarah Pedercini
- ELL: Olivia Cifrino (Shared with GFMS)

Gill Elementary

- Christine Abercrombie: Admin Assistant
- Francis Dybzack: Custodial (Shared with TFHS)

Great Falls Middle School

- Shawn Rickan: Principal (Shared with TFHS)
- Staff: Olivia Cifrino (ELL), Alexander Hill (Therapeutic IA)

Turners Falls High School (TFHS)

- Shawn Rickan: Principal | Virginia Thornton: Admin Assistant
- Staff: Brooke Billings (Science), Lisa Murphy (Food Service Supervisor), Lidia Ovalle Perez (Food Service Asst)
- Custodial: Francis Dybzack, Wilson Gates
- Instructional Assistants: Amelia B. Ellingboe (Inclusion), Jessica Sagar (Lifeskills)

Faculty and Staff Retirements

The following faculty/staff members retired at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year:

Carol Varner	Nurse	Gill Elementary
Rosemary O'Brien	Reading	Great Falls Middle
Carolyn Burke	IA	Sheffield Elementary
Faith Rand	IA	Gill Elementary
Sharyn Wood	Grade 3	Gill Elementary

MSBA Advances Two Local School Projects: Hillcrest/Sheffield Enters Eligibility, Gill Elementary Roof Repair Approved

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has given a green light for two significant school infrastructure projects in the region, approving both the initial preparation phase for the Hillcrest/Sheffield project and full funding for the Gill Elementary School's roof replacement.

The Hillcrest & Sheffield project has officially been accepted into the MSBA's Eligibility Period. This mandatory 270-day preparation phase requires the district to form a School Building Committee, hire an Owner's Project Manager (OPM), conduct a Feasibility Study exploring all options from renovation to new construction, and confirm local financial support. Successfully

completing these steps is essential for the community to be seriously considered for state funding for a new school or major renovation.

Separately, the MSBA has formally approved the Gill Elementary School roof replacement project through its Accelerated Repair Program. The Designer has recommended the project, which includes a new metal roof with concealed fasteners, solar readiness, and accessibility upgrades. The total project budget is \$3,798,129, with the MSBA recommending an Estimated Total Facilities Grant of \$2,512,557. The Town of Gill/GMRSD has been granted a 90-day extension, requiring them to submit documentation confirming local funding for their share of the budget no later than June 15, 2026.

ENROLLMENT & KEY METRICS for OCTOBER 1ST, 2025

Enrollment at Gill Elementary	117
Enrollment at Hillcrest Elementary	135
Enrollment at Sheffield Elementary	174
Enrollment at Great Falls Middle	213
Enrollment at Turners Falls High School	200
Total Enrollment at GMRSD	839
Average Attendance Rate	92.6
Average Class Size	13.6
Number of Teachers	91.3
Special Education	28.9%
Economically Disadvantaged	53.2%
High Needs	64.3%
English Language Learners	6.9%
2025 Graduation Rate	85.1%
School Choice In	109
School Choice Out	146
Charter	50
Home Education	51

Student Assessment Results Fall 2025

Gill-Montague Regional School District: Analysis of 2025 MCAS Data and Mandated Improvement Plan

The 2025 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) data for the Gill-Montague Regional School District presents a mixed picture of student achievement, underscoring the necessity for targeted, continuous improvement efforts. The comprehensive data set spans grades 3 through 10 and includes performance metrics across the core academic subjects of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science.

Performance Benchmarks

Initial analysis of the 2025 MCAS results reveals that a significant proportion of students did not meet state-defined proficiency benchmarks. Specifically, in certain key assessment categories, the district recorded that only 24% and 22% of students met or exceeded expectations. These figures place the district in a required accountability category, triggering a mandated planning process aimed at improving educational outcomes.

Accountability Status and Mandated Actions

Included herein is essential data concerning the performance of our schools on the state assessment examination, MCAS. Furthermore, an overview report card is available for each school, offering details on how our schools compare to the state across various key metrics, such as class size, teacher qualifications, and academic growth. For supplementary information regarding our schools, kindly visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education School Profile website at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>.

Due to its performance metrics, the Gill-Montague Regional School District has been designated by the state as "Partially Meeting Expectations." This status is not merely a designation; it imposes a mandatory requirement for the district to engage in intensive, continuous improvement planning and execution. This comprehensive planning process must be data-driven, strategic, and focused on systemic enhancements across all grade levels.

GMRSD Report Cards for 2025

Gill Elementary 2025

Progress at 65% - Substantial progress toward targets and in the 64th percentile in the state.

Sheffield Elementary

Progress at 37% - Moderate progress toward targets and in the 13th percentile in the state.

Great Falls Middle School

Progress at 51% - Substantial progress toward targets, in the 9th percentile statewide and in need of assistance.

Turners Falls High School

Progress at 47% - Moderate progress toward targets, in the 8th percentile statewide and in need of assistance.

Hillcrest doesn't receive a report card as PK-1 does not administer MCAS testing.

Our schools have analyzed the data and determined action plans as a result. Due to our performance our secondary schools are being assigned to the Statewide System of Support (SSoS).

Massachusetts has used its Statewide System of Support (SSoS) to link district accountability with assistance for continuous improvement, particularly for schools needing focused or targeted help. Regional Assistance Teams offer targeted support by prioritizing culturally responsive instruction, focusing on instructional leadership and high-quality materials, and coaching for equity. This work aligns with DESE's Educational Vision, and the Coherence Guidebook provides a framework for deeper learning and improved supports.

I'm proud to say that our secondary teachers have taken great steps in shifting curriculum and instructional practice ahead of the SSoS's arrival and are beginning to lay the foundation to build robust multi-tiered systems of support for every child, every day.

Key Areas for Continuous Improvement

The district's mandated improvement plan must prioritize the following interconnected areas to address the root causes of the observed performance gaps and ensure greater equity and growth for all students:

- **Accelerating Academic Growth:** A primary focus must be the development and implementation of high-leverage strategies designed to rapidly accelerate academic growth. While all subjects are important, immediate and intensive attention must be given to Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), where the MCAS data indicates the most pressing need for improvement in student proficiency and growth. This will require evidence-based curriculum adjustments, enhanced instructional practices, and differentiated learning opportunities.
- **Reducing Chronic Absenteeism:** Addressing attendance is critical, as chronic absenteeism directly correlates with lower academic achievement. The district is required to implement systemic interventions aimed at significantly reducing chronic absenteeism across all grade levels (pre-K through 12). These interventions should be multi-tiered, involving collaboration with families and community services to address the barriers to consistent school attendance.
- **Closing Achievement Gaps and Ensuring Equity:** A core component of the improvement plan must involve the targeted allocation of resources and specialized instructional support to close persistent achievement gaps. This focus must be applied to identified subgroups of students—including students with disabilities, English Learners, and students from low-income families—who have historically demonstrated lower performance. The goal is to provide equitable access to rigorous curriculum and support that ensures all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Hillcrest Elementary School: 2024–2025 Year in Review

Cindy Sheehy, Principal and Early Childhood Coordinator, July 1, 2025
Mackensey Bailey, Interim Principal, departed June 30, 2025

We are a foundational early childhood education (Pre-K–Grade 1) emphasizing academic growth, social-emotional development, and community engagement.

Key Initiatives & Partnerships

- **Community Literacy:** Hosts District-wide Literacy Nights featuring community guest readers, games, and movement.
- **High School Mentors:** Turners Falls High students assist with lunch and recess to model social skills.
- **Cultural Arts:** Utilizes Mass Cultural Council grants for inclusive projects, such as school-wide dance celebrations.
- **Family Inclusion:** Monthly All-School Meetings and Family Read Alouds featuring a diverse book collection.

Curriculum & Innovation

- **ELA & Literacy:** Implementation of Wit and Wisdom, focusing on deep-topic inquiry and the "science of writing" across all subjects.
- **Mathematics:** Uses Bridges and Number Corner for hands-on, multisensory learning centered on reasoning and foundational operations.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Integrates Zones of Regulation, Second Step, and Responsive Classroom to teach self-regulation, empathy, and safety.

2025 Strategic Goals

- **Student Discourse:** Increasing opportunities for students to engage in content-rich, peer-to-peer academic discussions.
- **Writing Integration:** School-wide professional development to apply writing evidence and skills across all curriculum areas.

Sheffield Elementary School: 2024–2025 Year in Review

School Leader: Kerry Heathwaite, Principal

Kristin Dietz, Assistant Principal departed to be GMRSD Director of Pupil Services July 2025

Lauren Paret, Assistant Principal, departed February 2026

Sheffield's year was defined by high-fidelity curriculum implementation, targeted interventions, and expanded community partnerships.

Academic Innovations & Literacy

- **Data-Driven Literacy:** Implemented the "Walk to Read" model and UFLI phonics (Grades 2–3), using DIBELS and BAS data to provide precise, tiered interventions.
- **Math Excellence:** Utilized Bridges small-group rotations and Number Corner to deepen conceptual understanding and mathematical reasoning.
- **Peer Observations:** Staff used the DESE Observation Tool to gather data on inclusive, evidence-based instruction to guide future professional growth.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) & Student Support

- **Multi-Tiered SEL:** Integrated Second Step, Zones of Regulation, and MindUp to teach self-regulation, empathy, and stress management.
- **PRIDE Positive Behavior:** A Tier 1 system featuring PRIDE Calls (home recognition) and Roary's Raffle (tangible school-wide rewards) to reinforce character values.
- **New Support Resources:** Secured a First Light grant for a school service dog to assist with student anxiety and inclusion.

Unique Programs & Community Engagement

- **Sustainability & Wellness:** Features a Pollinator Garden, participation in MA Harvest of the Month, and the MA Fresh Grant to integrate local produce into school meals.
- **Safety & Movement:** Hosts "Walk, Bike, and Roll to School" events and maintains a Bike Traffic Garden to teach pedestrian safety.
- **Enrichment:** Includes an After School Program, a portable Planetarium experience, and a Caravan Puppets artist residency funded by the Mass Cultural Council.
- **Community Science:** Grade 2 students partnered with the Great Falls Discovery Center to create turtle-crossing signs for the Town of Montague.

2025–2026 Strategic Vision

- **Writing Across Content:** Professional development focused on the "science of writing" and integrating formal assignments into all core subjects.
- **Student Discourse:** Increasing high-quality, student-to-student academic talk to foster critical thinking and help students articulate complex ideas.

Gill Elementary School: 2024–2025 Year in Review

School Leader: Justin Mickiewicz, Principal
Dr. Walter Huston retired January 2026

Gill Elementary focused on curriculum alignment, data-driven student support, and deepening family-school partnerships.

Academic Innovations & Literacy

- **"Walk to Read" Model:** A structured literacy block using DIBELS and BAS data to provide explicit instruction in phonics, fluency, and comprehension.
- **Math Excellence:** Utilizes Bridges small-group rotations and Number Corner to foster mathematical reasoning and conceptual depth.
- **Dedicated Writing Block:** Explicit instruction across various genres focusing on the full writing process from planning to editing.
- **Data-Informed Support:** Comprehensive BOY, MOY, and EOY assessments drive effective tiered interventions in both math and reading.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) & Culture

- **Tier 1 Support:** Integrated Second Step and Zones of Regulation to build empathy and self-regulation skills.
- **Positive Behavior (PBIS):** Implemented "HOWL" Calls—positive staff-to-family communications that celebrate students demonstrating school values.
- **Community Traditions:** Includes the WIN Block, Read Across America celebrations, and the annual Ice Cream Social.

Special Initiatives & Partnerships

- **MA Harvest of the Month:** Connects students to local agriculture through taste tests and seasonal produce in the cafeteria.
- **District Collaboration:** Partnered with other schools to host district-wide curriculum nights for ELA, Math, and STEM.
- **Professional Growth:** Utilized the DESE Peer Observation tool to gather instructional data and inform future teacher development.

Great Falls Middle School: 2024-2025 Year in Review

Loren Messina Principal
Christopher Pratt, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Luciano, Dean of Students
Shawn Rickan, Principal departed in July 2025

Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School both reflect measurable cultural stabilization, strengthened instructional coherence, and a clear trajectory of academic growth.

Culture & Stabilization

Great Falls has achieved significant cultural and operational stability through predictable routines and aligned expectations. Key metrics include:

- **79% Reduction in Discipline:** Driven by the full implementation of Developmental Designs and restorative language.
- **95% Attendance Rate:** A 3% increase reflecting higher student engagement and family partnership.
- **Program Stability:** Strategic hiring of specialized staff has stabilized therapeutic and sub-separate programs, ensuring safety and continuity.

Academic & Curricular Innovations

- **Mathematics:** Successful launch of a new Grades 6–8 curriculum aligned to state frameworks.
- **Literacy Support:** Accelerated progress for struggling readers via a new Reading Interventionist.
- **Future Planning:** High-quality curricula for ELA (Amplify) and Science (SAVVAS) have been selected and are awaiting implementation funding.
- **Data Cycles:** Quarterly i-Ready reviews allow for precise student intervention and monitoring.

Special Initiatives

- **College & Career:** Integrated MEFA Pathways into advisory to build early career awareness.
- **Community Engagement:** Signature events like the "Open House Extravaganza" and "Find Your Thunder" highlight CTE pathways, athletics, and the arts.

Turners Falls High School: 2024-2025 Year in Review

Loren Messina Principal

Adam Graves, Assistant Principal

Jennifer Luciano, Dean of Students

Shawn Rickan, Principal departed in July 2025

Turners Falls High School has achieved significant cultural stabilization and instructional coherence, setting a clear trajectory for academic growth and renewed community confidence.

Culture & Operations

- **System Stabilization:** Rebuilt foundational structures using Developmental Designs, resulting in a 79% reduction in discipline incidents and improved classroom climate.
- **Rising Enrollment:** Student population grew from 184 (2022) to 200 (2026), signaling increased community trust.
- **Improved Attendance:** Daily attendance rose to 94.3% through new intervention protocols and higher student engagement.
- **Staff Empowerment:** Implemented trauma-informed training, behavior response flowcharts, and expanded progressive discipline (office detentions) to ensure consistency and safety.

Academic Innovations

- **Advanced Coursework:** Launching AP AB Calculus in 2026–2027 and maintaining Dual Enrollment partnerships with GCC.

- **Curriculum Alignment:** Adopting SAVVAS enVision Math (High-Quality Instructional Materials) and utilizing the DESE Unit Unpacking Tool to align with state standards.
- **Vertical Teaming:** Established professional development for staff to align skills and priorities across grade levels within academic disciplines.
- **Data-Driven Planning:** Departmental data cycles and MCAS reviews are used to target priority skill gaps and subgroup interventions.

Special Programs & Pathways

- **Innovative Career Pathways:** Robust industry partnerships (Judd Wire, Baystate Health) support programs in Environmental Science, Manufacturing/Engineering, and Health Science.
- **Post-Secondary Readiness:** Full integration of MEFA Pathways and MyCAP for structured college and career planning.
- **Community Engagement:** High-profile events like the "Open House Extravaganza" and "Find Your Thunder" showcase the school's comprehensive academic and CTE offerings.
- **Athletic Excellence:** Home of the Western MA Group C Swim Champions and Boys Soccer Western MA State Champions and 2024 & 2025 Back to Back State Champions in Girls Softball!

Strategic Priorities: Strengthening MTSS Tier 1 instruction, securing funding for full HQIM implementation, and expanding access to modern digital tools to close achievement gaps.

Our Incredible Community Partners

Community partners are essential to the Gill-Montague Regional School District because they provide the specialized expertise, funding, and real-world learning opportunities that bridge the gap between classroom instruction and student success in the community.

Health, Wellness & Safety

- American Heart Association: Schoolwide health education and life-saving techniques. (*Hillcrest*)
- Baystate Health: Health Science Pathway with clinical career exposure. (*TFHS*)
- Community Health Center: Access to medical and behavioral health services. (*District*)
- The Heartwing Center: Therapeutic counseling and family partnerships. (*TFHS*)
- First Responders (Gill/Montague/TF): Safety education, fire safety month, and community trust building. (*District*)
- Safe Routes to School: Pedestrian and bicycle safety instruction. (*Sheffield*)

Academic & Career Pathways

- Greenfield Community College (GCC): Early College/Dual Enrollment for college credit. (*TFHS*)
- Judd Wire: Manufacturing and Engineering Career Pathway. (*TFHS*)
- Silvio O. Conte Fish Research Center: Environmental Science and STEM research. (*TFHS*)
- MEFA Pathways & MyCAP: Structured post-secondary and career planning. (*GFMS, TFHS*)
- Gill-Montague Education Fund: Grants for student-centered experiential learning. (*GFMS, TFHS*)
- NEPM/Westfield State: Participation in "As Schools Match Wits" competition. (*TFHS*)

Arts, Culture & Language

- ACT & Anna Hendricks: Drama production and musical movement/storytelling. *(Gill)*
- Mass Cultural Council: Creative dance residency and cultural sessions. *(Hillcrest)*
- Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH): High schoolers teaching Spanish to elementary students. *(Gill)*
- Pioneer Valley Symphony: Expanded performing arts and orchestral opportunities. *(GFMS, TFHS)*
- Museums (Rockwell, Smith, Springfield): Fine arts, history, and botany field experiences. *(Gill, TFHS)*

Nature, Nutrition & Sustainability

- Farm to School / Upinngil: Agricultural education and fresh fruit/veg access. *(Gill)*
- Hitchcock Center: STEM lessons focused on natural sciences and conservation. *(Gill, Sheffield)*
- Food Bank of Western MA: "Eat the Rainbow" nutrition classes for Grade 2. *(Sheffield)*
- Solid Waste Management: Composting bins and sustainability education. *(Sheffield)*
- Montague Pollinator Garden: Local biodiversity and environmental talks. *(Sheffield)*
- Vernal Pool Scientists: Hands-on instruction regarding local vernal pool life. *(Gill)*

Community & Enrichment

- Friends of Hillcrest & Sheffield: Fundraising and community engagement events. *(Hillcrest, Sheffield)*
- Brick House Center: After-school programming and youth engagement. *(GFMS, TFHS)*
- FRCOG: Developed the county's first Bike Traffic Garden and restorative practice systems. *(Sheffield, GFMS, TFHS)*
- Montague Public Library: Literacy enrichment and community reading resources. *(District)*
- Gill Rec Dept: Access to youth soccer and lacrosse. *(Gill)*
- Montague Elks & Greenfield Savings Bank: Scholarships, financial assistance, student savings program and event sponsorship. *(GFMS, TFHS & Gill)*

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present the Gill-Montague Regional School District's End of Year Report. I am so grateful to have worked with such a supportive community, staff, and students this past year. We have a strong school system with many amazing things happening in our district each day.

Tari Nugent Thomas
Interim Superintendent of Schools
February 2026

Finances:

In May 2025, the citizens of Montague, and in June 2025, the citizens of Gill, showed their support for the district with their approval of a FY26 Budget that reflected a 5.36% increase in local assessments from the prior year. The general fund budget for FY26 was \$ 24,953,853, a 3.76% increase from the FY25 budget of \$ 24,048,879.

Gill-Montague Regional School District – General Fund
Statement of Revenues & Other Sources, & Expenditures & Other Uses – Budget & Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)

FY25	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
				Positive/ (Negative)
Revenues and Other Sources:				
Assessments to member towns	13,912,568	13,912,568	13,912,568	-
Tuition	980,000	980,000	766,517	(213,483)
Intergovernmental	8,471,311	8,471,311	8,424,002	(47,309)
Investment Income	132,000	132,000	136,984	4,984
Miscellaneous	-	-	14,803	14,803
Other Sources	553,000	553,000	695,906	142,906
		-		
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 24,048,879	\$ 24,048,879	\$ 23,950,780	\$ (98,099)
			\$ (98,099)	
Expenditures and Other Uses:				
Administration	709,295	751,295	738,478	12,817
Instruction	11,460,553	11,217,335	11,088,148	129,187
Other School Services	1,222,073	1,322,213	1,283,552	38,661
Operation and maintenance	2,321,855	2,379,173	2,397,328	(18,155)
Fixed charges benefits	5,308,561	5,371,961	5,390,887	(18,926)
Community Services	1,400	1,400	844	556
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	114,555	114,555	114,554	1
Special education tuitions	635,587	615,947	463,460	152,487
School choice/charter	2,275,000	2,275,000	2,229,565	45,435
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 24,048,879	\$ 24,048,879	\$ 23,706,816	\$ 342,063
Excess (deficiency) of revenues & other sources over expenditure and other uses				\$ 243,964

The FY25 year-end surplus was primarily driven by three factors. First, Special Education Out-of-District tuition expenses were lower than projected. Second, we realized savings in the instructional line due to unfilled positions. Finally, a continued decline in School Choice Out and Charter enrollments resulted in lower-than-anticipated tuition costs

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Montague Historical Commission, under MGL 40 section 8d, has as its charge to “conduct research for places of historic or archaeological value, cooperate with the state archaeologist in conducting such researches and other surveys ... for the purpose of protecting and preserving such places, it may make recommendations as it seems necessary to the selectmen...”

To accomplish this mission, the Commission intends to:

- Maintain the integrity of the town’s historic districts
- Contribute to community awareness and maintain interest in Montague’s historical heritage during its monthly meetings and when applicable, on the Town’s webpage in order to promote preservation of those assets.
- Serve to provide an historical perspective as mandated under the MGL as a partner with other town boards and committees.
- Advise and guide the Town of Montague in all matters pertaining to the proposed destruction, exterior renovation, or relocation of historical assets, the commercial excavation or soil disturbance in what is deemed to be in proximity of an historical site.

Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 11 a.m. via Zoom. No meetings in May and December.

During 2025, the Historical Commission has:

- Actively participated as a member of the Advisory Board of the National Park Service **American Battlefield Protection Program**, which oversees historical and cultural research as well as archaeological field work on the site of the May 19, 1676 Falls Fight. As such, the Montague Historical Commission collaborated with the Historical Commissions of Gill, Greenfield, Northfield, and Deerfield as well as with the Native American tribes of the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Nipmuck and Abenaki.
- Discussed the Strathmore Mill complex and received updates on future possibilities for the Carnegie Library.
- Continued to track developments of the Blacksmith Shop in Montague Center located on Montague Center park lands in an historic district. Awaiting final historic evaluation report from architect.
- Participated in discussions of future use of the former Farren Memorial Hospital site and possible rezoning of areas adjacent to the site.
- Monitored FERC relicensing as it relates to Montague historic properties. Provided feedback to FERC during the relicensing process.
- Discussed archeological work in town.
- Assisted member of the Montague Common Hall in applying for an accessibility grant.
- Discussion of Dry Hill Cemetery maintenance and access concerns with Cemetery Commission Chair.
- Discussion of Lake Pleasant Spiritual Alliance Church preservation possibilities with Lake Pleasant resident.
- Suggested mitigation strategies for demolition of Strathmore Mill pedestrian bridge.

Submitted by Janel Nockleby, Chair

Commissioners: David Brule, Vice Chair, Secretary, Ed Gregory, Chris Clawson, Jen Viencek

LIBRARIES

Annual Report, 2025

For the Montague Public Libraries, 2025 was a year of momentum. After receiving notification of the town's acceptance into the Massachusetts Public Library Construction program, we quickly moved from committee formation through hiring project partners, conducting robust community engagement, and refining building concepts toward a final design to submit to the state for approval. At the same time, staff strengthened library services through accessibility initiatives and communications work (including the new website rollout), expanded the Library of Things and community health offerings, grew partnerships tied to food security, and continued local history, youth, and programming efforts that deepen community connection across all three library locations.

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP)

Award, Contracting, and Committee Formation

In January, Montague received immediate funding through the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program—one of just three awards to towns in the Connecticut River Valley—then moved quickly into the planning and design process. In February, Montague signed the state contract for participation and the Selectboard appointed the Library Building Steering Committee (LBSC), establishing leadership roles and beginning procurement planning.

Procuring Project Partners: OPM and Architect

Over spring, the LBSC focused on assembling a professional project team. The libraries issued an RFQ for an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and determined evaluation criteria. By April, the Steering Committee completed interviews, selected Downes Construction as the project OPM, and finalized a contract with them, which was approved by the Selectboard. In May, the Libraries released an RFQ for architectural/design services and hosted a well-attended site walkthrough at the Carnegie Library, demonstrating strong regional interest. In June, after receiving 17 architectural bids, the Steering Committee selected Schwartz/Silver Architects, led by Angela Ward Hyatt.

Design Development & Community Engagement

Schwartz/Silver's work began in earnest in July, including creating a digital model of the Carnegie Library to determine the feasibility of building an addition on the building, and launching a community outreach campaign with multiple public events. In August, after a detailed presentation on five site options, both the LBSC and Trustees voted unanimously to move forward with the construction of a new main library building at 38 Avenue A rather than renovating and adding to the Carnegie Library. This decision was shared at a public event. In September, Schwartz/Silver presented three design concepts to the LBSC and Trustees; the committees expressed broad alignment toward a concept emphasizing strong sightlines and a roof garden off the community room. A subsequent community presentation at the Great Falls Discovery Center showed generally positive response and generated practical feedback. In October, the LBSC and Trustees voted against adding a basement to the new building design, as a cost-saving measure, and voted to include infrastructure for a generator in the parking area. Early conversations about value engineering options began while awaiting fuller cost estimates. By November, Schwartz/Silver and its engineering partners had submitted deliverables for the MPLCP Level of Design, which were approved by the Library Trustees and

the Library Building Steering Committee before being submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for review and approval on December 11th. The design was approved in early January 2026.

Outreach & Communications for the Project

Outreach about the main library building project intensified in late summer and fall through open houses; library tours reviewing the Carnegie Library's building, accessibility, and space challenges; and video testimonials featuring stakeholders and residents. The libraries also displayed exterior renderings of the proposed building in the Carnegie entryway, with staff reporting overwhelmingly positive feedback from patrons.

Grants, Gifts, and Partnerships

In October, the Libraries received a surprise \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation, recognizing the legacy of Carnegie libraries.

Branch Library Assistant, Kate Martineau, received a \$5,000 grant from the Mass Cultural Council to support the Montague Center Oral History Project.

Youth Services Librarian, Angela Rovatti-Leonard was awarded a \$500 "Flight Path" grant, in collaboration with the Great Falls Discovery Center, to fund a program series on the science of bird migration.

Angela also submitted and received a \$5,000 New Salem Academy grant, which will support after-school programming at Sheffield Elementary School.

Buildings & Facilities

Facilities maintenance remained an ongoing focus this year. Challenges at the Carnegie Library included addressing frozen pipes over the winter and bats in the spring. The DPW sealed interior gaps in the walls, fireplaces, and floor to discourage bats from entering public spaces and full bat mitigation will be completed as part of a roof repair project submitted as an FY27 capital request. In fall, radon testing showed elevated basement radon levels, which will be addressed by the installation of a mitigation system in early 2026.

The Millers Falls Branch saw the installation of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine-funded Nook Huddle privacy pod (with mixed results on soundproofing) and the long-awaited arrival of a new circulation desk crafted by local carpenter, Sam French.

Millers Falls Branch Food Pantry and Food Security Partnerships

This past year, the Millers Falls Branch Food Pantry deepened local partnerships, becoming a Bombas socks donation site, expanding USDA foods access, and joining the Montague Food Security Coalition. The Coalition, comprised of the Brick House, Heartwing Center, Our Lady of Peace, Drawdown Montague, Finder's Collective, the Survival Center, and the libraries, applied for and received a three-year grant from United Way that supports weekly produce delivery from Red Fire Farm to Montague's pantries and meal sites.

When SNAP cuts threatened the reliable access to food in the community, Coalition coordination and fundraising helped extend produce distributions into the colder months, past the original program end date, and included holiday-focused distributions. Food pantry usage at Millers continued to rise throughout the year, reinforcing the branch's role as a critical community access point during a period of heightened need. Staff tracked increases in new

users and households, expanded weekly Food Bank pickups, organized ongoing food and hygiene drives, and coordinated additional pantry hours on Saturdays with volunteers from the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

Accessibility, Policies, and Service Infrastructure

Website

Work on the new, accessible library website, funded with a grant from the American Library Association, continued through early 2025, including content development, the creation of a printable local resource guide, and implementation of Assabet Interactive modules for event registration and room booking. The website was finally launched at the end of May.

Accessibility Upgrades

The Trustees' Building Committee worked with the DPW to implement year one of a five-year plan to support accessibility in all three libraries. This year's upgrades included installing ADA-compliant grab bars and mirrors in library restrooms and improving handrails.

Policies

The Libraries' director and Library Trustees crafted and refined several policies, addressing privacy, dogs, study room use (including the local history room and Millers pod), event booking by public groups. A research protocol was also developed to support patron use of the Carnegie Library's local history collection.

Programming, Outreach, and Community Impact

Community Outreach & Engagement:

The Libraries strengthened relationships with the Council on Aging through outreach and branch-based tech forums. Staff also convened local historians to explore collaboration as the community approaches significant historical anniversaries.

Local History & Oral History:

The Montague Center Oral History Project advanced substantially. After being trained in basic oral history collection, over a dozen interviews were conducted by Montague Center volunteers with area elders. These recordings were edited and uploaded to the libraries' website, along with professional portraits of the interviewees. A fundraiser and oral history event focused on local fires and natural disasters drew 111 attendees and raised significant funds for the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries to further support the project.

Staff-Led Programs and New Initiatives:

Staff continued to expand offerings, including movie nights, craft and club programs, and new formats such as adult scavenger hunts using local history resources.

Youth Services

2025 was an exciting year for the Youth Services Department!

Self-directed activity options remained highly popular, with new Take-and-Make Bags and Scavenger Hunts introduced each month, (utilizing recycled and donated materials.) Special programming throughout the year included the annual Free Comic Book Day in May, and a popular, first-ever, all-ages Costume Swap event in October, which encouraged reuse and creativity in the community.

For the youngest patrons, continued funding from sources like the New Salem Academy, the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, and generous donations from local patrons secured the continuation of the beloved Bilingual Music & Movement series. The Youth Services Librarian leveraged community feedback to introduce a dedicated "Sensory Hour" every Monday morning, providing a quiet, supportive environment for young neurodivergent patrons and their families.

Outreach and collaboration remained a key priority, with the elementary schools' Spring Festival, Open Houses and Literacy Nights, and visits to the schools to spread the word about the Summer Reading Program. The library's presence was strong at events like the 2nd annual Montague Community Fair at Unity Park, and visits continued to the Teen Center at The Brick House and Kidleidoscope Story Time at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

This year's Summer Reading programs featured dynamic events designed to engage children of all ages. Highlights included the return of the popular annual puppet show at Peskeompskut Park in August, which is always a hit. The summer also saw the continuation of the crucial "SUMMER EATS" program, providing free breakfast and lunch to ages 18 and under at the Carnegie Library tent.

Youth Services Librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard spearheaded grant-funded initiatives and community collaborations aimed at improving youth services, primarily through the innovative "Beyond Library Walls" project. This initiative was specifically designed to combat mental health challenges and social isolation among youth aged 11 to 17. Collaborating closely with local partners like The Brick House and Montague Catholic Social Ministries, the program successfully fostered out-of-school community support and crucial peer connections. The library received second-year funding in early December 2025 to build upon these initial successes.

Personnel & Professional Development

Staffing and Roles:

This year, multiple substitute library assistants were hired and trained, the libraries appointed a new Cataloger/Library Technician, and a new Community Relations Coordinator role was posted. While the libraries could still benefit from an Adult Services Coordinator, the new staffing model allows us to better communicate with patrons and provide additional adult programs.

Training and Staff Development:

Topics for 2025 staff trainings included misinformation/disinformation, reference interview skill-building, AI basics, and, memorably, protocols for circulating blood pressure cuffs through a partnership with the American Heart Association.

Annual Report Data					
	Library Visits	Questions Asked	Reference	Reader's Advisory	Technology
TF	18598	1993	862	181	681
MC	3615	539	31	47	327
MF	3861	972	354	86	22
Total	26074	3504	1247	314	1030

Annual Report Data Contd.				
2025 Circulation Stats	Carnegie	Montague Center	Millers Falls	Total
Adult Printed Material	20048	8658	1484	30190
YA Printed Material	1333	444	314	2091
Children's Printed Material	12359	4923	1171	18453
Adult/YA Audio	1106	149	143	1398
Adult/YA Video	14653	2229	2894	19776
Children's Audio	268	73	16	357
Children's Video/DVD	1693	318	191	2202
E-books and E-magazines	-	-	-	7161
Downloadable Audio	-	-	-	12705

2025 C/WMARS Consortium ILL Stats:	2025 In-State ILL Stats:
<i>Items Received, total: 25,590</i>	<i>Items Received, total: 162</i>
TF 16945	<i>Items Sent, total: 99</i>
MC 6486	
MF 2159	2025 Out-of-State ILL Stats:
<i>Items Sent, total: 15539</i>	<i>Items Received, total: 27</i>

MCTV 2025 ANNUAL REPORT NARRATIVE

Montague Community Cable Incorporated (MCCI) is the Access Management Organization (AMO) awarded the contract by the town to run Montague Community Television (MCTV).

MCTV's mission as the public access provider for Montague, Gill, and Erving is to make the tools of modern electronic mass communication easy and convenient to use. We encourage all citizens, organizations and institutions in Montague and the broadcast viewing area to produce and be involved in quality programming by and for this community. We also offer the community a range of production services to record local meetings and events—from full equipment, staffing and production to simple technical assistance—including all necessary training. MCTV is committed to providing a professional and welcoming environment where Montague citizens may obtain hands-on training in video production. While MCTV's first focus is the town of Montague, it actively engages in networking with other local PEG Access stations in the Franklin/Hampshire region to increase producer reach and viewer choices.

Content:

MCTV was able to get 278 new programs produced and uploaded to Vimeo. Currently there are 3101 videos posted on that site. We have invested resources to purchase and support the technology required to livestream hybrid meetings. A variety of producers have contributed their time and skills in the creation of their own shows or participation in covering of Station Manager identified events of interest. Most active producers this year were Hannah Brookman, Ben Lombardi-Barrell, Atticus Belmonte, Emma Hurst, Janet Masucci, Isaac Larkin, Alexa Hott, Shealyn Garvin.

In 2025, MCTV continued to cover local events, but also collaborated with organizations and individuals to enhance or host of cultural events:

- Great Falls Discovery Center: Celebrating the life of Chris Sawyer-Luacanno
- Shea Theater: Welcome Yule, Four Rivers production of Treasure Island, Immigrant Voices, The Sheak-Down Fair, Vapors of Morphine. Big Yellow Taxi
- Peske Park: World Music Fest, Montague Community Band, Ooze Fest, Wes Brown Band, No Strings Marionettes, Fairy House Days,
- Montague Public Libraries: 6 Productions Local Author Series,,
- Parks & Rec: Homelands Festival, Nolumbeka Festival, Fun Fest, Day of Remembrance, Christmas in July
- Wendell Town Hall: Honoring Our Elders Series.
- Montague Common Hall: Celebrating the Montague Grange
- Montague Congregational Church: Oral History one year anniversary
- Lake Pleasant/National Spiritual Alliance: Voices in the Village Series, Discovering Spiritualism history and practice with David James.
- Brick House: 2nd Annual Teen Showcase, Brick House Paint Day,
- Local Business Spotlight: Great Hauls,
- Senior Center: My Life with Bill, Golden Cane Presentation, AI Workshop, Cyber Security Workshop,
- TFHS: Wesley Snapp Aquatic Center Dedication, Frontier Cable Access: Joint Collaboration filming Softball Div 5 Finals (TFHS vs GFLD)

2025 Description of facility and equipment use:

Equipment Reservations: 238

Facilities Reservations: 73

Videos Uploaded to Vimeo

Public: 139 Videos

Government: 139 Videos

Total: 278

Weekly Programming Breakdown

Local: 136 Hours

Out of Town: 32 Hours

Board:

The MCCI Board of Directors has maintained monthly board meetings to keep the Board involved in and engaged with the current projects at MCTV. While finding new Board members has been a struggle, we have a core group of committed volunteers in Dana Faldasz, Karen Siwicki, and Liz Walber.

Fundraising:

MCTV applied for Mass Cultural Council Operating Grant, but was unfortunately unsuccessful. The Board has been in ongoing discussions setting up a donation link for the montaguetv.org website. This year, MCTV elected to donate proceeds from DVD sales of Welcome Yule to the Montague Reporter.

Outreach:

MCCI has employed a wide range of outreach strategies and activities over our years of service. Through it all, we made a lot of new friends but didn't see much of a return in the form of video content or increased participation. Currently, we continue to send out our weekly news blasts and share our station news with The Montague Reporter, but we focus most of our outreach energy on networking and sending our crews out to record meetings and events. MCTV has been utilizing Instagram and Facebook to share information about community events, keep followers apprised of goings-on, and maintain an open door to community engagement. MCTV's collaboration with the following entities resulted in local content for our community.

- Town of Montague
- Selectboard
- Finance Committee
- Town Clerk's Office
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Planning Board
- DPW
- Parks and Recreation
- Montague Tree Advisory Committee
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- RiverCulture
- Greenfield Media
- Greenfield Savings Bank
- Shea Theater

- Carnegie Library
- Cielito Lindo
- Nolumbeka Project
- Food Bank of Western MA
- Root Yoga
- Nova Motorcycles
- 253 Pharmacy
- Nina's Nook
- Friends of the Coffeehouse
- Musica Franklin
- National Spiritual Alliance
- Young Shakespeare Players East
- WestMass Brass Band
- Greenfield Community College
- Great Falls Discovery Center
- Gill Montague Regional School District
- Eggtooth Productions
- Montague Congo Church
- Montague Community Band
- Montague Catholic Social Ministries
- Franklin Regional Transit Authority
- Franklin County Chamber Of Commerce
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Northfield Mountain Recreation
- Senior Center
- Looky Here
- Brick House
- Opioid Task Force
- Fab Fashion
- Franklin County Varsity Sports
- Lovelights
- Rod & Gun Club
- Montague Reporter
- Montague Bookmill
- Holy Trinity-All Church
- Salasin Center
- Rendezvous
- Great Falls Harvest
- Skeleton Crew Theater
- Montague Center Library
- River Culture
- Kreemee
- Swanson Fabrics
- Soapbox Derby
- Unnameable Books
- Fitzpatrick Pools and Spas
- Shea Theater Productions
- Cyber Seniors Tech Support

Training:

MCTV can provide the full range of technical support and training for local meetings and events. Some producers will require no training at all. Others we tailor our training and support to meet the individual producers' needs.

Fiscal Management:

MCTV utilizes sound accounting practices with clear and secure purchasing procedures. We maintain a balance of operating funds never lower than the equivalent of two months' worth of operating expenses. We also engage the services of an auditing and tax accountant with a specialization in non-profits and have a long standing and regular relationship with a local bookkeeper of high repute.

MCTV maintains a practice, per our contract with the Town, of financial transparency in managing our resources. MCTV submits quarterly financial reports and a complete annual report. These documents, our budget, our profit and loss statements, our balance sheet, and all our board minutes are available to the public on montaguetelevision.org. We also share our tax return with the Town every year, and engage in our own independent financial audit. The yearly financial reports contained herein show that MCCI is healthy, sustainable, and continues to apply our founding practices of fiscal responsibility.

Capital Asset and Equipment Management:

This year we purchased a Data Video HS-1300 to replace the HS-1200. This is 6 channel portable video streaming studio that we use for Selectboard/School Committee meetings and multi-camera productions on the road. T

MCTV 2025 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING

Selectboard Meeting 1/6/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/13/25
Selectboard Meeting 1/13/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/27/25
Selectboard Meeting 1/27/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/10/25
Selectboard Meeting 2/3/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/24/25
Selectboard Meeting 2/10/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/10/25
Selectboard Meeting 2/24/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/24/25
Selectboard Meeting 3/3/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/7/25
Selectboard Meeting 3/10/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/22/25
Selectboard Meeting 3/17/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/14/25
Selectboard Meeting 3/24/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/20/25
Selectboard Meeting 3/31/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/2/25
Selectboard Meeting 4/7/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/16/25
Selectboard Meeting 4/14/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/30/25
Selectboard Meeting 4/23/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 7/14/25
Selectboard Meeting 4/28/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/5/25
Selectboard Meeting 5/5/25	Gill Annual Town Meeting 8/11/25
Selectboard Meeting 5/12/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/18/25
Selectboard Meeting 5/19/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/25/25
Selectboard Meeting 6/2/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/8/25
Selectboard Meeting 6/16/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/22/25
Selectboard Meeting 6/30/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/6/25
Selectboard Meeting 7/7/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/20/25
Selectboard Meeting 7/21/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/3/25
Selectboard Meeting 8/4/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/17/25
Selectboard Meeting 8/18/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/1/25
Selectboard Meeting 9/8/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/15/25
Selectboard Meeting 9/15/25	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/29/25
Selectboard Meeting 9/22/25	Gill Annual Town Meeting 5/5/25
Selectboard Meeting 9/29/25	Gill Annual Town Meeting 6/9/25
Selectboard Meeting 10/6/25	GMRSD Meeting 1/14/25
Selectboard Meeting 10/20/25	GMRSD Meeting 1/28/25
Selectboard Meeting 10/27/25	GMRSD Meeting 2/11/25
Selectboard Meeting 11/3/25	GMRSD Meeting 2/25/25
Selectboard Meeting 11/10/25	GMRSD Meeting 3/11/25
Selectboard Meeting 11/17/25	GMRSD Meeting 3/25/25
Selectboard Meeting 12/1/25	GMRSD Meeting 4/8/25
Selectboard Meeting 12/8/25	GMRSD Meeting 4/22/25
Selectboard Meeting 12/15/25	GMRSD Meeting 5/13/25
Selectboard Meeting 12/22/25	GMRSD Meeting 5/27/25
Selectboard Candidates Forum 4/27/25	GMRSD Meeting 6/10/25
Annual Town Meeting 5/7/25	GMRSD Meeting 6/12/25
Annual Town Meeting 5/14/25	GMRSD Meeting 6/24/25
Special Town Meeting 2/12/25	GMRSD Meeting 7/8/25
Special Town Meeting 10/22/25	GMRSD Meeting 7/22/25
Pre Town Meeting 4/29/25	GMRSD Meeting 8/19/25
Pre Town Meeting 10/15/25	GMRSD Meeting 9/9/25
Finance Committee Meeting 1/8/25	GMRSD Meeting 9/23/25
Finance Committee Meeting 1/15/25	GMRSD Meeting 10/14/25

<p> Finance Committee Meeting 1/22/25 Finance Committee Meeting 1/23/25 Finance Committee Meeting 2/19/25 Finance Committee Meeting 2/26/25 Finance Committee Meeting 3/12/25 Finance Committee Meeting 3/19/25 Finance Committee Meeting 3/26/25 Finance Committee Meeting 4/2/25 Finance Committee Meeting 4/9/25 Finance Committee Meeting 4/30/25 Finance Committee Meeting 6/25/25 Finance Committee Meeting 7/9/25 Finance Committee Meeting 8/6/25 Finance Committee Meeting 9/10/25 Finance Committee Meeting 9/24/25 Finance Committee Meeting 10/1/25 Finance Committee Meeting 11/19/25 Finance Committee Meeting 12/18/25 Board Of Assessors Meeting 3/17/25 Conservation Committee Meeting 11/13/25 </p>	<p> GMRSD Meeting 10/28/25 GMRSD Meeting 11/18/25 GMRSD Meeting 12/2/25 GMRSD Meeting 12/9/25 GMRSD Budget Meeting Gill/Montague 2/5/25 Planning Board Meeting 1/21/25 Planning Board Meeting 3/21/25 Planning Board Meeting 4/17/25 Planning Board Meeting 4/30/25 Planning Board Meeting 5/27/25 Planning Board Meeting 6/24/25 Planning Board Meeting 7/22/25 Planning Board Meeting 8/26/25 Planning Board Meeting 9/23/25 Planning Board Meeting 10/28/25 Planning Board Meeting 11/19/25 Public Forum: Future of Carnegie Library 7/29/25 Public Forum: Future of Carnegie Library 8/14/25 Public Forum: Future of Carnegie Library 9/11/25 Six Town Regionalization Presentation 9/15/25 Six Town Regionalization Presentation 10/9/25 </p>

MCTV 2025 LOCAL PROGRAMMING

<p>Celebrating The Montague Grange 1/12/25 Celebrating The Life Of Chris Sawyer-Luacanno YSP: A Winters Tale 1/18/25 Mother Tongue 2025 Customers From Hell 2025 Gill Invisible Standout 3/14/25 Treasure Island 3/1/25 Adapting To A Changing World Local Business Spotlight: Great Hauls MacBeth: Montague Shakespeare Festival 4/4/25 Honoring Our Elders: Michael Idoine 4/8/25 Honoring Our Elders: Patricia Miller 5/13/25 HOE: Moonlight and Morningstar 7/22/25 HOE: Danny Botkin and Divya Shinn 8/26/25 HOE: Don and Janee Stone 10/2/25 I-91 Outstanding Overpass From CT to VT Big Yellow Taxi 4/19/25 David Cohen: Bread and Roses Rally 5/11/25 Dead Manz Waltz 5/18/25 Upcoming Shea Theater Events 5/9/25 Tony Montanaro: A Love Story Easter Extravaganza 2025 Brick House: Dani Derks 5/9/25 Brick House: Enchanted Mirror 5/9/25 Brick House: ZBS, Mo Live 5/9/25 New England Repertory Opera 5/2/25 Bread and Roses Rally 5/1/25 Charlie and The Chocolate Factory A Celebration of Taylor Swift The Best of the 70's 5/17/25 Roomful of Blues 5/19/25 I-91 Standout For Democracy 5/23/25 Day of Remembrance 5/17/25 Brick House 2nd Annual Teen Showcase Funfest 2025: Larksgrove Funfest 2025: Jazzkie Meetis Hip Hop Funfest 2025: Drum Circle Funfest 2025: Musica Franklin Funfest 2025: Orquesta Sensacional Funfest 2025: Turners Falls Music Department Amherst Common Protests 6/1/25 Montague Center Memorial Day 5/25/25 Turners Falls Memorial Day Ceremony 5/26/25 No Kings Protest 6/14/25 Voices In The Village: Open Mic 5/20/25 Voices In The Village: Open Mic 7/15/25 Cinema Storm WMMF: Myrtle Street Klezmer 6/1/25</p>	<p>The Saga of Millers Falls Library 6/23/25 Discoveries in The Connecticut River 6/8/25 Local History: With Will Quale 6/30/25 Rice-An American Band 7/6/25 Kenny Butler 7/3/25 Wesley Snapp Aquatic Center Dedication 7/1/25 JAMB-O-REE 6/28/25 Climate Cycles 7/11/25 Do It Now 7/13/25 The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever 2025 Extension Cords 2: Astral Chill 7/25/25 Extension Cords 2: Barbie. AI Extension Cords 2: Impure Luck Extension Cords 2: Dan Friel Extension Cords 2: Daedelus Extension Cords 2: Head of Wantastiquet Christmas in July 7/26/25 Very Normal Puppet Show 7/26/25 Home Body 8/19/25 No Strings Marionette 8/8/25 Wes Brown and Friends 8/24/25 Root Fiyah 8/21/25 Franklin County Potpourri 2025 Contemplative Music and Words 2025 Pocumtuck Homelands Festival 2025: PHF: Pua Ali'i o Juioka and Annawon Weeden PHF: Rez Dogs Drums and Mingon Geli PHF: Hawk Henries and Brayn Blanchette PHF: Mike Luoma PHF: Evan Pritchard Julian Gerstin Sextet 9/5/25 3-Speed 8/28/25 Michaels Gathering 4/6/25 Voices in The Village Open Mic 9/23/25 Discovering Spiritualism History and Practice with David James 9/19/25 The Turnaway Play 10/5/25 North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival 2025 AI Basics and Beyond Montague Community Fair 9/27/25 Light Up The Bridge 10/23/25 Spooky Tails 10/24/25 Ooze Fest 9/13/25 The Sheak-Down Fair 10/2/25 Bug Parade 10/3/25 Life With Bill 10/30/25 Migration Festival 2025 Veterans Day 2025</p>
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WMMF: John Hughes and Stephen Katz 6/1/25 WMMF: Juan Carlos Marin Band 6/1/25 Johnny Folsom Four 6/6/25 Turners vs Greenfield Div 5 Softball State Final Michi Wianko 6/16/25 No Kings Rally Greenfield 6/14/25 What is Freedom 6/23/25 Wheat Paste Mural Project 6/26/25 Green Mountain Mambo 6/26/25 Brick House Paint Day 6/22/25 Montague Community Band 6/16/25 Montague Community Band 6/23/25 Montague Community Band 7/21/25 Montague Community Band 7/28/25	Cyber Security:Protect Yourself from On Line Predators 10/16/25 Wizard Castle Costume Ball 10/18/25 Rag Shag Parade 10/31/25 Local Author: Al Miller 11/3/25 The Emissary By Julia Zanes Welcome Yule 12/12/25 Golden Cane Presentation 12/11/25 Beaver Moon Gathering 11/8/25 FCCC Holiday Concert 12/7/25 It's A Wonderful Night 12/12/25 Montague Center Santa Parade 12/13/25 Light The Bridge 10/23/25 Nightmare Before Dragsmith 12/5/25

MONTAGUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

The Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) was created for the purpose of acquiring and holding real property and financial assets to be developed in the public interest of the town. The MEDIC has authority to conduct development activities within areas of the town only as designated by the “Economic Development Plan” adopted by Town Meeting in 2013 (updated 2022). The EDIC is a seven-member commission comprised of people with expertise in certain areas defined by general law and appointed to three-year renewable terms by the Selectboard.

The MEDIC generally advances economic development in five areas of Montague: the Airport Industrial Park, the Sandy Lane Industrial Area, the Turners Falls Canal District, the Great Falls Discovery Center area, and the former Farren Care Center area.

The Assistant Town Administrator serves as the Coordinator of the MEDIC. The MEDIC meets bi-monthly.

As of 2025, MEDIC owns a total of four properties, all of which form a contiguous area comprising the former Cumberland Farms site at 38 Avenue A, the Second Street public parking lot, and the Heritage Park located between these two parcels and the Great Falls Discovery Center. In September, MEDIC voted to authorize the transfer of the 0.35-acre lot at 38 Avenue A to the Town of Montague in order to allow the Town to continue advancing its project to construct a new main branch for the Montague Public Libraries at that location. The transfer would move forward should the project proceed, contingent upon approval of state and local funding in 2026.

Members as of December 2025

Linda Ackerman.....Financial matters

Ariel Elan.....Member at large

John FurbishRepresentative of low to moderate income population

Ella Ingraham.....Municipal experience

Rob Steinberg.....Real Estate matters, Chair

Kimberly Williams.....Member at large, Vice-Chair

(VACANT).....Industrial Development

MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and the Citizens of the Town of Montague. I hereby submit the Annual Report of the Montague Housing Authority for the year ending December 31, 2025.

Regular monthly meetings of the Montague Housing Authority Board were held on the second Thursday of the month, to transact routine business of the authority. The monthly meeting usually starts at 9:00 AM, unless it is changed for some reason.

In 2025 Montague Housing Authority has a total of 13,255 applications. 10,721 applications are applying for family housing, chapter 200-1, and 3446 applications are applying for Elderly/Younger Disabled housing, chapter 667-1,2,3. (This total amount includes 1,046 for elderly and 2400 for Handicapped). In 2024 we will be able to Lease/House 4 unit of 1 bedroom apartment at 667-1 Sunrise Terrace Apartment Elderly/younger disabled, 2 unit of 1 bedroom to chapter 667-2 at Keith Apartment Elderly/younger disabled housing, and 2 units of 2 bedrooms at Hillcrest Home, Family housing Chapter 200-1. All the elderly applicants are locals from the Town of Montague and two of the family are local as well.

Montague Housing Authority has four developments all State-Aided Public Housing. Montague Housing Authority's Elderly/Handicapped chapter 667-1,2,3 housing has a total of 80 apartments at three different sites. Family Housing, chapter 200-1, has 30 apartments on one site.

In 2025 Montague Housing Authority continue received a funding/award from DHCD for Capital Improvement, Project #192075, Replacement of Facia at Keith Apartment, 19 Canal Street, chapter 667-2 Elderly Housing. Project #192078, Asphalts Repair at Highland School Development, chapter 667-3 Elderly Housing. Project #192087 Exterior Painting Phase 2 at Sunrise Terrace Development, Chapter 667-1 Elderly Housing. All projects have been completed.

On behalf of the Montague Housing Authority and our Board of Commissioners, I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have supported our housing needs.

Montague Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
Karen Casey-Chretien, Chairman
William Doyle, Vice Chairman
Paula Girard, Treasurer
Debra Bourbeau, Member
Stanley Zera, Member

Respectfully submitted,

Bellamine Dickerman
Executive Director

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The calendar year started with our Annual Sawmill River 10K in Montague Center that was held on January 1st. We had over one hundred runners participate in our biggest special event, logistically. The race is a great way to start off the New Year, and many local runners highlight this event in their running schedule. Our Youth Basketball Program continues to see very high participation, with two 3 & 4 grade travel teams and one 5 & 6 grade travel team. We also had eighteen little ones participating in our K-2 program, where we strictly focused on the basic skills of the game. We've seen a significant surge in youth sports participation in the last couple of years and we hope it continues. The Bluefish Swim Team had one of their most successful seasons in recent memory, with over fifty swimmers participating, the team came in 3rd Place in the New England Mid-Regional Championships; a feat the team has not achieved in over twenty years! Open Swim at the Turners Falls High School also experienced solid participation through the winter, operating Tuesday and Friday evenings that included Family Swim and Adult Lap Swim sessions.

Spring also comes in like a lion (or bunny) with our Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza at Unity Park. The popularity of this event is certainly unquestionable, as we had a few hundred community members participate in Peter's famous egg hunt that included 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs. Our Tee Ball program continues to be one of our more popular youth sports programs, as we had over forty Tee-Ballers show their skills every Saturday morning. In June, we had an official ribbon-cutting for our new playground at Montague Center Park! Built by Mountain View Landscaping out of Chicopee, and designed by GZA Geo-environmental out of Springfield, we were able to deliver a wonderful play space to the community that includes two climbing structures, a swing set and spring animals made out of black locust. The project, partially funded by the Parkland Acquisition and Rehabilitation for Communities (PARC) Grant and the Town of Montague, also included the installation of a large pollinator area, rain garden, and the development of a dedicated parking area. We're hoping to make additional improvements to the park in the next few years, so keep an eye on it!

The summer we offered a variety of programs and events. Our most popular, Summer Camp, continued to serve fun and excitement to local youth. We served approximately sixty kids a week between the ages of 5 to 12 during our eight-week program. Aside from our daily, on-site activities at Unity Park, we also embarked on weekly trips to Laurel Lake at Erving State Forest, in addition to field trips to local attractions and amusements. MPRD also partnered with RiverCulture to sponsor the Movies in The Park series at Peskeompskut Park. We showed three movies over the summer, which has become a nice tradition this time of year. We are already looking ahead to seeing what great films we can show next summer. We also hosted our annual Super Summer Soccer Fest at Highland Park in Millers Falls over the summer. Youth Coach, Frank Wiles, donated his time every Thursday of the summer to help broaden the skill level of kids in grades 3-7. We appreciate Frank's passion, time and effort in helping to create better soccer players in Montague.

Fall saw another successful Youth Soccer season. We had three travel teams: one Pee Wee (Grades 1 & 2), Junior (Grades 3 & 4) and one Senior Travel team (Grades 5 & 6). We also have a Squirt Soccer Program (Ages 4 – 6) program that meets every Saturday morning in the Fall. All said-and-done, we had over fifty kids play soccer in Montague this year!

We would like to note that our ability to offer quality programs and facilities would not be possible without the generosity of many wonderful partners in our fine community. Therefore, we would like to thank Greenfield Savings Bank, The Montague Elks, The Turners Falls Athletic Club, RiverCulture, and the Gill-Montague Regional School District for being valuable partners in supporting our services.

In conclusion, we would also like to thank Montague's Department of Public Works for maintaining our parks and facilities and our volunteers for the time, effort and passion they invested in our community this past year. Their spirit and enthusiasm contribute significantly to the success of our department, and we simply cannot function without them. Finally, we would like to thank our patrons for their interest and investment in Montague Parks & Recreation. We look forward to 2026 and hope you will continue to take your journey with us.

Parks & Recreation Department Staff

Jonathan J. Dobosz, Director, CPRP, CPO
Jennifer L. Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper
Jeff Singleton, Secretary

Parks & Recreation Commission

Barbara Kuklewicz, Chair
Ken Danford, Vice Chair

PLANNING & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Department Staff:

- Maureen Pollock, Planning Director and Conservation Agent
- Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Planner/ Program Director of RiverCulture

The Montague Planning and Conservation Department is responsible for 1) Land use planning 2) Natural resource protection and 3) Advancing economic and community development activities identified in Town Plans. The primary function of the Planning Department is to manage regulatory processes for development proposals submitted to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. As part of that process the Planning Department evaluates development proposals for their contribution toward community planning goals as documented in Montague Comprehensive Plan and other local strategic plans. The Department is also actively engaged in programs and projects that help the community achieve its planning goals.

The highlights of 2025 included project development and management of the following projects:

- **2025 Montague City Village Rezoning Project:** Completed **2025 Montague City Village Rezoning Project**. Fall 2025 Town Meeting approved Article 12 including the Farren zoning text amendments and zoning map change. Attorney General approved zoning amendments. Associated Next phase of work is to focus on preparing and issuing Request for Proposal (RFP) for re-developing the former Farren Hospital site (to be done in 2026)
- **MVP 2.0 Project:** Started to implement the MVP 2.0 seed project offering free custom “Winserts” to income eligible households. This project is funded through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).
- **Rural Downtown District Project:** The Town of Montague in partnership with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is working together on a one-year pilot project aimed at fostering economic growth and developing a sustainable regional model for rural downtown management. As part of this project, a Downtown Turners Falls Working Group has been formed. The working group includes business owners, workers, property owners, non-profit leaders, local government representatives, and other stakeholders. The working group holds monthly meetings and is in the process of identifying key projects to boost the local economy and enhance downtown vitality.
- **Open Space & Recreation Plan:** The Town is preparing a new Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The OSRP is a ten-year action plan to manage, protect, and improve Montague’s conservation and recreation resources. This plan is informed by a community engagement process to ensure it reflects the needs and interests of our community.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The Town is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to strengthen the community’s resilience against natural disasters and other hazards. Having a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is a crucial requirement for eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding. This funding can provide significant resources for projects that reduce risk and protect your residents and infrastructure.
- **Current & Past Planning Projects:** To learn more about Planning Department projects and to find ways to participate, please visit: <https://montague-ma.gov/p/1529>.

Planning Board

The Planning Board maintains the Comprehensive Plan, prepares zoning text and zoning map amendments for Town Meeting acceptance, administers Subdivision Regulations, approves site plans and issues special permits for industrial and commercial development and common driveways. The Planning Board meets monthly and is staffed by Maureen Pollock, Town Planner and the Planning Clerk. The Planning Board's business included:

Special Permit Approvals: 2

Site Plan Approvals: 2

“Approval Not Required” (ANR) Subdivision Plans Endorsements: 6

Zoning Amendments: Zoning bylaws are continually revisited based on changing demands, unmet needs, and evolving technology and markets.

Accessory Dwelling Units - In order to comply with a new state housing law, the [Affordable Homes Act](#), the provisions found in [Montague's 2019 Accessory Dwelling Unit \(ADU\) bylaw \(Section 8.5\)](#) will need to be changed. Planning Director Maureen Pollock and Building Inspector Bill Ketchen have attended several webinars of the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) on ADUs.

EOHLC advises towns/cities to hold off amending its zoning until after EOHLC has released its Model ADU Zoning to help develop and/or amend local rules. Model ADU Zoning is expected to be released in April 2025. For cities and towns that already have local ADU rules that need to be amended to reflect the ADU Law and its regulations, EOHLC will post a Municipal Checklist to help cities and towns evaluate their local rules and identify key areas where their rules need to be amended.

In 2025, the Planning Board zoning text amendments regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. The Planning Board seeks Town Meeting approval on May 2, 2026

Planning Board Members

1. Ronald Sicard (Chair)
2. Elizabeth Irving (FRCOG Rep)
3. George Cooke
4. Samuel Guerin
5. Robert Obear
6. Sage Winters, Associate Member

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, which regulates work in or near surface waters and wetlands. The Commission also works to support the protection of important natural resources areas through land conservation. The Commission meets monthly and is staffed by Maureen Pollock- Conservation Agent and the Conservation Clerk. The Commission's business included the following:

Wetlands Administration:

The Commission issued the following permits under the Wetlands Protection Act:

- **Requests for Determination of Applicability:** 4
- **Notice of Intent:** 3
- **Emergency Certificates:** None
- **Violations:** None

Conservation Commission Members:

1. Mark Fairbrother (Chair)
2. Justin Fermann (Vice Chair)
3. Donna Francis
4. Sean Werle
5. Anthony Reiber
6. Toby Carter
7. Margeaux Reckard
8. Al Averill, Associate Member

RiverCulture Program:

Suzanne LoManto, Program Director of RiverCulture

2025 Steering Committee:

1. Jon Dobosz
2. Caitlin Kelley
3. Liz Walber
4. Two (2) Vacant seats

Established in 2006 with a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, RiverCulture is focused on the mission to enhance quality of life, increase capacity through partnership, establish art and culture as a visible part of our identity, and create an environment that attracts new residents, business, and visitors to Montague. In 2018 the program was formally incorporated into Town government with supervision provided by the Town Planner and a steering committee appointed by the Selectboard.

RiverCulture accomplishes this by:

Serving as a central sounding-board for the Arts; Providing coordination for the Turners Falls Cultural District; Participating in economic development initiatives; Writing grants; Producing events; Developing marketing strategies; Building a social media presence; Creating a weekly newsletter; and Managing public art and placemaking projects.

The RiverCulture Steering Committee works with Montague residents, groups, nonprofits, and municipal departments to share ideas and resources, cross promote cultural activity, and increase capacity. RiverCulture Steering Committee also has the authority to spearhead policies related to the Arts for consideration by the Montague Select Board. Residents of Montague with an interest in the arts and community building are welcome to join! Representatives from nonprofit groups are equally encouraged to participate.

Website: www.riverculture.org

Sign up for the newsletter! <https://www.riverculture.org/newsletter-subscription/>

An internal review of funding facilitated between 2019-2025 through the RiverCulture program and/or by Assistant Planner show the following:

Grants received and facilitated: **\$322,500**

Business support during the same period: **\$88,800**

In-kind partnership revenues: **\$434, 636**

TOTAL: \$845, 936

2025 Highlights:

RiverCulture installed six temporary, large-scale wheat paste murals in three Montague Villages. The three winning artists were selected by a steering group comprised of Town staff, business owners and residents with art and/or design experience. The winning artists were: Aaron Meshon, Sophie Foulkes, Ponnapa Prakkamakul

This project was part of a six week training through the New England Foundation for the Art's Making It Public (MIP) for Massachusetts Municipalities program and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Montague Wheat Paste Mural Project was highlighted in the Nefa Blog:

<https://www.nefa.org/news/making-it-public-wheatpaste-murals-montague-ma>

RiverCulture produced or co-produced dozens of free festivals and cultural events including Música Franklin Fun Fest, Montague World Music Mini-Festival, Montague Shakespeare Festival, Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, Home Body, outdoor movies, and music from nearly every major genera including rock, pop, traditional, electronic, blues, jazz, country, and reggae.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2025 was a year of transition for the Montague Police Department. After more than 30 years of service to the Town, including eight years as Chief, Chief Christopher Williams retired in December 2025. Following an extensive search process involving community members and department personnel, Jason Haskins was appointed Chief of Police in December 2025. Throughout the year, the Department faced challenges related to staffing vacancies and increasing operational demands, while continuing to provide professional police services to the community. As the Department moves into 2026, efforts are underway to stabilize staffing, modernize operations, strengthen accountability and training, and enhance community engagement under new leadership.

2023	2024	2025	
16,502	16,593	16500	Calls for Service
3115	3292	3317	911 Emergency Calls
276	215	156	Persons arrested by the Police
184	147	103	Persons were male, 7 were juveniles
92	68	47	Person were female, 6 were juveniles
304	241	193	Victims of crime
46	35	50	Restraining orders served (209a &258E)
6	1	0	Alarm by-law tickets

TOTAL REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS OVER \$1,000 IN VALUE

2023	2024	2025
127	110	124

TOTAL REPORTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS UNDER \$1,000 IN VALUE

2023	2024	2025
21	20	19

TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLES ACCIDENTS

2023	2024	2025
148	130	143

INJURED PERSONS

2023	2024	2025	
14	6	10	Operators
3	0	1	Passengers
1	2	0	Pedestrians
1	2	1	Bicyclist
2	2	5	Motorcyclists
1	0	0	Fatalities
22	12	17	Total Injuries

MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS

2023	2024	2025
1093 (Fines \$4,400.00)	614 (\$3,285.00)	705 (\$4,130.00)

FIREARMS REGISTRATION: PERMITS TO CARRY

2023	2024	2025
184	252	233

PARKING TICKETS ISSUED

2023	2024	2025
123 (\$2,240.00)	145 (\$2,630.00)	213 (\$3,440.00)

HOUSE CHECKS WHILE PEOPLE WERE AWAY

2023	2024	2025
16	11	5

SUMMONS SERVED

2023	2024	2025
47	65	41

RETIREMENT

Assets and Liabilities	2025 End Balance	2024 End Balance	2023 End Balance
1040 - 1049 Cash	342,222.08	291,079.26	259,444.08
1100 - Short Term Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
1180 - Fixed Income Sec (book value)	0.00	0.00	0.00
1170 - Equities	0.00	0.00	0.00
1101 - Pooled Short Term Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1172 - Pooled Domestic Equity Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1173 - Pooled International Equity Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1174 - Pooled Global Equity Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1181 - Pooled Domestic Fixed Income Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1182 - Pooled International Fixed Income Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1183 - Pooled Global Fixed Income Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1193 - Pooled Alternative Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
1194 - Pooled Real Estate Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1195 - Pooled Domestic Balanced Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1196 - Pooled International Balanced Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
1198 - PRIT Cash	151,391.59	151,333.27	151,544.27
1199 - PRIT Fund	69,258,023.86	62,550,141.10	58,396,730.44
1891 - Principal Adjustment Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Fixed Inc Sec	0.00	0.00	0.00
1398 - Accounts Receivable	15,886.85	14,678.99	18,261.03
2020 - Accounts Payable	-8,289.55	-10,280.19	-2,896.87
Total	69,759,234.83	62,996,952.43	58,823,082.95
Funds:			
3293 - Annuity Savings Fund	8,051,028.71	7,837,440.50	7,750,242.54
3294 - Annuity Reserve Fund	3,396,985.41	3,379,760.98	3,288,738.59
3295 - Military Service Fund	6,564.53	6,557.97	6,551.42
3296 - Pension Fund	16,907.94	24,847.01	142,536.15
3298 - Expense Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
3297 - Pension Reserve Fund	58,287,748.24	51,748,345.97	47,635,014.25
Total Assets at Market Value	69,759,234.83	62,996,952.43	58,823,082.95

Receipts		2025	2024	2023
1. Annuity Savings Fund:				
(a) 4891 - Members Deductions		1,004,969.05	965,467.37	868,494.79
(b) 4892 - Transfers from Other Systems		185,652.99	290,882.61	138,039.53
(c) 4893 - Make Up and Redeposit Payments		34,412.73	0.00	189.00
(d) 4900 - Member Payments from Rollovers		0.00	0.00	3,578.95
(e) Investment Income CR to Members A/C		18,226.15	12,821.70	12,936.77
	Subtotal	1,243,260.92	1,269,171.68	1,023,239.04
2. Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Investment Income Cr to Annuity Res. Fund		97,801.98	99,114.39	99,114.39
	Subtotal	97,801.98	99,114.39	99,114.39
3. Pension Fund:				
(a) 4898 - 3(8)c Reimburse from Other Systems		215,136.78	175,997.29	175,997.29
(b) 4899 - Rec'd from State for COLA & Survivor Ben.		4,132.78	5,301.27	5,301.27
(c) 4894 - Pension Fund Appropriation		2,709,269.00	2,409,188.00	2,409,188.00
(d) 4840 - Workers Compensation Settlement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) 4751 - Recovery of Pension from Reinstatement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(f) 4841 - Recovery of 91A Overearnings		0.00	14,078.14	14,078.14
	Subtotal	2,928,538.56	2,604,564.70	2,604,564.70
4. Military Service Fund:				
(a) 4890 - Contributions Received from Municipality		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Credited		6.56	6.55	6.54
	Subtotal	6.56	6.55	6.54
5. Expense Fund:				
(a) 4896 - Expense Fund Appropriation		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Cr to Expense Fund		460,204.75	436,883.35	428,704.00
	Subtotal	460,204.75	436,883.35	428,704.00
6. Pension Reserve Fund:				
(a) 4897 - Federal Grant Reimbursement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) 4895 - Pension Reserve Appropriation		0.00	0.00	0.00
(c) 4822 - Interest not Refunded		3,429.87	1,434.11	393.23
(d) 4825 - Misc. Income		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) Excess Investment Income		7,535,972.40	5,006,897.61	5,567,535.61
	Subtotal	7,539,402.27	5,008,331.72	5,567,928.84
TOTAL RECEIPTS		12,269,215.04	9,539,136.54	9,723,557.17

Disbursements		2025	2024	2023
1. Annuity Savings Fund:				
(a) 5757 - Refunds To Members		104,176.39	237,063.82	109,664.47
(b) 5756 - Transfers to Other Systems		200,655.27	199,841.27	70,948.64
	Subtotal	304,831.66	436,905.09	180,613.11
2. Annuity Reserve Fund:				
(a) 5750 - Annuities Paid		805,418.60	750,841.50	710,199.51
(b) 5759 - Option B Refunds		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	805,418.60	750,841.50	710,199.51
3. Pension Fund:				
(a) 5751 - Pensions Paid Total		3,649,326.62	3,447,006.10	3,314,689.76
Regular Pension Payments		3,007,082.66	2,816,986.36	2,681,859.20
Survivorship Payments		165,657.78	164,918.10	175,145.34
Ordinary Disability Payments		4,942.38	4,766.76	4,649.58
Accidental Disability Payments		471,643.80	460,334.88	453,035.64
Accidental Death Payments		0.00	0.00	0.00
Section 101 Benefits		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) 5755 - 3(8)(c) Reimbursements To Other Systems		287,151.01	293,631.02	241,080.25
(c) 5752 - COLA'S Paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
(d) 5753 - Chapter 389 Ben Increase Paid		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	3,936,477.63	3,740,637.12	3,555,770.01
4. Military Service Fund:				
(a) 4890 - Return to Municipality for Members who withdrew their fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00
5. Expense Fund:				
(a) 5118 - Board Member Stipend		26,942.68	23,100.00	23,100.00
(b) 5119 - Salaries & Benefits		84,518.12	76,036.04	72,083.82
(c) 5304 - Management Fees		299,929.98	292,040.27	283,813.39
(d) 5305 - Custodial Fees		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) 5307 - Investment Consultant Fees		0.00	0.00	0.00
(f) 5308 - Legal Fees		1,903.12	1,656.25	2,896.87
(g) 5309 - Medical Expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00
(h) 5310 - Fiduciary Insurance		2,505.15	2,649.07	2,620.00
(i) 5311 - Service Contracts		25,730.00	24,600.00	23,950.00
(j) 5312 - Rent Expense		0.00	0.00	0.00
(k) 5315 - Professional Services		0.00	0.00	0.00
(l) 5316 - Actuarial Service		0.00	0.00	0.00
(m) 5317 - Accounting Services		9,500.00	8,500.00	7,500.00
(n) 5320 - Education and Training		572.00	968.00	2,420.00
(o) 5589 - Administrative Expenses		7,588.07	6,271.72	8,284.17
(p) 5599 - Furniture and Equipment		0.00	0.00	0.00
(q) 5719 - Travel		1,015.63	1,062.00	2,035.75
	Subtotal	460,204.75	436,883.35	428,704.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		5,506,932.64	5,365,267.06	4,875,286.63

Investment Income	2025 End Balance	2024 End Balance	2023 End Balance
Investment Income Received From:			
(a) Cash	4,340.78	8,164.54	4,395.93
(b) Short Term Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00
(c) Fixed Income Securities	0.00	0.00	0.00
(d) Equities	0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) Pooled Funds	1,730,203.26	1,573,271.19	1,500,736.20
(f) Commission Recapture	0.00	0.00	0.00
4821 – TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	1,734,544.04	1,581,435.73	1,505,132.13
Plus:			
4884 - Realized Gains	1,855,808.17	2,087,203.48	768,799.21
4886 - Unrealized Gains	6,033,924.12	6,047,801.36	8,771,505.46
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Fixed Inc Sec Cur Yr	0.00	0.00	0.00
Less:			
4823 - Paid Accrued Interest – Fixed Income Securities	0.00	0.00	0.00
4885 - Realized Losses	40,267.48	0.00	55,772.27
4887 - Unrealized Losses	1,471,797.01	4,163,036.10	4,881,367.22
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	8,112,211.84	5,553,404.47	6,108,297.31
Income Required:			
Annuity Savings Fund	18,226.15	12,821.70	12,936.77
Annuity Reserve Fund	97,801.98	96,795.26	99,114.39
Expense Fund	460,204.75	436,883.35	428,704.00
Military Service Fund	6.56	6.55	6.54
TOTAL INCOME REQUIRED	576,239.44	546,506.86	540,761.70
Net Investment Income	8,112,211.84	5,553,404.47	6,108,297.31
Less: Income Required	576,239.44	546,506.86	540,761.70
EXCESS INCOME TO THE PENSION RESERVE FUND	7,535,972.40	5,006,897.61	5,567,535.61

SIX TOWN REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

Phase I

The Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) was formed by the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield and Warwick to research the feasibility of creating a new regional school district that was affordable, sustainable and educationally advantageous for our students. It began its work in November 2019.

Phase II

In the Spring of 2024, after the full board voted to recommend moving forward with a proposed Regional Agreement (RA), a District Regional Agreement Subcommittee (DRAS) was formed with the Selectboards from each town recommending candidates to serve along with several Planning Board members. The DRAS and the MARS Consulting Group worked collaboratively to finalize a proposed RA for STRPB's consideration. After due diligence in reviewing, editing and amending the proposed RA the Planning board voted to approve and forward it to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Phase III

The MARS Consulting Group worked with DESE to ensure the RA is compliant with DESE regulations and state laws. This unique proposed RA involves two existing regional school districts (Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley) and a municipal school district (Warwick) and requires specific language modifications that are acceptable to legal counsel. This due diligence added to the original timeline (Fall of 2025) for voters to approve or not approve the formation of a new school district: The Great River Regional School District.

Phase IV

Warrant Articles were written for Town Meetings/Special Election and legislation was crafted to facilitate a smooth transition from the existing districts to the Great River Regional School District, should it be approved by all six towns. Consideration is also being given to proposing a 5-town district specific to the towns in the Gill-Montague and the Pioneer Valley Regional School Districts.

Phase V

Additional outreach opportunities for the public will be scheduled in 2026 to complement the fall of 2025 forums to provide information and answer questions. The Planning Board will submit Warrant Articles for the towns to act upon at the Annual or Special Town Meetings or Special Election, unless the State Legislature passes special legislation to allow all Towns to hold a Special Election. If approved, the Great River Regional District's transition school committee will be appointed to prepare for its first year of operation in 2028.

For more detailed STRPB information please visit our website: <https://6towns.org/>

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Genovese, Chair (Warwick) Greg Snedeker, STRPB Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer (Gill)

Bernardston: Jane Dutcher - **Gill:** Deb Loomer, Bill Tomb - **Leyden:** Michele Giarusso, Karen O'Neil, Steve Richter - **Montague:** Clifford Spatcher, Dorinda Bell-Upp
Northfield: Reina Dastous, Deb Potee, Pat Shearer - **Warwick:** David Yo

REPORT OF TREASURER'S CASH AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS INTEREST BEARING

UniBank	4,570,210.46	
Easthampton Savings Bank - ARPA Funds	1,010,606.25	
UniBank - Library Grant Funds	90,263.97	
Greenfield Savings Bank - Great Falls Mkt	2,585.50	
Greenfield Savings Bank - Montague Arts	45,570.57	
Greenfield Savings Bank - Airport	302,044.82	
		6,021,281.57

BANK ACCOUNTS NON-INTEREST BEARING

Greenfield Savings Bank - Park & Rec.	37,876.48	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank - Sewer	246,805.51	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank	4,903,377.73	
		5,188,059.72

INVESTMENTS

MMDT	384,769.11	
Bartholomew & Company - General Funds	2,059,384.81	
SRBT	2,414,621.16	
		4,858,775.08

CONSERVATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	27,473.71	
Investment Income	787.68	
Added to Fund	10,000.00	
Balance June 30, 2025		38,261.39

STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	1,285,887.99	
Investment Income	63,670.76	
Added to Fund	2,860.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2025		1,352,418.75

GILL MONTAGUE EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	133,914.88	
Investment Income	3,541.39	
Added to Fund	34,323.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2025		171,779.27

FRANKLIN TECH EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	301,180.57	
Investment Income	6,368.89	
Added to Fund	-	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2025		307,549.46

MONTAGUE SEWER CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	268,339.30	
Investment Income	5,674.42	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2025		274,013.72

TOWN OF MONTAGUE CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	2,652,208.66	
Investment Income	53,505.81	
Added to Funds	347,057.94	
Disbursements from Fund	406,000.00	
Balance June 30, 2025		2,646,772.41

CANNABIS IMPACT FEE STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	233,319.01	
Investment Income	4,933.85	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2025		238,252.86

CANAL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Balance July 1, 2024	258,116.66	
Investment Income	5,458.19	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund	-	
Balance June 30, 2025		263,574.85

Eileen M. Seymour
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

2020 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance		-2.69
Receipts		
Net Receipts	0.00	
Tax Title	0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	<u>-2.69</u>	<u>-2.69</u>

2021 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance		0.00
Receipts	0.00	
Net Receipts	0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

2022 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance		69,039.82
Receipts	63,899.94	
Net Receipts	63,899.94	
Tax Title	5,143.66	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	<u>-3.78</u>	<u>69,039.82</u>

2023 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance		151,369.53
Receipts	95,016.96	
Net Receipts	95,016.96	
Tax Title	9,352.64	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	<u>46,999.93</u>	<u>151,369.53</u>

2024 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance		336,981.50
Receipts	201,532.42	
Refunds	<u>-546.35</u>	
Net Receipts	200,986.07	
Abatements	463.15	
Adjustment Error	407.73	
Tax Title	9,605.51	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	<u>125,519.04</u>	<u>336,981.50</u>

2025 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			8,978,767.72
Add'l Commitment			<u>9,723,305.29</u>
Total Commitment			18,702,073.01
Receipts	18,243,467.83		
Refunds	-56,053.44		
Transfer Out	377.06		
Debit Adjustment	<u>0.84</u>		
Net Receipts		18,187,036.49	
Abatements		10,760.88	
Exemptions		76,156.84	
Tax Title - Accts not in Vadar		83.66	
Tax Title		43,306.78	
Transfer In		1,128.57	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>383,599.79</u>	
			<u>18,702,073.01</u>

2015 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			61.82
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Abatements		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>61.82</u>	
			<u>61.82</u>

2016 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			1,995.12
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>1,995.12</u>	
			<u>1,995.12</u>

2017 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			1,693.46
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>1,693.46</u>	
			<u>1,693.46</u>

2018 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			2,161.63
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>2,161.63</u>	
			<u>2,161.63</u>

2019 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			142,160.10
Receipts	138,141.77		
Net Receipts		138,141.77	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>4,018.33</u>	
			<u>142,160.10</u>

2020 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			5,483.39
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>5,483.39</u>	
			<u>5,483.39</u>

2021 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			6,923.51
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>6,923.51</u>	
			<u>6,923.51</u>

2022 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			25,041.41
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>25,041.41</u>	
			<u>25,041.41</u>

2023 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			2,867.32
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>2,867.32</u>	
			<u>2,867.32</u>

2024 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			2,538.49
Receipts	115.17		
Net Receipts		115.17	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>2,423.32</u>	
			<u>2,538.49</u>

2025 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commitment Balance			1,959,308.26
Add'l Commitment			<u>1,813,609.69</u>
Total Commitment			<u>3,772,917.95</u>
Receipts	3749815.29		
Refunds	<u>-3317.80</u>		
Net Receipts		3,746,497.49	
Abatements		11,865.93	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2025		<u>14,554.53</u>	
			<u>3,772,917.95</u>

INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE

\$144,782.55

Eileen M. Seymour
Tax Collector

SEWER USER FEES AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

<u>2025 SEPTAGE FEES COLLECTED</u>		375,876.08
<u>2025 INDUSTRIAL USE FEES</u>		
Committed prior to June 30, 2025		397,398.83
Committed after June 30, 2025		<u>78,823.94</u>
		476,222.77
Collected prior to June 30, 2025		377,597.11
Collected after June 30, 2025		<u>96,522.08</u>
Outstanding Balance as of 08/19/2025		2,103.58
<u>2018 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		480.24
Receipts	0.00	
Net Receipts		0.00
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>480.24</u>
<u>2019 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		0.00
Receipts - Inactive Accts/Reactivated	-469.17	
Net Receipts		-469.17
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>-469.17</u>
<u>2020 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		2,979.61
Receipts	2,979.61	
Net Receipts		2,979.61
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>0.00</u>
<u>2021 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		4,658.08
Receipts	1,884.72	
Net Receipts		1,884.72
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>2773.36</u>
<u>2022 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		10,007.39
Receipts	371.65	
Net Receipts		371.65
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>9,635.74</u>
<u>2023 SEWER USE FEES</u>		
Commitment Balance		175,263.40
Receipts	166,122.21	
Refunds	-500.51	
Transfer Out	<u>-3929.66</u>	
Net Receipts		161,692.04
Tax Title		2,530.16
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>11,041.20</u>

2024 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance		1,012,633.40
Add'l Commitment		<u>1,010,687.96</u>
Total Commitment		2,023,321.36
Receipts	1,933,871.99	
Refunds	-3586.05	
Payment Correction	<u>-2.90</u>	
Net Receipts		1,930,283.04
Abatements		8,628.81
Transfers In		3,929.66
Credit - Posting Error		15.47
Outstanding June 30, 2025		<u>80,464.38</u>

2025 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance
Add'l Commitment
Total Commitment
Receipts
Refunds
Payment Correction
Net Receipts
Abatements
Transfers In
Credit - Posting Error
Outstanding June 30, 2025

INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE

\$16,293.81

Eileen M. Seymour
Tax Collector

VETERANS SERVICES

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have recently started to see a slowdown to the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to the record number of claims we processed due to the PACT Act signing of August 2022.

➤ District now brings in \$2,186,859.54 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of \$126,234.11 from CY24.

- District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- We are now covering outreach in the following towns once a month
 - Ashfield – Town Hall
 - Bernardston – Senior Center
 - Erving – Senior Center
 - Deerfield – Town Hall
 - Leverett – Leverett Co-op
 - Montague – Senior Center
 - Northfield – Town Hall/Senior Center
 - Shelburne – Senior Center
 - Wendell – Town Offices
- Office attended the yearly Executive Office of Veteran Services for Massachusetts mandatory training and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers annual training.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.
- Expect a much less increase to Chapter 115 due to inflation coming back under control
- We project a slight increase from the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 26 budget while continuing to expand services in 2027. Main increase will be retiree and employee health insurance costs.
- We have increased the number of VA Healthcare applications since the change in eligibility for VA Healthcare.

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals is the Town's final arbitrator of land use issues. It hears and decides requests for Special Permits and Site Plan Review. They decide upon conditional uses for activities such as signage, multi-family construction, earth removal and some commercial uses of land. It is empowered to vary the terms and requirements of our Zoning Bylaws under certain prescribed conditions such as hardship and unique circumstances where the strict application of the By-laws is unfair or unanticipated. The Board is also the last local appeal body for land use decisions of the Inspector of Buildings and of Sub-division decisions of the Planning Board.

The Board of Appeals is a volunteer board appointed by the selectmen consisting of 5 full member positions and 3 associate member positions. For 2025 the Board had 5 members and 1 associate member.

The Board had 13 hearings and collected \$1,725.00 in application fees for 2025.

William Ketchen
Zoning Enforcement Officer