



**Town of Montague**  
**Department, Board, Committee, Commission**  
**BUDGET NARRATIVE**

**FY 19**

*Please complete this form electronically in its entirety!*

Department: Assessing Department Submitted by: Karen M. Tonelli, M.A.A.

Please describe and provide the rationale for any substantial changes in your FY19 line item budget submission.

No substantial changes

Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY18? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?

Yes. The contract with George Sansoucy to perform valuation services for utilities was only recently finalized. I expect that work will begin on this project in January, 2018.

To-date in FY18, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.

Our office has implemented reasonable fees to be paid by the public (\$25.00) for abutter list certifications. These fees offset the costs of time spent by assessing clerks for work necessitated by individuals seeking variances to the town's zoning regulations. Additional fees for certain notary services have also been instituted.

Are there challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY18 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.

No

Are there other areas of your budget where you wish advocate for change, such as stipends, materials, etcetera?

Members of the Board of Assessors are seeking an increase in their annual stipend from \$1,500.00 to \$1,800.00 each. Nearly ten years ago, substantial cuts were made to the board members stipends and the amount has been slow to return to the FY2009 amount. The board members respectfully request that this matter be reviewed again.