



TOWN OF MONTAGUE

Finance Committee

One Avenue A

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376

413 863-3200

April 18, 2019

To Town Meeting Members:

The following report provides context for the budget. This year, we have made some adjustments to how it is organized, and we welcome your feedback about those changes. In the opening section, we provide an overview of the Town of Montague's funding goals, revenue sources, and major expenditure categories. Then, in the motions that follow, each motion that will be considered at Annual Town Meeting is presented and accompanied by information about each request. This background and commentary are drawn from discussions with Town staff, the school districts, the Selectboard, and the Capital Improvements Committee.

Budget development for Fiscal Year 2020 started in the autumn of 2018 with a preliminary estimate of revenue for the upcoming year. In December, the Town Administrator provided department heads with instructions in the "FY20 Budget Message" and the Selectboard and Finance Committee with a "FY19 Budget Review and FY20 Revenue Projections." (Those documents and others documenting the budget development process are available at the Finance Committee's page on www.montague-ma.gov.)

Departments were asked to submit budgets and special article requests by January 3, 2019. The Finance Committee and Selectboard reviewed their requests as well as budgets from the Gill-Montague Regional School District and the Franklin County Technical School. This review included written requests to department heads for additional information and formal hearings for several departments. The Capital Improvements Committee evaluated sixteen of the special article requests, and offered their recommendations in March. (Their full report and the records of our deliberations are available on the Town's website.) We are grateful to the many staff members and citizens who have worked with us through this annual budget season in preparation for this year's Town Meeting; our Town and its residents benefit from their diligence and care.

Respectfully, your Finance Committee:

John Hanold, Chair
Gregory Garrison
Richard Widmer

Jennifer Audley
Christopher Menegoni

Frederic Bowman
Michael Naughton