

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town of Montague

Massachusetts



FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2023

THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Selectboard

The Selectboard is pleased to submit its annual report to the Town of Montague for calendar year 2023. The year was marked by progress on many fronts, reflecting the enhanced capacity of the office following full implementation of its new staffing plan. Among our numerous operational objectives, several human resource processes and information technology functions shifted into the purview of the office; and important hires were overseen, bringing talented new leadership to our Planning and Health Departments, and the Town Clerk's Office, following staff departures.

The Town continued to maintain a strong financial position, with substantial and diversified reserve account balances and a solid AA bond rating. The Selectboard continued to balance the need for ongoing investments in the Town's personnel and physical infrastructure that are required to deliver public services with the need to moderate tax and sewer rate increases; maintaining excess capacity/spending from taxation at \$1.24M below the tax levy limit. The Town also completed a comprehensive 6-Year Capital plan to support project and budget planning in the coming years.

The Selectboard Office focused on several priority projects in 2023. These included action on the Town's affordable housing goals, including a project that will add five new affordable homes on First Street and a Phase 2 environmental assessment at 10 Power Street. These Turners Falls locations are both in newly established 40R housing zones. Montague received a 2023 "Housing Hero" award from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for this and other related work. Our Planning Department also oversaw public engagement regarding redevelopment of the Farren Care Center site while Selectboard staff worked to ensure a successful property transfer free from any environmental liability.

Three other notable projects required substantial time and attention, including work to improve the town's capacity and focus on its sewer collections system operation and maintenance, and its related reporting systems. Development of a new Long Term Control Plan for management of our combined sewer system was a critical outcome of this work. Staff also represented Montague in ongoing negotiations with FirstLight Power, resulting in a Recreation Settlement Agreement that will deliver an estimated \$1.7M in recreational investments along the CT river. Finally, staff established a working group of local, state and federal officials who are working to secure the funds necessary to demolish the former Strathmore Paper Mill, which stands as a looming economic and environmental threat to the Town.

The Selectboard Office also continued its ongoing pursuit of outside funds to support needed projects, attracting, managing and/or supporting in the vicinity of \$3.3M in grant activity at year's end. This included a \$1.6M loan and grant (\$860,000 grant) from the USDA to replace the Clean Water Facility screw pumps; \$500,000 from the state's Rural Development Fund for Avenue A CSO Improvements; \$132,700 from a Site Readiness Grant for Strathmore Mill Demolition Design; and a variety of others. Montague's success led the MA Executive Office of Economic Development to hold its regional Community One-Stop for Growth grant awards program at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

The addition of increased professional capacity also allowed the Office to proactively manage and implement several key infrastructure and facility improvements, and to support others. Key

projects include completion of DEP-issued corrective action requirements for capping of the Sandy Lane Burn Dump; completion of roof replacements at the Shea Theater and Colle Building; initiation of drainage improvements along Montague City Road; and completion or commencement of several ARPA funded projects, including roof and window replacement at the Montague Center Library, a 75KW solar array planned for the Town Hall roof; installation of lighting at the Unity Skate Park; and the Shea Theater Mural Project.

As per its long-term strategic vision, the Selectboard Office continued to deepen its engagement with state government, regional and local agencies with the goal of better positioning the Town to receive external project funding, and to influence policies and programs that affect life and costs for our residents. This includes continued engagement with the FRCOG Executive Council, the Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization and Franklin Regional Transportation Authority. Notably, with construction of a new FRTA bus maintenance facility in Montague, staff also worked to divest the Town of its distressed Greenfield Montague Transportation Authority assets, while winding that agency down in preparation for disbandment.

Thinking beyond Montague's borders, the Selectboard supported the Town Administrator's appointment to the Governor's Economic Development Planning Council. Ellis was selected for this role due to past advocacy for Montague and rural Massachusetts. He served as chair of the Rural Sector team throughout the planning process. The efforts resulted in an elevation of rural priorities within the state economic development plan, with newly proposed state investments in rural infrastructure and grant program eligibility changes now proposed that should benefit rural municipalities in the coming years.

Moving beyond these many areas of focus, the Selectboard and its staff continued to work to be as responsive as possible to the ongoing requirements of a community that expects and deserves a high level of service. There are a myriad of issues of concern to residents on a day-to-day basis and it is the Board's expectation that the Town will be as responsive as possible to those reasonable concerns.

As always, we wish to thank our many partners on town and district staff; on boards and committees; and the many businesses, agencies, and individuals who regularly engage the Selectboard Office with the goal of making Montague a fabulous place to live, work, and visit. You are deeply appreciated.

Finally, we thank you for your interest in these highlights of the Selectboard's activity in 2023 and we likewise encourage you to read the reports of the Town's many other boards and departments.

SELECTBOARD

Rich Kuklewicz, Chairman

Chris Boutwell, Vice Chair

Matthew Lord, Clerk

STAFF

Steven Ellis, Town Administrator

Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator

Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant

Angie Amidon, Administrative Assistant

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF ASSESSOR	3 YEARS	Term End
	ANN CENZANO	5/21/2024
	ANN L FISK	5/20/2025
	REBECCA SABELAWSKI	5/19/2026
BOARD OF HEALTH	3 YEARS	Term End
	MELANIE AMES ZAMOJSKI	5/21/2024
	MICHAEL M NELSON	5/19/2026
	RACHEL A STOLER	5/20/2025
HOUSING AUTHORITY	5 YEARS	Term End
	KAREN M. CASEY-CHRETIEN	5/16/2028
	PAULA E. GIRARD	5/19/2025
	JUDITH L. HASTINGS	5/19/2026
	STANLEY F. ZERA, JR.	5/20/2024
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 YEARS	Term End
	NANCY L CROWELL	5/20/2025
	LYDIA IEVINS	5/19/2026
	LOUISA KHETTAB	5/21/2024
	MARGOT G. MALACHOWSKI	5/20/2025
	PATRICIA PERHAM	5/21/2024
	WILLIAM C QUALE	5/20/2025
	MIRYAM VESSET	5/19/2026
	GRETCHEN W. WETHERBY	5/21/2024
MODERATOR	3 YEARS	Term End
	RAYMOND A GODIN	5/20/2024
PARKS & REC COMM	3 YEARS	Term End
	ALBERT CUMMINGS	5/20/2025
	BARBARA KUKLEWICZ	5/21/2024
	JEFFREY C SINGLETON	5/19/2026

SELECTBOARD	3 YEARS	Term End
	CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR	5/20/2025
	RICHARD J KUKLEWICZ	5/21/2024
	MATTHEW LORD	5/19/2026
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR	3 YEARS	Term End
	EILEEN M SEYMOUR	5/20/2025
TREE WARDEN	3 YEARS	Term End
	MARK A STEVENS	
TRUSTEE, SOLDIER'S MEM, NON-VETERAN	3 YEARS	Term End
	CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR	5/19/2026
	JEFFREY C SINGLETON	5/21/2024
TRUSTEE, SOLDIER'S MEM, VETERAN	3 YEARS	Term End
	LORI-LEE ADAMS	5/19/2026
	ALBERT CUMMINGS	5/21/2024
	JOHN T MURPHY	5/20/2025

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

OFFICE/BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION

NAME	TERM END
AIRPORT COMMISSION	
DAVID BRULE	6/30/2025
GARY COLLINS	6/30/2026
JOSHUA LIVELY	6/30/2026
JOSEPH M MAZESKI	6/30/2024
SETH RUTHERFORD	6/30/2025
AIRPORT MANAGER	
BRYAN CAMDEN	6/30/2024
ALTERNATE BUILDING INSPECTOR	
DAVID E JENSEN	6/30/2024
ASSESSOR - DIRECTOR	
KAREN TONELLI	6/30/2024
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	

WALTER F RAMSEY	10/2/2025
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ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

TINA M. SULDA	6/30/2023
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AUCTION PERMIT AGENT

WENDY M BOGUSZ	6/30/2024
KATHERN F. PIERCE	6/30/2024

BATTLEFIELD GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARK ANDREWS	6/30/2024
TIM BLAGG	6/30/2024
DAVID BRULE	6/30/2024
KIT CARPENTER	6/30/2024
JOE GRAVELINE	6/30/2024
RICH HOLSHUH	6/30/2024
ROGER LONGTOE SHEEHAN	6/30/2024
JOHN NOVE	6/30/2024
ELIZABETH SANTANA KISER	6/30/2024
BETTINA WASHINGTON	6/30/2024

BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR

RYAN PAXTON	
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CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

KRISTI A BODIN	6/30/2026
JASON BURBANK	6/30/2024
RYNE HAGER	6/30/2024
RICHARD J KUKLEWICZ	6/30/2024

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

JASON BURBANK	6/30/2026
ARIEL S ELAN	6/30/2026
GREG GARRISON	6/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	6/30/2025
MARLYN H REYNOLDS	6/30/2024

CEMETERY COMMISSION

JAMIE FULLER	6/30/2024
ANNABEL LEVINE	6/30/2024
JUDITH LOREI	6/30/2024
MARY K MATTIACE	6/30/2024

JO-ANN PRESCOTT 6/30/2024

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOBIAS CARTER 6/30/2025
MARK FAIRBROTHER 6/30/2026
JUSTIN T FERMANN 6/30/2024
DONNA FRANCIS 6/30/2026
MARGAUX RECKARD 6/30/2026
ANTHONY REIBER 6/30/2024
SEAN WERLE 6/30/2025

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - ASSOCIATE MEMBER

ALBERT N AVERILL 6/30/2024

CONSTABLE

WENDY M BOGUSZ 6/30/2024
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS 6/30/2024

COUNCIL ON AGING

LINDA ACKERMAN 6/30/2024
DEBRA BOURBEAU 6/30/2024
ELSIE GILMAN 6/30/2024
MARY HILDRETH 6/30/2024
BARBARA KUKLEWICZ 6/30/2024

COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR

ROBERTA L POTTER 6/30/2024

CULTURAL COORDINATOR

SUZANNE LAMANTO 6/30/2024

CULTURAL COUNCIL

JASPER ADAMS 6/30/2026
DEBORAH RUTH FRENKEL 6/30/2025
KATHLEEN LYNCH 6/30/2025
MARGARET (MAGGIE) HOMES MARTIN 6/30/2025
JAMES MUSSONI 6/30/2025

DPW OFFICE MANAGER

BRANDY L PATCH

DPW SUPERINTENDENT

TOM BERGERON 6/30/2024

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

LINDA ACKERMAN	6/30/2026
JOHN FURBISH	6/30/2024
ELLA J INGRAHAM	6/30/2026
JAMES MUSSONI	6/30/2025
RICHARD R RUTH, JR.	6/30/2025
ROBERT STEINBERG	6/30/2024
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS	6/30/2026

EMERGENCY MANAGER

JOHN ZELLMANN	6/30/2024
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ENERGY COMMITTEE

JASON BURBANK	6/30/2024
DAVID DEMPSEY	6/30/2024
ARIEL S ELAN	6/30/2024
PAMELA F HANOLD	6/30/2024
SARAH (SALLY) PICK	6/30/2024
TIMOTHY N. VAN EGMOND	6/30/2024

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

WENDY M BOGUSZ	
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F. C. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2

CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	6/30/2024
RICHARD J KUKLEWICZ	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

DORINDA C BELL-UPP	6/30/2025
FREDERIC BOWMAN	6/30/2024
GREG GARRISON	6/30/2024
JOHN T HANOLD	6/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER MENEGONI	6/30/2024
JENNIFER WARYAS	6/30/2026
FRANCIA E WISNEWSKI	6/30/2026

FOREST WARDEN

RICHARD SAWIN JR.	6/30/2024
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FOREST WARDEN - DEPUTY

KYLE COGSWELL	6/30/2024
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FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STEVEN F ELLIS	6/30/2024
RICHARD J KUKLEWICZ	6/30/2024

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - PLANNING REP
ELIZABETH IRVING 6/30/2024

FRCOG PLANNING BOARD - SELECTBOARD REP
MAUREEN POLLOCK 6/30/2024

FRTA ADVISORY BOARD
RICHARD J KUKLEWICZ 6/30/2024

FRTA ADVISORY BOARD
JEFFREY C SINGLETON 6/30/2024

GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR
JOHN LETOURNEAU 6/30/2023

GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE
JEFFREY M BACHE 6/30/2024

GILL-MONTAGUE TRANSIT AUTHORITY
STEVEN F ELLIS 6/30/2024
CAROLYN OLSEN 6/30/2024

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET MANAGER
ANNABEL LEVINE 6/30/2024

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
CHRIS CLAWSON 6/30/2025
EDWARD P. GREGORY 6/30/2025
SUZANNE LOMANTO 6/30/2024
JANEL F NOCKLEBY 6/30/2025
CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANO 6/30/2025
JENIFER VIENCEK 6/30/2027

MASS IN MOTION INITIATIVE
EILEEN DOWD 6/30/2024
CAITLIN KELLEY 6/30/2024
EILEEN MARIANI 6/30/2024
GINA MCNEELY 6/30/2023
RYAN PAXTON 6/30/2024
MAUREEN POLLOCK 6/30/2024
ROBERTA L POTTER 6/30/2024
ROY ROSENBLATT 6/30/2024

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

JONATHAN DOBOSZ	6/30/2024
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PERSONNEL BOARD

CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL, SR.	5/20/2025
RICHARD J KUKLEWICZ	5/21/2024
MATTHEW LORD	5/16/2026

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION AGENT

MAUREEN POLLOCK	6/30/2024
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PLANNING BOARD

GEORGE COOKE	6/30/2024	
SAMUEL THOMAS GUERIN	6/30/2026	
ELIZABETH IRVING	6/30/2024	
ROBERT OBEAR	6/30/2026	
RON SICARD	CHAIR	6/30/2025

REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC)

JOHN ZELLMANN	6/30/2024
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REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

ELIZABETH IRVING	6/30/2024
STANLEY DOBOSZ	6/30/2024
ANNE E STUART	6/30/2025

RETIREMENT BOARD

STEVEN F ELLIS	5/22/2024
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RIVERCULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE

SUSAN BLAUNER	3/18/2027
KRISTI A BODIN	6/30/2024
LISA DAVOL	6/30/2024
JONATHAN DOBOSZ	3/18/2027
CAITLIN KELLEY	3/18/2027
TAMMY KETCHAM	6/30/2024
ERIN MACLEAN	6/30/2023
OLIVER MILLER	6/30/2023
LILITH G WOLINSKY	6/30/2024

SIX TOWN REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE

DORINDA C BELL-UPP	6/30/2024
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SOLAR PLANNING COMMITTEE

PETER CHILTON	6/30/2023
GREG GARRISON	6/30/2024
PAMELA F HANOLD	6/30/2024
PAMELA F HANOLD	6/30/2024
SARAH (SALLY) PICK	6/30/2024

STRPB DISTRICT REG. AGREEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

DORINDA C BELL-UPP	6/30/2027
MATTHEW LORD	3/12/2028

TAX TITLE CUSTODIAN

EILEEN M SEYMOUR	6/30/2024
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TOWN ACCOUNTANT

CAROLYN OLSEN	6/30/2026
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TOWN CLERK

KATHERN F. PIERCE	6/30/2026
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TOWN COUNSEL

K-P LAW	6/30/2024
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TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WILLIAM CODINGTON	6/30/2024
DAVID DETMOLD	6/30/2024
CHARLES WALKER KORBY	6/30/2024
ANNABEL LEVINE	6/30/2024
ELI SMITH	6/30/2024
TOM SULLIVAN	6/30/2024
TOM SULLIVAN	6/30/2023
JEFFREY WARREN-PUKIS	6/30/2024
ANGELA WHEELER	6/30/2024

VETERAN'S BURIAL AGENT

CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	6/30/2024
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VETERAN'S DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER DEMARS	6/30/2024
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VETERAN'S GRAVES OFFICER

JOHN T MURPHY	6/30/2024
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WASTEWATER POLLUTION CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT

CHELSEY LITTLE		3/29/2023
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WELLS TRUST

RON SICARD		6/30/2024
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WIRING INSPECTOR

WAYNE SHAW		6/30/2024
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WIRING INSPECTOR - ALTERNATE

TODD WEED		6/30/2024
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THOMAS W. WYMAN		6/30/2023
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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

WILLIAM J. DOYLE IV	VICE CHAIRMAN	6/30/2028
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DAVID E JENSEN		6/30/2027
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JOSHUA LIVELY	CHAIRMAN	6/30/2025
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ROBERT OBEAR		6/30/2024
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ALLEN RIPINGILL JR.		6/30/2024
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RICHARD R RUTH JR		6/30/2026
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PETER LAPACHINSKI	ALTERNATE	6/30/2024
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TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

PCT	NAME	ADDRESS	VILLAGE	EXPIRATION
1	ACKERMAN, LINDA N.	86 TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
2	ATWOOD, MATTHEW	BOX 235, 9 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	19-May-2026
4	AUDLEY, JENNIFER R.	27 X STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	BELAIR, JOANNE ALICE	34 PROSPECT STREET, #1	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	BELL-UP, DORINDA	7 SOUTH HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	BILLIEL, FREDERICK	21 TURNPIKE RD	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
1	BLOOMBERG, SHEREE I.	25 CENTER STREET	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
3	BODIN, KRISTI A.	199 TURNPIKE RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
4	BOUTWELL, CHRIS M.	28 SUNSET DR	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	BOWMAN, FREDERIC H.	701 FAIRWAY AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	BROWN, LESLIE P.	17 POPLAR ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
5	BROWNELL, BRIAN	37 THIRD STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	CALLAHAN, LAURIE	65 FIFTH ST, #2B	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	CHEVALIER, KATHRYN M.	190 TURNPIKE ROAD, A	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	CLARK, MALCOLM	PO BOX 901	HADLEY	21-May-2024
5	COHEN, NATAN M.	25 CENTAL ST. #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	CONSTANTINE, STEPHEN	80 SOUTH PROSPECT ST	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
3	COREY, JASON S.	126 MILLERS FALLS ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	CROWELL, NANCY L.	4 GROUT CIRCLE	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	CUNHA, M. EDITE	161 AVENUE A, PO BX 149	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	DAMKOEHLER, ERIC	67 PARK STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	DEMERS, THOMAS J.	35 WALNUT STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
1	DEMPSEY, DAVID	143 W CHESTNUT HILL RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
3	DEREN, LOUISE	15 MORRIS AVE	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	DOBOSZ, STANLEY	29 GROVE STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
1	DORAIS, SUSAN	Box 432, 22 UNION ST	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
3	DUCHARME, CHERI S.	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
3	DUCHARME, RICHARD W.	1 BULKLEY ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
1	EDWARDS, CHARLES Y.	48 TAYLOR H ILL ROAD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	ELAN, ARIEL S.	506 Turners Falls Rd PB351	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	EMERY, SAVANNAH E.	20 RIPLEY ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	FAIRBROTHER, MARK	129 MEADOW ROAD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	FISK, MARK E.	15 MEADOW RD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
2	FRENKEL, DEBORAH	Box 116 51 Montague Ave	LAKE PLEASANT	21-May-2024
3	GLOSKI, CAROL J	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	GRADER, DENNIS L.	72 DELL ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
6	GRONEMAN, JESSIE A.	3 H STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	HAGER, RYNE	54 PROSPECT STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	HANOLD, JOHN T.	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	HANOLD, PAMELA F.	62 PROSPECT ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	HARMON, DAVID	27 X STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	HASTINGS, KEVIN J.	34 RANDALL ROAD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	HEISIG, LAURA E.	83 G STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
2	HENRY, MICHAEL	57 SOUTH PROSPECT ST.	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
3	HOLMES, JENNIFER	53 MILLERS FALLS RD, #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	HUDYMA, PETER J.	82 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
2	INGHAM JILL ELAINE	2 FRANKLIN COMMONS	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	INGRAHAM, ELLA J.	31 CROCKER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
1	IRVING, ELIZABETH M.	7 NEWTON LANE	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025

PCT	NAME	ADDRESS	VILLAGE	EXPIRATION
2	JENSEN, HAROLD "SANDY"	25 GREEN POND RD	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
6	JUNG, SARAH M.	385 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	KATSOULIS, JAMES	89 HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	KETCHAM, MICHAEL A.	18 BRIDGE STREET	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
2	KETCHAM, MICHAEL J.	18 BRIDGE STREET	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	KUKLEWICZ, RICHARD J.	66 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
3	LAMONAKIS, SHARON	1 KEITH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	LATKA, KAREN	Box 43,266 Turners Falls Rd	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	LEVINE, ANNABEL	132 MONTAGUE CITY RD	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	LICATA, NICHOLAS C.	1 DAVIS STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	LITTLE, CHELSEY	34 OAKMAN ST	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
2	LIVELY, JOSHUA	194 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
5	LOMANTO, SUZANNE	26 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
1	LORD, MATTHEW	59 CENTER STREET	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	LOREI, JUDITH	7 NORTH ST.	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
1	LOVEJOY, SAMUEL H.	BOX 177 46 MAIN ST	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	MARIANI, EILEEN	PO BOX M [63 Main St]	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
2	MARTINEAU, JAMES G.	4 GRAND AVE	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
3	MARTINEAU, SHANNON	18 CARLISLE AVE	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	MATTIACE, MARY K	370 MONTAGUE CITY RD.	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	MCNAMARA, MAUREEN	PO Box 173, 73 Fourth St. #2	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
4	MENEGONI CHRISTOPHER	37 K STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
6	MILKEY, DENISE A.	2 KINGSLEY AVENUE	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	MUSSONI, JAMES J.	BX 262,149 GREENFIELD RD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
2	NAUGHTON, MICHAEL J.	11 S LYMAN ST	MILLERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	NELSON, JACK	65 CANAL ST	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
1	NELSON, MICHAEL	16 SUNDERLAND ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
5	NOCKLEBY, JANEL	14 THIRD STREET, #C	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
3	PACKARD, ROLLAND	17 WORCESTER AVE	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
1	PERHAM, PATRICIA	BX 185 93 E TAYLOR HILL RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
1	PEZZATI, PATRICK S.	144 DRY HILL RD	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
3	PHILLIPS, JOYCE A.	18 VLADISH AVE	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	PIERCE, ROBERT D.	9 OAKMAN ST.	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	PITCHER, BRENT	11 GREENFIELD ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	POTTER, ROBERTA L.	11 STEVENS STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	PRENTICE, MICHAEL	323 FEDERAL ST	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
4	REID, DONALD A.	7 COUNTRY CLUB LANE	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
5	REIPOLD, APRIL J.	17 CHESTNUT ST.	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025
1	REYNOLDS, JOHN L.	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
1	REYNOLDS, MARLYN H.	62 EAST TAYLOR HILL RD.	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
2	RICHARDSON, SUE ANN	BOX 10, 30 MASSASOIT ST.	LAKE PLEASANT	19-May-2026
5	ROY, RACHEL	5 PLEASANT ST	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	RUTH, JR., RICHARD R.	15 MAPLE ST	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
5	SINGLETON, JEFFREY C.	1 K STREET, #2	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
6	SMITH, BRIAN M.	19 ROD SHOP ROAD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	SMITH, MEGHAN L.	BOX 47, 83 BROADWAY	LAKE PLEASANT	21-May-2024
1	SPATCHER, CLIFFORD	442 TURNERS FALLS RD.	MONTAGUE	21-May-2024
4	SPRENGEL, MADDOX	36 HIGH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024

PCT	NAME	ADDRESS	VILLAGE	EXPIRATION
2	STEIN, JACKLYN	BOX 235, 9 BROADWAY	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
6	TAPSCOTT, IAN E.	83 G STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
4	THOMPSON, DAVID P.	4 HIGH ST	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
3	THOMPSON, WENDY	34 MILLERS FALLS RD	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	TOBEY, JENNIFER	10 CRESCENT ST	MILLERS FALLS	20-May-2025
6	TRASK, KENNETH	17 POPLAR STREET	TURNERS FALLS	19-May-2026
4	WARYAS, JENNIFER	144 SEVENTH STREET	TURNERS FALLS	21-May-2024
2	WETHERBY, GRETCHEN W	14 BRIDGE ST	MILLERS FALLS	19-May-2026
2	WISNEWSKI, FRANZIA	196 TURNPIKE ROAD	MONTAGUE	19-May-2026
6	WOLINSKY, LILITH G.	Box 355, 312 M.C. RD	MONTAGUE	20-May-2025
6	ZAMOJSKI, MELANIE K.	33 O STREET	TURNERS FALLS	20-May-2025

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
March 2, 2023**

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 Thursday, March 2, 2023, 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 \$10,000 or any other amount for the purpose of preparing a section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Cemetery Commission Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and further to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and pursuant to such acceptance to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the First Light easement payments to said Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund to the CWF Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Clean Water Facility Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, and establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund), effective March 3, 2023, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Trustee of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, § 20 to employ reputable and knowledgeable investment consultants to assist in determining appropriate investments and pay for those services from the OPEB Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant 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 \$40,000 or any other amount for the purpose of supplementing the FY23 Reserve Fund Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Great Falls

Farmers Market Manager with an annual stipend of \$4,000, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$2,500 or any other amount for the purpose of funding a budget for the Great Falls Farmers Market for FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Hearing Officer with an annual stipend of \$2,500, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$625 for the prorated annual amount for the remainder of FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Building Inspector Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to and/or permanent and/or temporary easements for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, landscaping, and other appurtenances and/or facilities, to enable the Town to undertake the South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge Project and for any and all purposes incidental or related thereto, in, on and under certain parcels of land, and land adjacent to and within 200 feet of said parcels, and shown more particularly on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge No. M-28-026 in the Town of Montague, Franklin County," dated November 22, 2022, prepared by WSP USA Inc., said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended and/or incorporated into an easement plan; and, further (b) authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$1,500 or any other amount for the purpose of sealing the concrete surface of the Unity Skatepark and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation 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 \$2,000 or any other amount for the purpose of conducting an architectural evaluation of what is known as "the Blacksmith Shop", located at 12 Station Street, Map 43, Lot 119 in Montague Center to determine the feasibility for retention and restoration or demolition of the building located thereon, whether partial or total, and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation 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 \$35,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of supporting consulting and design costs associated with applying for and/or participating in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program 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 appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 to pay costs of replacing the screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility and appurtenances thereto, 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, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and 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. *(CWF Request)*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$68,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a transit van, including the purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(CWF 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 \$80,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a pickup truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(DPW 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 \$100,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a one-ton dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(DPW 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 \$52,500 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a municipal inspection vehicle, including purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Building, Assessing, and Health Departments 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 \$230,000 or any other amount for the purpose of replacing the roof of the Colle building, located at 85 Avenue A, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Treasurer/Tax Collector to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

Given under our hands this 13 day of February in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

Matthew Lord: _____
Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.: _____
Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman: _____
Selectmen, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA February ____, 2023

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
March 2, 2023**

MOTIONS

ARTICLE 1: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of preparing a section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 2: MOVED: That the Town vote to establish a special purpose Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and further to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and pursuant to such acceptance to allocate 100 percent of the First Light easement payments to said Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 3: MOVED: That the Town vote to change the name of the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund to the CWF Capital Stabilization Fund. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 4: MOVED: That the Town vote to accept General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, and establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund), effective March 3, 2023. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 5: MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Trustee of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, § 20 to employ reputable and knowledgeable investment consultants to assist in determining appropriate investments and pay for those services from the OPEB Fund.

AMENDED ARTICLE 5: MOVED: That the Town vote to **appoint the Town Treasurer as the Trustee of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, § 20 and further to** authorize the Trustee of the OPEB Fund to employ reputable and knowledgeable investment consultants to assist in determining appropriate investments and pay for those services from the OPEB Fund.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 6: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of supplementing the FY23 Reserve Fund Budget, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7: MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Great Falls Farmers Market Manager with an annual stipend of \$4,000.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 8: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of funding a budget for the Great Falls Farmers Market for FY23, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 9: MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of establish a Hearing Officer, with an annual stipend of \$2,500, and appropriate \$625 for the prorated annual amount for the remainder of FY23, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 10: MOVED: That the Town vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to and/or permanent and/or temporary easements for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, landscaping, and other appurtenances and/or facilities, to enable the Town to undertake the South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge Project and for any and all purposes incidental or related thereto, in, on and under certain parcels of land, and land adjacent to and within 200 feet of said parcels, and shown more particularly on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge No. M-28-026 in the Town of Montague, Franklin County," dated November 22, 2022, prepared by WSP USA Inc., said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended and/or incorporated into an easement plan; and, further (b) authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 11: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the purpose of sealing the concrete surface of the Unity Skatepark and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 12: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of conducting a formal evaluation of what is known as "the Blacksmith Shop", located at 12 Station Street, Map 43, Lot 119 in Montague Center, to determine the feasibility for retention and restoration or demolition of the building located thereon, whether partial or total, and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raise from Free Cash.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 13: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,250, for the purpose of supporting consulting and design costs associated with applying for and/or participating in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the remaining balance of Article #27 of the May 6, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated funds for a Libraries Building Study.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 14: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 for the purpose of replacing the Clean Water Facility Screw Pumps, including any and all incidental or related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 15: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$68,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a transit van, including the purchase and installation of a charging station, and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from CWF Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 16: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a pickup truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 17: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a one-ton dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 18: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$52,500 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a municipal inspection vehicle, including purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 19: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$230,000 for the purpose of replacing the roof of the Colle building, located at 85 Avenue A, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 20: MOVED: That the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election.

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 21: MOVED: That the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Treasurer/Tax Collector to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election.

PASSED/DECLARED MAJORITY VOTE

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 6, 2023**

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 Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 9:00 A.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 receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, or other Town departments with the approval of the Selectboard, to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other source, and to expend the same for purposes received without further appropriation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Classification Plan to add the position of Collection System Lead Operator at Grade E within the UE union, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Classification Plan to add the position of Town Clerk Administrative Assistant at Grade B within the NAGE union, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 5: 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, 2023, 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>FY23 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY24 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY24 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	370	500	500
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,355	2,355	2,355
Second/Third Members	2,140	2,140	2,140
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,765	1,765	1,765
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,605	1,605
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	75,009*	78,423**	78,423
*G-8, **G-9			
TOWN CLERK	78,423***	72,450****	72,450
***G-10			
**** G-5			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
Town Clerk	840	900	900
TREE WARDEN	1,575	1,575	1,575

BOARD OF HEALTH

Chairman	1,765	1,765	1,765
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,605	1,605
			(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 6: 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, 2023, 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>FY23 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY24 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY24 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	525	625	625
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,765	5,765	5,765
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,575	1,575	1,575
BARN INSPECTOR	1,050	1,050	1,050
IT COORDINATOR	2,100	2,100	2,100
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	3,000	3,000	3,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,710	1,710
HEARING OFFICER		2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER		4,000	4,000
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
GAS INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>			
EXTRA CLERICAL	<u>Ranges/hr.</u> 14.25-16.00	<u>Ranges/hr.</u> 15.00-16.75	<u>Ranges/hr.</u> 15.00-16.75
ELECTION WORKERS	14.25-17.00	15.00-17.75	15.00-17.75
SUMMER HIGHWAY	14.25-16.00	15.00-16.75	15.00-16.75
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	25.00-28.00	25.00-28.00	25.00-28.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	22.00-25.00	22.00-25.00	22.00-25.00
PARKS & RECREATION	14.25-21.50	15.00-22.25	15.00-22.25
AIRPORT INTERN	14.25-16.00	15.00-16.75	15.00-16.75

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2023</u>		<u>Range FY2024</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
SALARIED					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	98,484	121,203	100,946	124,233
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	89,532	110,185	91,770	112,940
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
TOWN CLERK	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	89,532	110,185	91,770	112,940
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	81,393	100,168	83,428	102,672
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384

CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	81,393	100,168	83,428	102,672
<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	23.80	29.29	24.40	30.02
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	38.98	43.25	40.00	44.50
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	15.95	19.63	16.35	20.12

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$11,961,596, 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

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
113	TOWN MEETING	2,390	2,980	2,980
122	SELECTBOARD	313,510	329,781	329,781
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000	2,000	2,000
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	90,884	89,500	89,500
141	ASSESSORS	190,623	189,801	189,801
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	220,713	230,748	230,748

Schedule III

Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
151	TOWN COUNSEL	75,000	80,000	80,000
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	79,000	80,500	80,500
159	SHARED COSTS	78,079	85,907	85,907
161	TOWN CLERK	195,844	243,041	243,041
175	PLANNING	129,007	134,429	134,429
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	130,782	155,932	155,932
197	FARMERS MARKET	-	5,000	5,000
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,558,532	1,680,319	1,680,319
PUBLIC SAFETY				
211	POLICE	1,878,434	1,970,054	1,970,054
211	POLICE CRUISER	54,000	68,100	68,100

212	DISPATCH	377,862	395,588	395,588
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	140,666	148,621	148,621
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,265	6,265	6,265
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	21,765	23,112	23,112
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,710	1,710
299	TREE WARDEN	30,285	30,285	30,285
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,518,169	2,650,917	2,650,917
	PUBLIC WORKS			
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,571,829	1,746,506	1,746,506
423	SNOW & ICE	281,050	311,250	311,250
433	SOLID WASTE	656,338	679,221	679,221
480	CHARGING STATIONS	6,000	7,380	7,380
491	CEMETERIES	13,440	30,150	30,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,528,657	2,774,507	2,774,507
	HUMAN SERVICES			
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	165,193	175,444	175,444
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	56,594	58,593	58,593

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
	HUMAN SERVICES			
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	76,500	76,500	76,500
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	298,287	310,537	310,537
	CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	LIBRARIES	465,607	503,336	503,336
630	PARKS & RECREATION	153,157	160,703	160,703
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,400	1,600	1,600
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	620,664	666,139	666,139
	DEBT SERVICE			
700	DEBT SERVICE	1,162,190	1,154,319	1,154,319
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL			
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	110,647	113,924	113,924
	MISCELLANEOUS			

910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,391,280	2,490,334	2,490,334
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	120,600	120,600
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,510,880	2,610,934	2,610,934

TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	11,308,026	11,961,596	11,961,596
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(Selectboard 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 \$3,006,124, 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
CWF Budget**

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
	CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440	Wages & Expenses	1,962,430	2,015,729	2,015,729
440	Capital Outlay		58,500	58,500
700	Debt Service	505,270	483,614	483,614
910	Employee Benefits	359,152	363,631	363,631
	SUBTOTAL CWF	2,826,852	2,921,474	2,921,474
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY			
	Wages & Expenses	42,800	84,650	84,650
	Capital Outlay	8,000	-	-
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	50,800	84,650	84,650
	TOTAL CWF	2,877,652	3,006,124	3,006,124

(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 \$426,965, 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 FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
	AIRPORT			
482	Wages & Expenses	181,794	284,915	274,915

482	Capital Outlay/Local Share			10,000
700	Debt Service	101,120	101,535	101,535
910	Employee Benefits	33,101	40,515	40,515
	TOTAL AIRPORT	<u>316,015</u>	<u>426,965</u>	<u>426,965</u>

(Airport Commission 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 \$53,250, 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 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,053,018, 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 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$11,809,191, 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 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$20,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing the roof of the Sheffield gym/auditorium complex, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$20,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing a security door between the Sheffield Elementary School and the Administration Building, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$23,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Town Accountant 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 \$25,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a rough terrain vehicle with plow and sander for the Clean Water Facility, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Clean Water Facility 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 \$113,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing a new boiler at the Clean Water Facility’s Operations Building, including the removal and disposal of the existing boiler and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Clean Water Facility 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 \$264,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of upgrading the Clean Water Facility's Septage Receiving Station, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Clean Water Facility 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 \$70,592, 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 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$100,000, or any other amount for the purpose of repairing the 11th Street Bridge, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard 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 \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of demolishing the 2,200 square foot cinder block building located at 38 Avenue A, including the disposal of debris and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Economic Development & Industrial Corporation 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 \$14,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing windows and the back door at the Millers Falls Branch Library, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Libraries 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 \$12,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing a well and water pump for the Unity Park Community Garden, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Parks and Recreation 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 \$12,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of crack sealing, line painting, and purchasing and installing concrete parking stops/blocks at the Unity Park Parking Lots, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Parks and Recreation Request)*

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$25,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing locking fireproof cabinets for the Town Clerk, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Town Clerk Request)*

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$25,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of removing, replacing and/or repairing carpet and other flooring in Montague Town Hall, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard Request)*

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$11,585, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the amounts appropriated pursuant to Article #18B of the May 22, 2021, Annual Town Meeting, which funds Unexpected Engineering Expenses, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$13,100, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing the town match for an \$80,000 Action Grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program to be used to update the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Town Planner Request)

ARTICLE 29: 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 supplementing the Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Conservation Commission Request)

ARTICLE 30: 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 (\$)
Town General Stabilization Fund	37,388
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	134,891
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	41,339
FCTS Stabilization Fund	21,940
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
Total:	285,558

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$250,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the OPEB Trust Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.
(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$500,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the OPEB Trust Fund, and the sum of \$1,500,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.
(Finance Committee 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 due return of this document with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk fourteen days before said meeting.

Given under our hands this 11th day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

Matthew Lord: _____
Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.: _____
Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman: _____
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA April ____, 2023

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: _____

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 6, 2023
MOTIONS**

ARTICLE 1: MOVED: That the Town vote to receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 2: MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard, or other Town departments with the approval of the Selectboard, to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other source, and to expend the same for purposes received without further appropriation. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 3: MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the Classification Plan to add the position of Collection System Lead Operator at Grade E within the UE union. **PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 4: MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the Classification Plan to add the position of Town Clerk Administrative Assistant at Grade B within the NAGE union. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 5: MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

SCHEDULE I			
Elected Officials			
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY23 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY24 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY24 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	370	500	500
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,355	,355	2,355
Second/Third Members	2,140	2,140	2,140
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,765	1,765	1,765

Second/Third Members 1,605 1,605 1,605

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY23 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY24 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY24 RECOMMEND</u>
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	75,009	78,423	78,423
TOWN CLERK	78,423	72,450	72,450
BOARD OF REGISTRARS			
Town Clerk	840	900	900
TREE WARDEN	1,575	1,575	1,575
BOARD OF HEALTH			
Chairman	1,765	1,765	1,765
Second/Third Members	1,605	1,605	1,605

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 6: MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY23 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY24 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY24 RECOMMEND</u>
ANNUAL STIPENDS			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	525	625	625
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,765	5,765	5,765
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,575	1,575	1,575
BARN INSPECTOR	1,050	1,050	1,050
IT COORDINATOR	2,100	2,100	2,100
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	3,000	3,000	3,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,710	1,710

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY23 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY24 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY24 RECOMMEND</u>
ANNUAL STIPENDS			
HEARING OFFICER		2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER		4,000	4,000
RATES PER INSPECTION			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
GAS INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	35.00	35.00	35.00
HOURLY RATES	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
EXTRA CLERICAL	14.25-16.00	15.00-16.75	15.00-16.75
ELECTION WORKERS	14.25-17.00	15.00-17.75	15.00-17.75
SUMMER HIGHWAY	14.25-16.00	15.00-16.75	15.00-16.75
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	25.00-28.00	25.00-28.00	25.00-28.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	22.00-25.00	22.00-25.00	22.00-25.00

PARKS & RECREATION	14.25-21.50	15.00-22.25	15.00-22.25
AIRPORT INTERN	14.25-16.00	15.00-16.75	15.00-16.75

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2023</u>		<u>Range FY2024</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<u>SALARIED</u>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	98,484	121,203	100,946	124,233
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	89,532	110,185	91,770	112,94
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
TOWN CLERK	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	89,532	110,185	91,770	112,940
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	81,393	100,168	83,428	102,672
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	64,035	78,423	65,636	80,384
CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	81,393	100,168	83,428	102,672

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2023</u>		<u>Range FY2024</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	23.80	29.29	24.40	30.02
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	38.98	43.25	40.00	44.50
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	15.95	19.63	16.35	20.12

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$11,961,596 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, with \$6.80 to be raised from the Transportation Infrastructure Fund Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and \$11,961,589.20 to be raised from Taxation.

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.	BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD
			FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
113	TOWN MEETING	2,390	2,980
122	SELECTBOARD	313,510	329,781
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000	2,000
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	90,884	89,500
141	ASSESSORS	190,623	189,801
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	220,713	230,748
151	TOWN COUNSEL	75,000	80,000
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	79,000	80,500
159	SHARED COSTS	78,079	85,907
161	TOWN CLERK	195,844	243,041

175	PLANNING	129,007	134,429	134,429
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	130,782	155,932	155,932
197	FARMERS MARKET	-	5,000	5,000
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,558,532	1,680,319	1,680,319
PUBLIC SAFETY				
211	POLICE	1,878,434	1,970,054	1,970,054
211	POLICE CRUISER	54,000	68,100	68,100
212	DISPATCH	377,862	395,588	395,588

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
PUBLIC SAFETY				
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	140,666	148,621	148,621
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,265	6,265	6,265
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	21,765	23,112	23,112
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,710	1,710	1,710
299	TREE WARDEN	30,285	30,285	30,285
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,518,169	2,650,917	2,650,917
PUBLIC WORKS				
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,571,829	1,746,506	1,746,506
423	SNOW & ICE	281,050	311,250	311,250
433	SOLID WASTE	656,338	679,221	679,221
480	CHARGING STATIONS	6,000	7,380	7,380
491	CEMETERIES	13,440	30,150	30,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,528,657	2,774,507	2,774,507
HUMAN SERVICES				
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	165,193	175,444	175,444
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	56,594	58,593	58,593
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	76,500	76,500	76,500
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	298,287	310,537	310,537
CULTURE & RECREATION				
610	LIBRARIES	465,607	503,336	503,336
630	PARKS & RECREATION	153,157	160,703	160,703

691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,400	1,600	1,600
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	620,664	666,139	666,139
	DEBT SERVICE			
700	DEBT SERVICE	1,162,190	1,154,319	1,154,319

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL			
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	110,647	113,924	113,924
	MISCELLANEOUS			
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,391,280	2,490,334	2,490,334
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	120,600	120,600
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,510,880	2,610,934	2,610,934
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	11,308,026	11,961,596	11,961,596

PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 8: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,006,124 for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, Clean Water Facility Budget, with \$286,900 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,719,224 to be raised from Sewer Revenue.

Schedule IV
CWF Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
	CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440	Wages & Expenses	1,962,430	2,015,729	2,015,729
440	Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
700	Debt Service	505,270	483,614	483,614
910	Employee Benefits	359,152	363,631	363,631
	SUBTOTAL CWF	2,885,352	2,921,474	2,921,474

449 DPW SUBSIDIARY

Wages & Expenses	42,800	84,650	84,650
Capital Outlay	8,000	-	-
SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	50,800	84,650	84,650
<hr/>			
TOTAL CWF	2,936,152	3,006,124	3,006,124
	PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE		

ARTICLE 9: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$426,965 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, to be raised from Airport Revenue.

Schedule V
Airport Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY23	REQUEST FY24	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY24
AIRPORT				
482	Wages & Expenses	181,794	284,915	274,915
482	Capital Outlay/Local Share			10,000
700	Debt Service	101,120	101,535	101,535
910	Employee Benefits	33,101	40,515	40,515
	TOTAL AIRPORT	316,015	426,965	426,965
		PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE		

ARTICLE 10: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$53,250 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 11: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,053,018 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 12: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$11,809,191 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 13: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of repairing the roof of the Sheffield gym/auditorium complex, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 14: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a security door between the Sheffield Elementary School and the Administration Building, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 15: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$23,000 for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, said sum to be raised from Taxation. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 16: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a rough terrain vehicle with plow and sander for the Clean Water Facility, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from CWF Retained Earnings. **DEFEATED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 17: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$113,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a new boiler at the Clean Water Facility's Operations Building, including the removal and disposal of the existing boiler and all incidental and related costs, with \$63,364 to be raised from CWF Retained Earnings and \$50,136 to be raised from the CWF Capital Stabilization Fund. **DEFEATED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 18: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$264,000 for the purpose of upgrading the Clean Water Facility's Septage Receiving Station, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from CWF Retained Earnings. **DEFEATED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 19: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,592 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 20: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of repairing the 11th Street Bridge, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 21: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of demolishing the 2,200 square foot cinder block building located at 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, including the disposal of debris and all incidental and related costs, with \$12,099 to be raised from the unexpended balance of Article 1 of the May 5, 2012 Special Town Meeting—which appropriated \$30,000 for the restoration of 38 Avenue A— and \$37,901 to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 22: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$14,000 for the purpose of replacing windows and the back door at the Millers Falls Branch Library, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 23: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a well and water pump for the Unity Park Community Garden, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 24: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of crack sealing, line painting, and purchasing and installing concrete parking stops/blocks at the Unity Park Parking Lots, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 25: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing locking fireproof cabinets for the Town Clerk, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 26: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of removing, replacing and/or repairing carpet and other flooring in Montague Town Hall, including all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 27: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$11,585 for the purpose of supplementing the amounts appropriated pursuant to Article #18B of the May 22, 2021, Annual Town Meeting, which funds Unexpected Engineering Expenses, said sum to be raised from Taxation. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 28: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$13,100 for the for the purpose of providing the town match for an \$80,000 Action Grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program to be used to update the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 29: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of supplementing the Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation. **PASSED/ UNANIMOUS VOTE**

ARTICLE 30: 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.

Fund	Amount (\$)
Town General Stabilization Fund	37,388
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	134,891
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	41,339
FCTS Stabilization Fund	21,940
OPEB Trust Fund	50,000
Total:	285,558

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 31: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of supplementing the OPEB Trust Fund, said sum to be raised from Overlay Surplus. **PASSED/MAJORITY VOTE**

ARTICLE 32: MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of supplementing the OPEB Trust Fund, and the sum of \$1,500,000 for the purpose of supplementing the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, said sums to be raised from Free Cash. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
October 10, 2023**

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, Montague on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 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 amend the Town of Montague Consolidated Personnel By-Law by adding Section XIII as follows, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

Section XIII. Longevity

A) Annual longevity payments will be provided in the following amounts for benefited, non-police employees who have completed the indicated years of service:

Five years	\$300
Ten years	\$500
Fifteen years	\$900
Twenty years	\$1,000
Twenty-five years	\$1,100
Thirty years	\$1,200

B) The payments authorized by this section shall be applied to the compensation of eligible employees retroactively as of July 1, 2023.

(Selectboard 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 \$3,100, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the FY2024 budgets for the following departments to accommodate the cost of longevity payments for non-police employees who have completed specified years of service, said appropriation to be contingent upon passage and approval of the bylaw amendment proposed in Article 1 of this Special Town Meeting Warrant; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Dollar Amount Increase</u>
122 Selectboard	\$ 800
135 Accountant	\$1,000
145 Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$ 300
420 DPW	\$1,000

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to increase the COLA base for Montague Contributory Retirement System retirees from \$18,000 to \$30,000, effective July 1, 2024, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Request)

(Montague Retirement Board

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable related equipment for MCTV and anything incidental or related thereto, 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 \$12,885.56, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Board of Health 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 \$4,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and installing two signs for the Highland Woods green burial area, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Cemetery Commission Request)*

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114, Section 23 to approve all policies and regulations promulgated by the Montague Cemetery Commission prior to the date of this meeting, copies of which are available at the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website at https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/MCC_Rules_and_Regulations_Final_Revised_May_2023.pdf ; and further to grant the Montague Cemetery Commission authority to promulgate additional policies and regulations and to amend, revise and/or delete all such policies and regulations, subject to the approval of the Selectboard, without further approval at Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Cemetery 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 \$500,000 for the purpose of constructing and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, park improvements on the Town's property located at Montague Center Park, Map 43, Lots 118, 119, 121, 122, & 123 which property is held by, managed and controlled by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Montague for public playground and recreation center purposes; and, further, subject to receipt and acceptance of the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities ("PARC") Grant, described hereinafter, to dedicate said property to park and active recreation purposes under the provisions of G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3 in perpetuity; provided, however, that such funds shall not be expended unless the Town is approved for a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities ("PARC") Grant from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for reimbursement of all or a percentage of the project cost, and to authorize the Parks and Recreation Commission, with the approval of the Selectboard, to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from any federal, state or other funds, and to enter into such grant agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Parks and Recreation 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 \$7,566.81, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying a prior year unpaid bill of the Clean Water Facility, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Sewer Commission - CWF Request)

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose Clean Water Facility Do Not Use (DNU) Until 2064 Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B, and raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$68,100, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding said stabilization fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Sewer Commission - CWF 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 \$209,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the amount appropriated pursuant to Article 18 of the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated the sum of \$130,000 for the purchase and installation of a backup generator for the Clean Water Facility and all incidental installation costs to include but not be limited to the corresponding moving of transfer switches and fuel tank, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Sewer Commission - CWF 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 \$50,400, or any other amount, for the purpose of performing a local limits study in accordance with the Town's National Pollution Elimination Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit obligations requirements, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Sewer Commission - CWF 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 \$95,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing two pumping station generators, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Sewer Commission– CWF 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 \$99,900, or any other amount, for the purpose of securing professional consulting services to conduct analysis and reporting in support of collections system regulatory compliance, and for the development of updated local sewer regulations, including all related or incidental costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Sewer Commission– DPW Request)*

ARTICLE 15. 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 securing professional consulting services to assess and develop plans related to the Town's wastewater collections system capacity, operations and maintenance, and high flow protocols, inclusive of a including all related or incidental costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Sewer Commission – DPW Request)*

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from Farren Care Center, Inc., or the current owner, the real property 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, 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 and appropriate for said acquisition and acceptance, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. *(Selectboard 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 due return of this document with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk fourteen days before said meeting.

Given under our hands this 25th day of September in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman: _____
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Matt Lord: _____

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.: _____

Franklin, ss Montague, MA September ____, 2023

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: _____

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
October 10, 2023**

MOTIONS

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the Town of Montague Consolidated Personnel By-Law by adding Section XIII as follows:

Section XIII Longevity

A) Annual longevity payments will be provided in the following amounts for benefited, non-police employees who have completed the indicated years of service:

Five years	\$300
Ten years	\$500
Fifteen years	\$900
Twenty years	\$1,000
Twenty-five years	\$1,100
Thirty years	\$1,200

B) The payments authorized by this section shall be applied to the compensation of eligible employees retroactively as of July 1, 2023.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,1 00 for the purpose of increasing the FY2024 budgets for the following departments to fund the cost of longevity payments to eligible non-police employees, said appropriation to be contingent upon passage and approval of the bylaw amendment proposed in Article 1 of this Special Town Meeting Warrant, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Dollar Amount Increase</u>
122 Selectboard	\$ 800

135 Accountant	\$1,000
145 Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$ 300
420 DPW	\$1,000

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 3. MOVED: That the Town vote to increase the COLA base for Montague Contributory Retirement System retirees from \$18,000 to \$30,000 effective July 1, 2024.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 4. 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 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,885.56 for the purpose of increasing the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing two signs for the Highland Woods green burial area, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Sale of Highland Cemetery Lots.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114, Section 23 to approve all policies and regulations promulgated by the Montague Cemetery Commission prior to the date of this meeting, as shown on the handout titled “Rules and Regulations of the Montague Cemetery Commission, Revised May 8, 2023”; and further to grant the Montague Cemetery Commission authority to promulgate additional policies and regulations and to amend, revise and/or delete all such policies and regulations, subject to the approval of the Selectboard, without further approval at Town Meeting.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

AMENDMENT to ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114, Section 23 to approve all policies and regulations promulgated by the Montague Cemetery Commission prior to the date of this meeting, as shown on the handout titled “Rules and Regulations of the Montague Cemetery Commission, Revised May 8, 2023”; and further to grant the Montague Cemetery Commission authority to promulgate additional policies and regulations and to amend, revise and/or delete all such policies and regulations, subject to the approval of ~~the Selectboard, without further approval at~~ Town Meeting.

FAIL/MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of constructing and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, park improvements on the Town’s property located at Montague Center Park, Map 43, Lots 118, 119, 121, 122, & 123 which property is held by, managed and controlled by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Montague for public playground and recreation center purposes; and, further, subject to receipt and acceptance of the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (“PARC”) Grant, described hereinafter, to dedicate said property to park and active recreation purposes under the provisions of G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3 in perpetuity; provided, however, that such funds shall not be expended unless the Town is approved for a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (“PARC”) Grant from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for reimbursement of all or a percentage of the project cost, and to authorize the Parks and Recreation

Commission, with the approval of the Selectboard, to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from any federal, state or other funds, and to enter into such grant agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,566.81 for the purpose of paying a prior year unpaid bill of the Clean Water Facility, said sum to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

Article 10. MOVED: That the Town vote to establish a special purpose Clean Water Facility Do Not Use (DNU) Until 2064 Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B, and appropriate the sum of \$68,100 for the purpose of funding said stabilization fund, said sum to be raised from the Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$209,000 for the purpose of increasing the amount appropriated pursuant to Article 18 of the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated the sum of \$130,000 for the purchase and installation of a backup generator for the Clean Water Facility and all incidental installation costs to include but not be limited to the corresponding moving of transfer switches and fuel tank, said sum to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,400 for the purpose of performing a local limits study in accordance with the Town's National Pollution Elimination Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit obligations requirements, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$95,000 for the purpose of replacing two pumping station generators, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$99,900 for the purpose of securing professional consulting services to conduct analysis and reporting in support of collections system regulatory compliance, and for the development of updated local sewer regulations, including any and all related or incidental costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of securing professional consulting services to assess and develop plans related to the Town's wastewater collections system capacity, operations and maintenance, and high flow protocols, including any and all related or incidental costs, said sum to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 16. MOVED: That the Town vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from Farren Care Center, Inc., or the current owner, the real property 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, 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 and appropriate for said acquisition and acceptance, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. **PASSED/UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**ELECTION WARRANT
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 16, 2023**

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 Sixteenth Day of May, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three, from Seven A.M. to Seven P.M.** to bring their votes on one ballot to the Election Officers for:

- One Selectman, for three years
- One Assessor, for three years
- One Board of Health Member, for three years
- Three Public Library Trustees, for three years
- One Public Library Trustee, for one-year to fill an unexpired term
- One Montague Housing Authority, for five years
- One Parks & Recreation Commissioner, for three years
- One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Veteran), for three years
- One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Non-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
- Three Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for two years
- Two Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 4, for three years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4, for two years
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 5, for three years
- One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 5, for one year
- Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 6, for three years
- One Gill-Montague Regional School District School Committee Member Representing Gill, for three years
- One Gill-Montague Regional School District School District Committee Member

Representing Gill, for 1 year
 Two Gill-Montague Regional School District School Committee Members Representing
 Montague, for three years
 One Gill-Montague Regional School District School District Committee Member
 Representing Montague, for two years
 One Gill-Montague Regional School District School District Committee Member
 Representing Montague, for one year to fill an unexpired term

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 _____ Day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Richard J. Kuklewicz: _____

Matthew Lord: _____

Matthew Lord

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.: _____

Franklin, ss Montague, MA, April _____, 2023

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: _____

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

**TOWN ELECTION
 MONTAGUE, MA**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

According to the forgoing warrant, the legal votes of the six precincts of the Town of Montague met in their respective polling places and cast votes for the following named offices of which the following is the total vote as returned by the Precinct Officers.

TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST

		Turnout by precinct
Precinct No. 1	166	13.08%
Precinct No. 2	52	4.42%
Precinct No. 3	66	6.20%
Precinct No. 4	59	5.56%
Precinct No. 5	40	3.91%
Precinct No. 6	33	3.09%
Total	416	6.24%

SELECTMAN, For three years	Vote for one						TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
PRECINCT							
Matthew Lord	144	45	51	51	28	28	347
write-ins	1	0	1	0	1	0	3

BLANKS	21	7	14	8	11	5	66
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416
ASSESSOR, For three years				Vote for one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Rebecca Jane Sabelawski	110	36	24	33	22	15	240
Brendan L. Kuntz	2	5	7	2	4	2	22
Christopher Pinardi	39	10	24	15	9	5	102
Diane M. Sumrall	10	1	8	5	2	9	35
BLANKS	5	0	3	4	3	2	17
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416
BOARD OF HEALTH, For three years				Vote for one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Michael M. Nelson	144	45	59	55	33	29	365
write ins	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
BLANKS	21	7	7	4	6	4	49
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, For three years				Vote for three			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Lydia levins	117	43	44	48	30	25	307
Miryam Vesset	126	39	36	39	24	20	284
David Detmold	107	33	27	36	24	16	243
write ins	6		0	0	1	0	7
BLANKS	142	41	91	54	41	38	407
TOTALS	498	156	198	177	120	99	1248

PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE, For one year				Vote for one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Louisa Khettab	135	44	47	52	34	27	339
BLANKS	31	8	19	7	6	6	77
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416

MONTAGUE HOUSING AUTHORITY, For five years				Vote for one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Karen M. Casey-Chretien	112	31	29	27	20	21	240
Linda N. Ackerman	42	13	24	28	15	8	130
Brendan L. Kuntz	3	8	6	1	3	3	24
BLANKS	9	0	7	3	2	1	22
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, For three years				Vote for one			
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Jeff Singleton	8	0	0	1	5	1	15
Linda Ackerman	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Susan Dorias	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
David Detmold	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jill Ingham	0	3	0	2	0	0	5
William Hildreth	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Terri Cappucci	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Kelly Doyle	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Brian Pastara	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tristan Snow Cobb	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Brendon Kuntz	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jane Nocklbey	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bridget Licata	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Annabel Levine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dorinda Bell-Upp	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rachel Labrie	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Write-ins	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
BLANKS	155	48	63	52	32	29	379
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	412

TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEMORIAL (Veteran), For three years							Vote for one	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	
Lori Lee Adams	126	49	51	53	32	26	337	
write ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
BLANKS	40	3	15	6	7	7	78	
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416	

TRUSTEE, SOLDIERS MEMORIAL (Non-Veteran), For three years							Vote for one	
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	
CHRISTOPHER M. BOUTWELL	125	46	47	52	31	26	327	
write ins	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	
BLANKS	40	6	18	7	8	7	86	
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416	

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For three years		Vote for not more than seven	
PRECINCT 1			
Michael M. Nelson	112	*	
Eileen M. Mariani	132	*	
Savannah E. Emery	87	*	
Mark E. Fisk	120	*	
John L. Reynolds	92	*	
Matthew Lord	117	*	
Sheree I. Bloomberg	105	*	
William C. Quale	74		
Christopher C. Pinardi	58		
Others	2		
BLANKS	263		
TOTAL	1162	*	

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For three years		Vote for not more than seven	
PRECINCT 2			
Gretchen W. Wetherby	47	*	
Joshua Douglas Lively	43	*	
Francia E. Wisnewski	43	*	
Matthew J. Atwood	43	*	
David James	1		

Irving Bassett	1
Sue Richardson	1
Jill Ingham	1
Barbara Tardif	1
Luke Wisnewski	2
Kathryn M. Chevalier	1
Write-ins	0
Others	0
Blanks	180
TOTALS	364 *

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For three years
Vote for not more than seven**

PRECINCT 3	
Jason S. Corey	48 *
Cheri Sue Ducharme	48 *
Jennifer Holmes	48 *
Wendy Thompson	2
Lawrence Graves	1
Terri Cappucci	1
Wesley Green	1
Denise Hemingway	1
Ellie Underwood	1
write ins	
Others	
BLANKS	311
TOTAL	462 *

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For two years
Vote for not more than three**

PRECINCT 3	
Wendy Thompson	1
write in	0
BLANKS	197
TOTALS	198

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For one year
Vote for not more than two**

PRECINCT 3	
BLANKS	132
TOTALS	132

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three years
Vote for not more than seven**

PRECINCT 4	
Frederick H. Bowman	47
Robert D. Pierce	49
Richard J. Kuklewicz	51
Roberta Potter	1
Ella Ingham	1
Wendy Thompson	1

Linda Kuklewicz	1
Hunter Greewood	1
Suzette Snow-Cobb	1
Julia Handshuh	1
Faith English	1
Nicholas Licata	1
write ins	0
BLANKS	257
TOTAL	413

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For two years	
Vote for not more than one	
PRECINCT 4	
Wendy Thompson	1
Jill Ingham	1
Jessica Vachula-Curtis	1
write ins	0
BLANKS	56
TOTAL	59

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS, For three years	
Vote for not more than seven	
PRECINCT 5	
Jeffrey C. Singleton	24
Edite M. Cunha	29
Natan M. Cohen	28
Laurie J. Callahan	29
John Frederick Nelson	28
Joanne Belair	3
Christopher Pinardi	1
Diane Sumrall	1
Russell McComber	1
write ins	0
BLANKS	136
TOTAL	280

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For one year	
Vote for not more than one	
PRECINCT 5	
Joanne Belair	3
Linda Ackerman	1
John Carolan	1
write ins	0
BLANKS	35
TOTAL	40

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS For three year	
Vote for not more than seven	

PRECINCT 6	
Leslie P. Brown	22
Dorinda Bell-Upp	20
Brian M. Smith	18
Kenneth E. Trask	20
Thomas Joseph Demers	24
Denise A. Milkey	20
Sarah Megan Jung	21
BLANKS	86
TOTAL	231

QUESTION 1							
Shall the town vote to have its elected Town Clerk become an appointed Town Clerk of the Town?							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Yes	100	27	23	39	22	17	228
No	48	25	38	16	16	13	156
Blanks	18	0	5	4	2	3	32
Total	166	52	66	59	40	33	416

QUESTION 2							
Shall the town vote to have its elected Tax Collector/Treasurer become an appointed Tax Collector/Treasurer of the Town?							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Yes	93	27	23	41	22	17	223
No	53	24	36	17	16	13	159
Blanks	20	1	7	1	2	3	34
Total	166	52	66	59	40	33	416

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.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

_____ Debra A. Bourbeau

_____ Stanley Dobosz

_____ Elizabeth Irving

_____ Anne Stuart

Weather: Sunny, breezy 80*

Attest:

Debra A. Bourbeau, Montague Town Clerk _____

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
William C. Tomb	110	42	46	52	30	25	305
BLANKS	56	10	20	7	10	8	111

TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416
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REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF GILL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE For one year **Vote for not more than one**

PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Cristina Marie Marcalow	104	40	42	47	27	24	284
Jan Katsoulis	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
write ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	62	12	24	12	12	9	131
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	416

REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE For three years **Vote for not more than two**

PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
John Frederick Irminger	114	40	42	49	32	24	301
John Reynolds	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Faith English	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tristan Snow Cobb	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Linda Ackerman	0	0	0		1	0	1
Jan Katsoulis	0	0	0		1	0	1
Lydia levins	0	0	0		1	0	1
Adrean Gilante	0	0	0		1	0	1
write ins	0	0	2		0	0	2
Blanks	216	64	88	67	44	42	521
TOTALS	332	104	132	118	80	66	832

REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE For two years **Vote for not more than one**

PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
John Reynolds	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jen Audley	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wendy Thompson	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Chad Cadran	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Janice Katsoulis	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Doug Brown	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Frederic Bowman	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hunter Greawood	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bridget Licata	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Linda Ackerman	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Patrick Currie	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Miryam Vesset	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Syna Katsoulis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Janice Katsoulis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tristan Snow Cobb	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Jenna Weld	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Dorinda Bell-Upp	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
write ins	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Blanks	165	50	60	55	35	28	393
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	408

REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE							
SCHOOL COMMITTEE For one year	Vote for not more than one						
PRECINCT	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Carol Kostecki	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Janice Katsoulis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Andrew Irving	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
John Reynolds	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wendy Thompson	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Janice Katsoulis	0	0	3	0	0	2	5
Joyce A. Phillips	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Linda Ackerman	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
David Detmold	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Janice Katsoulis	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pam Hanold	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kerlie Gedon	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Kate Martineau	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
write ins	0	5	0	6	0	0	11
Blanks	162	47	61	53	36	27	386
TOTALS	166	52	66	59	40	33	412

Attest: _ Debra A. Bourbeau
 _ Montague Town Clerk _____

Town of Montague
Combining Balance Sheet
Year Ended June 30, 2023

Assets	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo-Only
Cash	5,674,033	3,654,475	859,273	947,722	5,295,352	16,430,855
Receivables:						-
Personal Property Taxes	198,399					198,399
Real Estate Taxes	598,088					598,088
Allowance For Abatements	(535,368)					(535,368)
Tax Liens	253,048			208,051		461,099
MV Excise	206,839					206,839
Other Excise Taxes	1,248					1,248
User Fees				210,540		210,540
Utility Liens Added to Taxes				19,544		19,544
Departmental	1,377			-		1,377
Due from Other Governments	621					621
Other Receivables	102,337			100		102,437
Tax Foreclosures	363,388			1,261		364,649
Prepays	5,450					5,450
Due From Other Funds	-			47,000	1,330	48,330
Total Assets	6,869,460	3,654,475	859,273	1,434,218	5,296,682	18,114,108
Liabilities						
Warrants Payable	186,271	85,414	126,186	27,641	-	425,512
Accrued Payroll	89,615	5,923		13,519		109,057
Withholdings Payable	31,129					31,129
Due to Other Funds	48,330	-		-	-	48,330
Due To Other Govt	102,337					102,337

Town of Montague
Combining Balance Sheet
Year Ended June 30, 2023

Liabilities	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo-Only
Other Liabilities	74,676	9,584				84,260
Deferred Revenue:						-
Real & Personal Property	261,120					261,120
Tax Liens	253,048			208,051		461,099
Foreclosures/Possessions	363,388			1,261		364,649
MV Excise	206,839					206,839
Other Excise	1,248					1,248
User Fees				210,540		210,540
Utility Liens Added to Taxes				19,544		19,544
Departmental	1,377					1,377
Prepaid Taxes/Fees				949		949
Tailings				50		50
Notes Payable		-	-	-		-
Bonds Payable						-
Total Liabilities	1,619,378	100,921	126,186	481,555	-	2,328,040
Fund Balance						
Reserved For Encumbrances	2,735			6,500		9,235
Reserved For Expenditures	2,429,501					2,429,501
Reserved For Continuing Approp.	1,431,635	3,553,554	733,087	226,945		5,945,221
Reserved for Debt Service					185,070	185,070
Reserved for Premiums	487					487
Undesignated Fund Balance	1,385,724				5,111,612	6,497,336
Undesignated Retained Earnings				719,218		719,218
Total Fund Balance	5,250,082	3,553,554	733,087	952,663	5,296,682	15,786,068
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	6,869,460	3,654,475	859,273	1,434,218	5,296,682	18,114,108

Town of Montague
Combining Income Statement
Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	Total Memo Only
Revenues						
General Government	23,972,894	2,481,477			369,850	26,824,221
Public Safety	159,652	356,278			3,080	519,010
Education					2,847	2,847
Public Works	321,355	975,589		2,873,340	273,524	4,443,808
Human Services	71,967	52,763				124,730
Culture/Recreation	2,227	109,826			978	113,031
Intergovernmental			2,928,922	32,000		2,960,922
Miscellaneous		74,000	-	482		74,482
Proceeds from Bonds/Notes			-			-
Transfers In	541,115		-	530,985	357,494	1,429,594
Total Revenues & OFS	25,069,210	4,049,933	2,928,922	3,436,807	1,007,773	36,492,645
Expenditures						
General Government	1,439,842	1,887,755	12,500		-	3,340,097
Public Safety	2,465,315	260,183			3,953	2,729,451
Education	12,371,032				1,650	12,372,682
Public Works	2,405,899	831,506	2,038,913	2,086,558		7,362,876
Human Services	238,581	36,682				275,263
Culture/Recreation	616,233	97,109			16,812	730,154
Debt	1,135,987			581,383		1,717,370
Intergovernmental	204,456			-		204,456
Miscellaneous	3,127,823			475,693		3,603,516
Transfers Out	690,934	21,314	67,546	-	649,800	1,429,594
Total Expenditures & OFU	24,696,102	3,134,549	2,118,959	3,143,634	672,215	33,765,459
Net Revenues - Expenditures	373,108	915,384	809,963	293,173	335,558	2,727,186
Beginning Fund Balance	4,876,974	2,638,170	(76,876)	659,490	4,179,125	12,276,883
Ending Fund Balance	5,250,082	3,553,554	733,087	952,663	4,514,683	15,004,069

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2023

Name	FY2023 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
GENERAL FUND								
Town Meeting	2,390				2,390	2,168	222	
Selectmen	313,510				313,510	284,637	28,873	
Finance Committee	2,000				2,000	982	1,018	
Reserve Fund	50,000		40,000	(75,725)	14,275		14,275	
Town Accountant	88,600		2,284		90,884	87,418	731	2,735
Assessors	187,261	13,776	3,362	11,000	215,399	199,605	15,794	
Collector/Treasurer	215,888		4,825		220,713	218,522	2,191	
Town Counsel	75,000				75,000	66,146	8,854	
Information Technology	79,000	14,666			93,666	87,704	5,962	
Shared Costs	78,079				78,079	68,883	9,196	
Town Clerk	192,153	86	3,691		195,930	193,888	2,042	
Planning	129,007				129,007	117,380	11,627	
Zoning Board of Appeals	700				700	262	438	
MEDIC	5,000		(3,077)		1,923	1,923	-	
Building Utilities	112,782		18,000		130,782	108,132	22,650	
Farmers Market			2,500		2,500	2,192	308	
Police	1,886,757		45,677		1,932,434	1,899,270	33,164	
Dispatch	372,901		4,961		377,862	372,260	5,602	
Building Inspector	137,382		3,909		141,291	133,502	7,789	
Sealer of Weights/Measures	2,750		4,432		7,182	2,750	4,432	
Emergency Management	6,265				6,265	5,765	500	
Animal Control	21,765				21,765	21,579	186	
Forest Warden	1,710				1,710	1,710	-	
Tree Warden	30,285				30,285	28,479	1,806	
Education	12,371,032				12,371,032	12,371,032	-	
DPW	1,548,375		23,454	40,000	1,611,829	1,524,996	86,833	
Snow & Ice	278,050		3,000		281,050	243,065	37,985	

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2023

Name	FY2023 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
Solid Waste	655,985		353		656,338	617,098	39,240	
EV Charging Stations	6,000			1,500	7,500	6,576	924	
Cemeteries	13,440			725	14,165	14,165	-	
Board of Health	163,987		1,206		165,193	133,762	31,431	
Council on Aging	55,340		1,254		56,594	52,671	3,923	
Veteran's Services	76,500				76,500	52,147	24,353	
Library	452,485		13,122		465,607	459,387	6,220	
Parks & Recreation	150,081		3,076	2,500	155,657	155,503	154	
Historical Commission	500				500		500	
War Memorials	1,300		100		1,400	1,343	57	
Debt Service	1,162,189				1,162,189	1,135,987	26,202	
State Assessments	93,915				93,915	94,155	(240)	
Other Intergovernmental	110,647				110,647	110,301	346	
Employee Benefits	2,391,280			(47,000)	2,344,280	2,250,863	93,417	
Insurance	119,600				119,600	105,912	13,688	
Transfers to Other Funds	622,603			67,000	689,603	690,933	(1,330)	
<u>Special Articles</u>					-		-	
#1 5/5/12 Repair 38 Ave A		12,099			12,099		-	12,099
#10 3/2/17 Stabilize Strathmore		3,352			3,352		-	3,352
#44 5/6/17 Millers Falls Comm.		954			954		-	954
#2 2/19/19 Town Hall Roofs		20,417			20,417	20,417	-	
#18A 5/22/21 Unsafe Bldgs		25,000			25,000		-	25,000
#18C 5/22/21 Project Overruns	21,584	6,139			27,723		-	27,723
#19 5/22/21 BldgAssess/CapPlan		50,000			50,000		-	50,000
#21D 5/22/21 Prevention Prog		4,221			4,221	2,890	1,331	
#21E 5/22/21 Sch SubAbuse Couns		12,424			12,424		-	12,424
#9 10/16/21 Sub Abuse Prevent		38,880			38,880	14,487	-	24,393

Town of Montague

Appropriation Analysis FY2023

Name	FY2023 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
#20B 5/7/22 Lower Shea Roof	60,000				60,000		-	60,000
#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
#21 5/6/23 Demolish 38 Ave A					-	6,318	-	(6,318)
#15 5/4/19 Hydroelectric Val		29,000			29,000		-	29,000
#13 5/22/21 Utility Valuation		2,000			2,000		-	2,000
#10 3/3/22 AssesPro + Comp		18,659			18,659	14,100	4,559	
#27 5/5/18 Town Map Storage		3,902			3,902		-	3,902
#25 5/4/19 Ind Park Signs		1,767			1,767	1,231	536	
#15 6/13/20 Fix Walking Paths		19,060			19,060		-	19,060
#18B 5/22/21 Unexp Engineering		23,615			23,615	10,200	-	13,415
#20 5/22/21 Phase II 500 Ave A		6,769			6,769		6,769	
#25 5/7/22 MF Rd/Ind Blvd	25,000				25,000		-	25,000
#21C 5/22/21 Cannabis Intox		7,000			7,000		-	7,000
#18 3/2/23 Inspection Vehicle			52,500		52,500		-	52,500
#16 5/5/18 Sheffield Intercom		30,000			30,000		-	30,000
#17 5/5/18 Hillcrest Intercom		25,000			25,000		-	25,000
#13 6/13/20 Ctrl Office Canopy		10,000			10,000		-	10,000
#13 6/13/20 Hillcrest Roof		1,297			1,297	1,297	-	
#13 6/13/20 GMRSD Bldgs Study		6,953			6,953	6,953	-	
#14A 5/22/21 Hillcrest Façade		55,000			55,000		-	55,000
#14B 5/22/21 Sheffield Façade		45,000			45,000		-	45,000
#14C 5/22/21 Sheffield Fire Alarm		89,092			89,092		-	89,092
#15 5/22/21 GMRSD Tennis Ct		29,166			29,166	26,740	2,426	
#12 3/3/22 Hillcrest Flooring		294,101			294,101	294,101	-	
#16 5/7/22 Smith VoTech FY23	45,000				45,000	37,229	7,771	
#13 10/13/22 Hillcrest Floors			56,000		56,000	9,882	-	46,118

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2023

Name	FY2023 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
#16 5/22/21 DPW Equipment		44,213			44,213	44,213	-	
#4 3/3/22 Sewer Vactor		125,000			125,000	75,004	-	49,996
#17 5/7/22 DPW Discretionary	75,000				75,000	55,262	-	19,738
#16 3/2/23 Pickup/Plow/Sander		-	80,000		80,000		-	80,000
#17 3/2/23 1 Ton/Plow/Sander			100,000		100,000		90,000	10,000
#8 9/25/01 Cap Burn Dump		12,165			12,165	1,982	-	10,183
#10 10/13/20 Burn Dump		12,500			12,500	12,500	-	
#15 10/13/22 Burn Dump Eng			12,000		12,000	1,200	-	10,800
#2 3/3/22 Cem Emerg Exp		9,000			9,000	1,740	-	7,260
#3 3/2/22 Burnham Cem Repair		6,800			6,800	5,987	813	
#1 3/2/23 Green Burial Site Prep			10,000		10,000	8,396	-	1,604
#26 5/22/21 Mosquito Control		10,000			10,000	255	1	9,744
#15 6/13/20 Sr Ctr Chimney		700			700		-	700
#2 10/13/20 Sr Ctr Roof		23,214			23,214	1,315	-	21,899
#23 5/7/16 Carnegie Roof		2,505			2,505		-	2,505
#25 5/6/17 Carnegie Air Exch		5,000			5,000		-	5,000
#26 5/6/17 Carnegie Roof		2,035			2,035		-	2,035
#27 5/6/17 Library Blgs Study		35,250	(35,250)		-		-	
#25 5/4/19 MC Library Moisture		4,100			4,100	(8,850)	-	12,950
#26 5/4/19 MF Library Moisture		2,450			2,450		-	2,450
#20C 5/7/22 Carnegie Basement	130,000				130,000		117,000	13,000
#20D 5/7/22 MC Libr Masonry	100,000				100,000		90,000	10,000
#13 3/2/23 Main Library Study		-	35,250		35,250		-	35,250
#11 10/2/19 Fieldhouse Roof		79,372			79,372		79,372	
#3 10/13/20 MC Park Survey		2,000			2,000		-	2,000
#11 3/2/23 Seal Skatepark			1,500		1,500	1,200	300	
#12 3/2/23 Evaluate Blacksmith			2,000		2,000		-	2,000

Town of Montague
Appropriation Analysis FY2023

Name	FY2023 ATM	Prior Yr Bal Fwd	STM Votes	Transfers/ Other	Adjusted Budget	Expended	Balance Closed	Balance Forwarded
Total General Fund	25,059,878	1,275,699	490,129	-	26,825,706	24,696,102	942,241	1,187,363
AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND								
Airport Commission	181,794			30,100	211,894	211,534	360	
Debt	101,120				101,120	101,119	1	
Employee Benefits	33,101			(10,100)	23,001	22,983	18	
Total Airport Enterprise Fund	316,015	-	-	20,000	336,015	335,636	379	-
CWF ENTERPRISE FUND								
CWF	1,957,155	110	5,275		1,962,540	1,725,464	236,966	110
Highway Subsidiary	50,800				50,800	34,183	16,617	
Debt	505,270				505,270	480,264	25,006	
Employee Benefits	359,152				359,152	280,039	79,113	
Transfers to Other Funds					-		-	
Special Articles								
#11 10/13/22 PY Unpaid Bills			3,684		3,684	3,684	-	
#7 10/29/14 Lab Software		20,000			20,000		-	20,000
#17 5/4/19 Composting Study		7,381			7,381	356	-	7,025
#10 10/2/19 MF Infiltration		18,116			18,116	18,116	-	
#7 3/5/20 Oil Tank/Vault		63,100			63,100		-	63,100
#5 2/25/21 Chlorination System		78,993			78,993	56,305	-	22,688
#18 5/7/22 Generator	130,000	-			130,000	28,456	-	101,544
#15 3/2/23 Transit Van/Charger		-	68,000		68,000	65,755	-	2,245
	3,002,377	187,700	76,959	-	3,267,036	2,692,622	357,702	216,712

Town of Montague
Special Revenue Fund Activity
Year Ended June 30, 2023

Name	Balance 7/1/2022	Receipts	Expended	Balance 6/30/2023
Police Extra Duty	(48,330)	248,611	232,961	(32,680)
Ins Reimb < \$20K	14,633		11,460	3,173
Chapter 90	(154,833)	590,096	460,976	(25,713)
Fund 225 Grants				
Wood Bank Grant	-		14,231	(14,231)
Municipal Roof Improvement			31,651	(31,651)
Wage & Class Grant		35,000		35,000
MOD Accessibility Grant			13,065	(13,065)
ARPA Grant	1,092,575	1,226,300	620,317	1,698,558
ARPA Municipal Relief	65,941			65,941
Greenhouse Mobility	4,316		4,316	-
Early Voting Grant	1,442	8,526	640	9,328
Wetlands Protection	19,576		146	19,430
River Culture Grant	(6)	19,999	9,480	10,513
Agricultural Commission	6			6
ConComm SRRHMF Gifts	11,000			11,000
MVP Planning FY17	20,310			20,310
Green Communities	10,272	28,909	41,892	(2,711)
MC Road Flooding	190,442		29,346	161,096
Cultural District	5,023	22,500	15,104	12,419
Resurgent Places	270		257	13
RiverCulture Festival			1,500	(1,500)
Ferry Rd Culvert Design	(7,610)	13,263	3,320	2,333
Pesky Park Audio Tour	598	9,000	9,085	513
Master Plan Elements	(5,256)	33,000	27,892	(148)
REDO State Grant	44,259	21,250	46,272	19,237
MVP Climate Resiliency			22,915	(22,915)
MCC Recovery Grant	-	6,850		6,850
RiverCulture Fiscal Agent	12,962		5,389	7,573
Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge	59,457		3,658	55,799
CDBG FCRHA	-	938,199	938,199	-
Comm Dev Discretionary	78,381	10,546	20,547	68,380
Farmers Market Grant	-	500		500
Dispatch Incentive Grant	-	41,147	41,147	-
911 Grant	(211)	3,052	2,805	36
K-9 Vehicle Donations	12,075			12,075

Town of Montague
Special Revenue Fund Activity
Year Ended June 30, 2023

Name	Balance 7/1/2022	Receipts	Expended	Balance 6/30/2023
Drug Forfeiture	2,061	33,645		35,706
K-9 Donations	26,033	3,180	2,192	27,021
Police DMH Grant	(11,858)	13,781	450	1,473
Police Connect Grant	-	12,061		12,061
Wood Bank Donations	60		60	-
Memorial Tree	1,379		252	1,127
MF Tree Planting	250			250
Transportation Infrastructure	20		13	7
Eversource Flail Lease	(24,372)	24,372		-
WRAP		343,831	343,831	-
Mattress Recycling		5,891	5,891	-
Recycling Dividends Program	49	10,200	9,336	913
FRCOG COVID-19	1,506		1,506	-
State COA Grant	18,745	33,276	30,514	21,507
Mass in Motion			4,202	(4,202)
COA Direct Aid Gift Acct		3,000		3,000
COA Memorial Gifts	11,911	6,287	1,900	16,298
Program Income	27			27
State Aid to Library	66,159	22,781	4,378	84,562
MF Branch Grocery Program	-	8,465		8,465
Library Donations	39,256	326	27	39,555
Skatepark Donation	2,106		1,800	306
Unity Makers Market		2,500	2,500	-
Montague Center Park	4,639			4,639
Unity Festival Grant	295		295	-
Cultural Council	16,599	809	13,899	3,509
War Memorial Grant	10,043		285	9,758
PEG Access Funds		12,500	12,500	-
Total Fund 225	1,781,209	2,955,746	2,339,182	2,397,773
Sale of Cemetery Lots	4,100			4,100
Sale of Highland Lots	24,953	11,400		36,353
Sale of Real Estate	615,446	74,000		689,446
Total Fund 226	644,499	85,400	-	729,899
Colle Operations	396,485	107,634	28,532	475,587

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
Year Ended June 30, 2023

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>7/1/2022</u>	<u>Grants/</u> <u>Other</u>	<u>Transfer</u> <u>In/Out</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>6/30/23</u>
#24 5/7/11 Turnpike Rd	15,360			12,500	2,860
Town Buildings/Infrastructure	(63,714)	1,057,990		807,168	187,108
#1 3/29/18 DPW Facility	52,361				52,361
Airport Capital Projects	(80,883)	1,700,589	(66,781)	961,743	591,182
CWF Capital Projects	79,780	170,342	(765)	270,001	(20,644)
Totals	<u>2,904</u>	<u>2,928,921</u>	<u>(67,546)</u>	<u>2,051,412</u>	<u>812,867</u>

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
DEBT STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Outstanding 07/01/22	Issued FY2023	Retired FY2023	Outstanding 06/30/23	Interest FY2023
LONG TERM DEBT					
Clean Water Facility	7,463,649		392,198	7,071,451	222,174
Town	12,822,340		630,575	12,191,765	478,479
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	20,285,989	-	1,022,773	19,263,216	700,653
SHORT TERM DEBT					
Tax Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Bond Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Grant Anticipation Notes	-			-	
Other Short Term Debt	-			-	
TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT	-	-	-	-	-

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

GENERAL FUND

General Revenue

Taxes (net of refunds)	
Personal Property	\$ 3,478,812
Real Estate	16,823,571
Tax Liens Redeemed	116,629
Tax Foreclosures	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	776,671
Boat Excise	-
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	137,566
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	10,420
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	11,904
Trailer Park Taxes	3,720
Meals Tax	71,469
Total Taxes	21,430,762

State Revenues

State Owned Land	330,057
Abatements to Veterans/Elderly	8,534
Unrestricted Local Aid	1,660,151
Court Fines	1,420
Comm MA Motor Vehicle Infractions	1,468
Other State Revenue	12,885
Veteran's Benefits (State Reimb)	38,279
Total State Revenue	2,052,794

Other

FCTS SRO Reimb	96,862
GMRSD SRO Reimb	90,125
Earnings on Investments	31,329
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,229
Kearsarge Rental	168,455
Premium from Sale of Debt	
Transfers from Other Funds	541,114
Airport Overhead to Town	3,720
CWF Overhead to Town	49,590
Total Other	991,424

Departmental Revenue

Board of Selectmen	27,739
Board of Assessors	4,071
Treasurer/Collector	17,020

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

GENERAL FUND

General Revenue, continued

Town Clerk	26,746
Planning & Conservation	430
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,300
Police	33,825
Dispatch	
Building	115,558
Sealer of Weights & Measures	3,275
Dog Licenses	6,994
Hwy - Trash	310,360
Hwy - Other	10,001
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	994
Board of Health	25,110
Council on Aging - Gill Reimbursement	8,579
Libraries	2,228
Total Departmental Revenue	594,230
Total General Fund Revenue	\$ 25,069,210

AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND

Airport PILOTS	\$ 12,755
Rentals/Leases	174,975
Investment Income	479
Other Fees	13,981
Transfer from CPF (FAA Debt Grant)	66,781
Transfer from General Fund	67,000
Total Airport Enterprise Fund Revenue	\$ 335,971

CWF ENTERPRISE FUND

Tax Liens Redeemed	\$ 8,356
Sewer Liens Redeemed	87,602
Interest & Demands	16,152
Industrial Sewer Fees	448,520
Residential Sewer Fees	1,770,754
Septage Fees	203,374
Trucked-In Solids	10,625
Sewer Permits	545

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
REVENUE DETAIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

CWF ENTERPRISE FUND

CWF Revenue, continued

Investment Income	3
Miscellaneous Receipts	32
Transfer from CWF Cap Stab Fund	130,765
Transfer from General Fund (Tax Share)	<u>266,439</u>
Total WPCF Enterprise Fund Revenue	<u><u>\$ 2,943,167</u></u>

Airport Commission

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, overseen by the Airport Commission, worked on several projects in 2023 totaling over nine hundred thousand dollars. Most notably, the construction kickoff of a 12,000 sq-ft hangar partnership with the Franklin County Technical School, the first step in establishing an aviation maintenance technology vocational trade program. Other notable achievements in 2023 include first steps towards a complete rehabilitation of the pavement and layout of the Pioneer Aviation property. In 2023 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 2023 totaled 44,000 +/-, of which 44% directly related to flight training and another 24% was passenger arrival or departure related. The grant funded solar canopy, located in the administration office parking lot off Millers Falls Road generated 36.91 Mwh of clean, renewable energy, offsetting 30% of electricity consumption airport wide. Our electric vehicle charging stations dispensed 914 kWh of clean energy to users in 2023.

The Pioneer Aviation purchase, completed on April 15th 2021 continues to be beneficial to the airport and the aviation community. Ongoing property repairs in 2023 included exterior painting, electrical system overhaul, fire suppression upgrades, and hazard tree removal. Fuel sales were close to expected levels for the duration of 2023, totaling just over \$79,000. The Jet-A fueling system, which allows for refueling services to be provided to helicopters and some charter operators continues to provide value. Jet-A sales were previously lost to surrounding airports, and generated an additional \$11,000 in annual revenue for 2023.

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. In 2023 the employee in the position continued his professional development by attending various FAA safety seminars. The intern / co-op student position continues to benefit the airport, and is under the supervision of the Operations Manager. The program in its sixth year now has resulted in a drastic reduction to the workload of the Airport Manager. The duties of the Airport Manager have shifted over the last few year 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 solicited proposals in early 2023 for the development of a photovoltaic generation facility to be located on 38 acres of undeveloped landlocked airport property. Two proponents submitted proposals, both of which were reviewed by the commission and one was selected to lease the property to. This proposed project would generate roughly \$242,000 annually for the airport and thousand more in tax revenue for the town of Montague. While the project was financially viable to develop, the interconnection cost with the local utility network proved to be significantly higher that what was expected. This has stopped the project from proceeding until such a time as the utility provider is able to furnish adequate infrastructure for the interconnection. This delay will have a negative effect on the FY24 and FY25 revenues as the airport continues to look at other revenues sources to offset the lost income.

Currently the Turners Falls Municipal Airport is home to 43 aircraft, an increase from 42 based aircraft in 2022. 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. 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 the support as the airport continues to thrive. The entire airport team is looking forward to a successful 2024 as the airport will continue to see the 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

Board of Assessors

Listed below are figures taken from the FY2023 Tax Recapitulation Sheet.

Total Appropriations	\$28,902,773.00
Offsets to Cherry Sheet	22,120.00
State Assessments	93,915.00
Overlay for abatements/exemptions	92,465.11
Court Judgment and Debt Expense	0.00

Total to be Raised **\$29,111,273.11**

Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources

Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$ 1,993,582.20
Local Receipts	1,614,837.00

New Growth: \$ 866,059.00

Taxable Valuation

Real Property	\$975,909,870.00
Personal Property	\$147,232,170.00
Total Taxable Valuation	1,123,142,040.00

Total Exempt Valuation \$173,793,120.00

Total Tax Levy: \$ 20,546,462.71

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Cenzano, Chairman
Ann E. Fisk
Rebecca Sabelawski
Montague Board of Assessors

Board of Health

The 2023 Annual Report of the Montague Board of Health is herewith submitted to the Honorable Select Board and the Citizens of Montague for the calendar year ending December 31, 2023.

The Montague Board of Health would like to dedicate this annual report to the late Anne Stuart. Anne faithfully served the Town of Montague and the Board of Health for well over a decade as an Administrative Assistant and resident of Turners Falls. The Montague Board of Health would like to express deep gratitude for all that Anne has done for our community.

In 2023, the Montague Board of Health experienced a great deal of transition, particularly with respect to staffing. Starting in May, Ryan Paxton was appointed Director of Public Health, marking the end of a protracted vacancy that followed the resignation of former Director, Daniel Wasiuk. This was shortly followed by the announcement that longtime Board of Health Administrative Assistant, Anne Stuart, would be retiring. In addition to these full-time staffing changes, the Board of Health also signed a contract with Montague resident, Brittany Tuttle, RN to receive public health nursing services.

In the office, we continued to meet routine duties including but not limited to septic, housing, wells, burial permitting, complaints, and all the permitting for events and businesses. Additionally, for the fourth year in a row, our department has spent a great deal of time working on matters related to preventing and stopping the transmission of covid-19. This has included efforts related to vaccination, providing rapid testing, and disease surveillance among other interventions.

In addition to these day-to-operations, Director Ryan Paxton committed a concerted effort to modernizing internal processes to ensure that the Board of Health is performing its required duties in a manner that is consistent with all applicable Massachusetts General Laws and Codes of Massachusetts Regulations. Through this work, many of our routine processes have also become more streamlined for the public and more thoroughly ensure the protection of public health.

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. This collaboration made substantive progress in building shared service staffing and support infrastructure that we anticipate will provide an increase of services for the region in 2024. This will directly result in the Town of Montague being able to complete routine Board of Health inspections using a shared inspector, in addition to the other services provided.

Melanie Ames Zamojski MSN, RN serves as Board of Health Chair for Montague. Melanie and her family have lived in Montague for 20 years. Her extensive nursing experience includes nursing at a Regional Trauma Center, local community hospital and most recently she has worked 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 21 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 the President of the Franklin County Fairgrounds located in Greenfield Massachusetts

Ryan Paxton, MPH, RS, Director of Public Health, was appointed in May of 2023. Ryan previously worked for the City of Holyoke as a health agent where he gained extensive experience in all health inspector-related duties. Ryan has a large amount of experience in code enforcement for food safety, housing, lead paint, and other areas of environmental health. During his time in Holyoke, Ryan also had the opportunity to participate in several COVID-19 related research studies and is a published author on several papers resulting from those studies.

Mackenzie Salls, Administrative Assistant. Following the retirement of Anne Stuart in June, the administrative assistant position was filled by Montague Resident, Mackenzie Salls starting in September. Mackenzie quickly became highly effective in her position and was instrumental during our annual permit renewal season.

Kathleen Burek, with over a decade of experience, continues to serve as the Animal Inspector and Barn Inspector. Kathy's knowledge of animals and her commitment to both unique roles are greatly appreciated. Whether preventing the transmission of rabies both amongst people and domestic animals or conducting our annual animal census, Kathy's service to our community has been invaluable.

Director's Report 2023

Beaver trapping permit	6
Burial Permits	41
Complaints	135
Emergency Preparedness Meetings Attended	7
Temporary Food Permits	38
Farmers Market	6
Mobile Food Vendor	4
Total Food Establishment Inspections	
Annual Food Establishment Permits Issued (Brick and mortar)	59
Funeral Director License	2
Hoarding Complaints	2
Perc Tests	10
Pumping/Hauling License	5
Records Searches for Public	5
Residential Kitchen Permits	1
Septic Installers Permits	15
Septic plan review and installation Inspections	17
Tobacco Permits	9
Trailer Park License	2
Trash Hauler Permits	6
Well Permits	6

Burial Permits 2023

	Female	Male	Total
January	2	0	2
February	2	1	3
March	1	3	4
April	1	2	3
May	1	2	3
June	2	0	2
July	1	1	2
August	1	5	6
September	2	0	2
October	4	1	4
November	4	2	6
December	1	2	3
TOTALS	22	19	41

Animal/Barn Inspector Report 2023

Humans bitten by animals 19	Animals with bites of unknown origin 9
Humans bitten by Bats: 0	Bat encounters: 1
Barn Animal Census- 40 Barns, 876 barn animals counted	

Causes of Death 2023

Adult Failure to Thrive	1
Hypocalcemia	1
Acute Intoxication	3
C.O.P.D.	1
Chronic Kidney Disease	1
Motor Vehicle Accident	1
Diastolic Heart Failure	2
Congestive Heart Failure	2
Chronic Alcoholism	1
Ketoacidosis (r/t Type 1 Diabetes)	1
Cardiopulmonary Arrest	5
Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound	2
Prostate Cancer	1
Unknown	1
Cardiac Arrest	3
Self-Inflicted Asphyxia	1
Dementia	1
Probable Myocardial Infarction	1
Systolic Heart Failure	1
Alzheimer's	2
Lung Cancer	1
Renal Failure	1
Multi-Organ Failure	1
Respiratory Arrest	4
Severe Aortic Stenosis	1
Pancreatic Cancer	1

CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 2023

Calicivirus/Norovirus	7
Group A Strep	3
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	5
Influenza	26
Legionellosis	1
Novel Coronavirus	135
Salmonellosis	1

Building Department

The Building Department received a steady flow of permit applications for 2023. The amount of building permits increased from 387 in 2022 to 434 for 2023. There was an increase in plumbing permits from 46 in 2022 to 58 in 2023. Electrical permits increased from 178 in 2022 to 204 in 2023. Home Occupation permits increased with 37 issued in 2023, up from 32 issued in 2022. 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-2023

Building Permits	434	\$72,917.00
Gas Permits	46	\$3,449.00
Plumbing Permits	58	\$9,091.00
Electrical Permits	<u>204</u>	<u>\$29,880.00</u>
Total Construction Permits	742	\$115,337.00
Annual Inspections	35	\$1,400.00
Home Occupation Permits	<u>37</u>	<u>\$515.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>814</u>	<u>\$117,252.00</u>

William Ketchen
Inspector of Buildings

Capital Improvements Committee

The Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) met frequently throughout 2023 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 2023 appears below.

Special Town Meeting March 2, 2023	Recommended
Description	Appropriation
Clean Water Facility Screw Pumps	\$2,500,000
Clean Water Facility Transit Van	\$68,000
Public Works- Pickup with Plow	\$80,000
Public Works- One Ton Dump with Plow	\$100,000
Public Works- Municipal Inspection Vehicle	\$52,500
Colle Roof Replacement	\$230,000

Annual Town Meeting May 6, 2023	Recommended
Description	Appropriation
Clean Water Facility- Rough Terrain Vehicle	\$ 25,000
Clean Water Facility- Septage Receiving Station Upgrade	\$ 264,000
Clean Water Facility- Operations Boiler Replacement	\$ 113,500
Public Works- Vehicles and Equipment	\$ 70,592
Town Hall Carpeting and Flooring Replacement	\$ 25,000
Economic Development and Industrial Corp- Demolish 38 Avenue A	\$ 50,000
Public Works- 11 th Street Bridge Rehabilitation	\$ 100,000

Special Town Meeting October 10, 2023	Recommended
Description	Appropriation
Clean Water Facility-2 Pump Station Generators	\$95,000
Parks and Recreation- Montague Center Playground Reconstruction	\$500,000

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 the backlog of capital projects in Montague, however, the CIC recognizes that there are numerous requests on the horizon. Recently completed facility assessments of the three town-owned library branches and two town-owned elementary schools revealed millions is pending expenses and suggest major building projects may soon be needed. Likewise, the Town sewer and stormwater collection system, the focus of ongoing regulatory oversight and requirements, will also present major capital expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Garrison, Chair, Jason Burbank, Chris Menegoni, Ariel Elan, Lynn Reynolds

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.

Highland Cemetery Improvements

- Highland Woods, the green burial section of the cemetery, was cleared of dead and fallen trees, debris, and the vegetation cut back. A beautiful, meandering woodchip pathway was created throughout the green burial area. The "Path of Reflection" begins at one end of the cemetery and ends at the other end just at the base of the wildflower garden. Visitors walk the path year-round in order to connect with nature in a quiet and meditative environment.
- A forest garden was installed at the entry to Highland Woods. Plants were donated by a Montague business owner.
- Commission members and volunteers continue to map graves sites in Highland Woods.
- A new shed was purchased to house tools, small equipment and a coffin cart.
- A simple coffin cart was built by a Montague resident and was purchased for use in burial services.
- In May, a new entry archway was built and installed by Franklin County Vocational Technical School students.
- Sections of the asphalt pathways were repaired by the DPW.

Maintenance Contract

The town's cemetery mowing contractor retired in June, 2023 after 20 years of service. The increase in mowing and maintenance costs for cemeteries and a need for additional long-overdue maintenance projects required that the Commission request a significant increase in the cemetery budget from \$12,000 to \$30,000. The increase was approved at Annual Town Meeting. A commercial landscaping company was hired through an RFQ process and began work in July, 2023.

A thorough clean-up was conducted at Old South Cemetery in October, 2023, including brush removal from stone walls and cutting back vegetation for ease of mowing and maintenance.

Burials

The Commission coordinated a total of 9 burials in 2023 – seven at Highland Cemetery and two at Old South Cemetery.

Plot sales

Sixteen plots were sold in Highland Woods since opening in May, 2023. Plots in Highland Woods sell for \$700 for Montague residents and \$1,000 for non-residents.

Volunteers

A group of 11 volunteers regularly monitor and clean-up the town cemeteries. The tasks include removing seasonal decorations, removing broken items and/or those scattered about the lawns, cutting back life growth in the fall, keeping the lawns free of fallen and wind-blown debris, and, in general, maintaining attractive and aesthetic spaces to honor our loved ones. The Cemetery Partners Program is made up of volunteers who agree to check their assigned cemeteries monthly and report to the Clean-up Committee.

Administrative

Commission members are transferring burial information from hand written historical books to electronic spreadsheets, documenting the work and activities in an MCC binder, and creating new

processes for efficient flow of paperwork including recording of deeds and financial transactions. This infrastructure work, along with planning for a sustainable management model, took up much time and attention in 2023 and will continue in 2024.

Montague Cemetery Commission members

Judith Lorei
Mary Kay Mattiace
Jo-Ann Prescott

Annabel Levine
Jamie Fuller

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 on a daily basis.

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 0.83 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 screw press installation, and the chlorine conversion project. In doing so, the facility has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars on capital project costs. 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 talents 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 hard work and dedication by the department has been noticed in the wastewater industry, with Superintendent Little receiving the 2023 Water Environment Association's William D. Hatfield Award for outstanding performance and professionalism in the operation of a wastewater treatment 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 two towns fund the Council on Aging and Senior Center proportionately and 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. Ongoing services of the Council on Aging focus on fitness and health, assistance with individual needs, and the provision of social events and programs all with a focus on helping seniors live their best and most independent lives.

This year the COA partnered with LifePath, the Greenfield YMCA, the Franklin County Tech School, Community Action Pioneer Valley, FRCOG, the Greenfield Savings Bank, and the Bernardston Council on Aging to provide various programs and services for Gill and Montague older adults. The COA has also supported the Gill Neighbors volunteer group and the developing Montague Villages “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” group.

The Senior Center offered fifteen hours of fitness instruction weekly comprising chair yoga, outdoor yoga, aerobics, chair aerobics, mat yoga, Zumba, chair dance, and Tai Chi. This was a 50% increase in fitness class hours over FY22. The Senior Center also began a Kitchen Club, a semi-monthly food and nutrition program focused on healthy and easy meal preparation and including semi-monthly blood pressure checks and nutrition classes for participants, both co-sponsored with the YMCA.

The Council on Aging continued its work to ameliorate elder food insecurity by working closely with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (Brown Bag and Mobile Food Pantry), CISA (Senior Farm Share), and Lifepath (Farmers’ Market coupons). The Senior Center also accepted and distributed food donations from TRIAD, Bobby C., and various local farmers.

The COA provided foot care clinics (Foot Care by Nurses), income tax return preparation (AARP Tax-Aide), firewood allotments (Montague Wood Bank), assistance with LIHEAP and SNAP applications. The Senior Center hosted three well-attended vaccination clinics and helped residents register for vaccination clinics online throughout the year.

With the support of FRCOG, The Council on Aging participated in and completed requirements for the Massachusetts “Mass in Motion” program and in cooperation with LifePath, became an identified “Age Friendly” community.

Approximately 450 older community members visit the Senior Center annually either to attend programs and classes, to socialize, or to get specific assistance or referrals. The COA helped this year with safety related home repair services, heating emergencies, housing issues, medical care access and transportation, scam prevention, and elder abuse reports. The COA director and volunteer staff regularly assisted older community members with internet searches, benefit registrations, accessing 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 digitally available only services.

Regularly scheduled social programs at the Senior Center included bingo, card games, knitting groups, pot luck lunches, pizza parties, ice cream socials, live performances, and daily drop in time with coffee, snacks, and newspapers. Several educational lectures on historical and nature related topics were held .

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 out at the Senior Center and especially for the volunteer receptionists who manage the Senior Center so well.

Cultural Council

The aim of the Montague Cultural Council is to increase the cultural vitality of our town by supporting activities that enrich the lives of residents of its five villages: Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, and Lake Pleasant. We are part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. Montague’s cultural councilors are volunteers, appointed by the Select board for a 3-year term. Through its Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program, the Mass Cultural Council allocates funding to each LCC, and the LCCs distribute those funds in the form of grants for cultural programs.

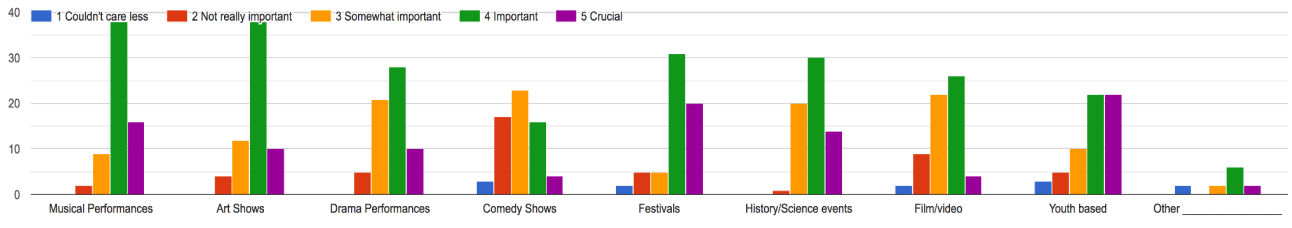
The amount of funding each municipality receives is based on its population; Montague is classified in the lowest funding tier. We received 40 applications for grant funding in FY24 and had \$16,146 to distribute. The funding increase from FY2023 was made possible by additional municipal funding from ARPA monies allocated for FY24 and FY25. The goal of the committee is to use this funding to demonstrate the impact that additional funding has on both the success of the arts and viability of cultural events. In December, we voted to award grants to 37 applicants, an increase of 92% of projects funded over FY23’s 41.6%. Grants ranged in size from \$100-\$1500 and were awarded to many worthwhile projects:

#	Applicant	\$16,146
1	Antenna Cloud Farm	1500
2	Bernhard, Amanda	931
3	Brown, Wes	500
4	Cambium Community Arts	400
5	Eggtooth Productions, Inc.	1000
6	Elkus, Eli	200
7	Escamilla, Marshall	100
8	Ferguson, Carrie	300
9	Franklin County Pride, Inc.	500
10	Goldscheider, Tom	300
12	Hott, Alexis	500
13	Human Agenda Theater	350
15	Kotel, Amy	400
18	Mankita, Jay	600
19	McEwen, Christian	375
20	Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Inc.	800
21	Montague Community Band	300
22	Neill, David	300
23	Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.	200

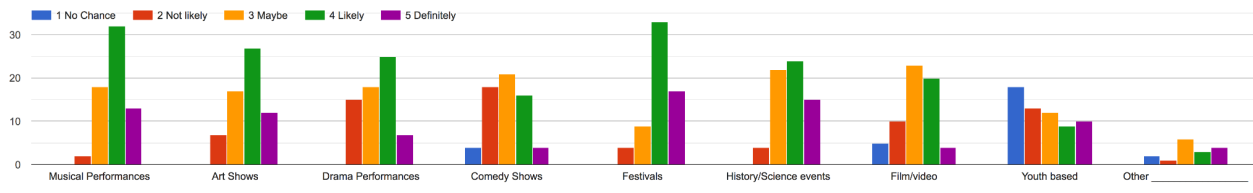
24	Piti Theatre Company	500
26	Real Live Theatre	1000
28	Shea Theater Arts Center, Inc.	1500
31	The Brick House Community Resource Center, Inc.	840
32	The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	500
33	The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	250
34	The Performance Project, Inc.	700
35	Tincknell, Roger L.	300
37	Wait, Casey	1000

Additionally, the Council conducted a survey for arts and arts programming which received 67 responses and whose results are as follows:

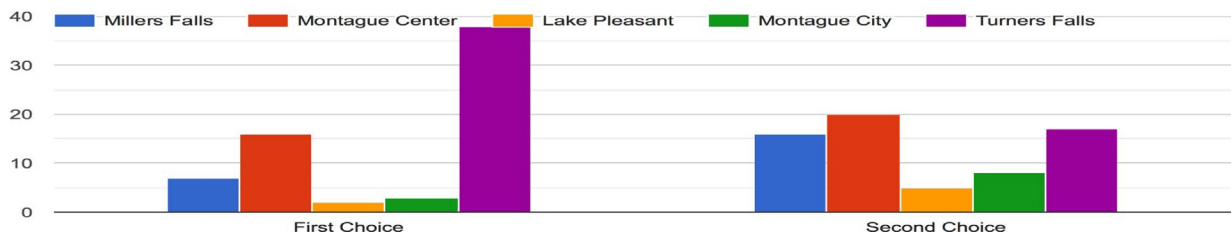
Please rate on a scale of 1-5, 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest, which type of programs you would like to see funded by the Montague Cultural Council.



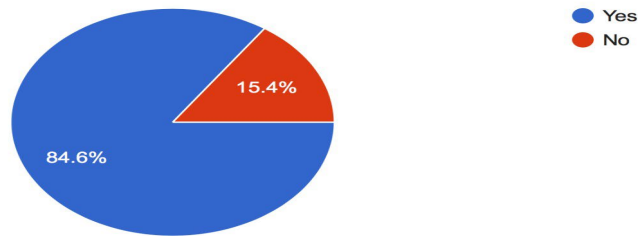
On a scale of 1-5, please rate how likely you are to attend the following kinds of programming:



The Town of Montague consists of 5 villages, each with their unique personalities. Turners Falls is the largest village and sees more cultural event...would you like to see more programming or events?



The Town of Montague is a diverse community with a large immigrant community, growing Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) population. Funding to those who identify as BIPOC or LGTQIA?
65 responses



The application window for FY24 grants through the Local Cultural Council program was opened in Sept and ending in October. We held video/phone/in-person meetings and met in November and December to decide who would receive this year's funding awards. Please visit <https://www.mass-culture.org/montague> for details on the awards for the current grant cycle.

The committee aligns itself with the priorities of the Mass Cultural Council and local community by prioritizing programs which emphasize cultural/racial equity, social equity and inclusion in their content and/or as underrepresented creators. We work with applicants to understand how to meet the requirement that their events are physically accessible. We will continue to encourage and support applicants to make their projects and events inclusive and relevant to the Montague community.

We look forward to continued collaboration with Suzanne LoManto of RiverCulture to publicize events, support artists and extend our reach throughout the five villages. As always, all are welcome to attend the cultural council meetings, and we encourage Montague citizens from all five villages to join the committee and help shape the direction of the town's cultural programming. We hope to see you at some of Montague's many cultural events this year! Council meeting times can be found on the town calendar at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/> and information about upcoming events can be found there, as well as on our facebook page and the Riverculture web page.

Cultural Council: Kathleen Lynch, Chair; James Musoni, Vice Chair; Maggie Martin, Treasurer/Secretary; Members: Deb Frenkel, Jasper Adams

Department of Public Works

With winter's not being as hard on us in the past the trucks seem to get plenty of rest thru the winter, don't get me wrong we still do plenty of sanding/salting. The DPW has pretty much switched to an all-road salt attack on winter with the hills such the Taylors and Chestnut Hill Loop area still getting sanded. With the use of more salt, we find that street sweeping is much easier and faster, it also helps the wear and tear on the sweeper, last year the sweepers were done sweeping weeks ahead of schedule.

We again received our usual amount of chapter 90 of \$480,000 although we received a big boost from the millionaire's tax which gave us another \$280,000, we received during the winter, the ground never froze so we used this funding to have \$180,000 to replace guardrails throughout town.

The DPW did one very large paving project with the Chapter 90 funds and that was pave Wendall Road from the intersection of Mormon Hollow Rd. to the top of the hill at the Wendell town line.

Among other small projects the DPW did was stayed on schedule with sewer line cleaning and did several sidewalk replacements. We also repaved Ellis Rd and Richardson Rd. Two roads that chapter funds cannot be used on.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Montague DPW and their families for all their time and loyalty to their job.

Respectfully

Tom Bergeron
Superintendent DPW

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 via hazard mitigation as well as preparation and response planning done in partnership with other Towns, Cities and County agencies, regional and state level partners, non-profit entities, schools, and the private sector.

As we move beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic it seems it will be here for a long time to come. So again I ask you to be safe and cautious but enjoy your life.

We have seen some severe rain storms this past year that caused flooding in areas that don't normally flood. I would like to provide you with some safety tips.

What are Floods?

Flooding is an overflow of water that can range from a few inches deep to fully submerging entire buildings. Flooding can occur when rivers and lakes cannot contain the excessive rain or snow melt, or when rain cannot be absorbed fully into the ground. Flooding can also occur when waterways overflow due to debris or ice, when winds from tropical storms or hurricanes cause storm surge in coastal areas, or when water containment system (such as levees, dams, pipes) break.

Why Prepare?

Flooding is the most common hazard in Massachusetts. Some floods develop slowly, while flash floods can occur in minutes or hours after a storm or containment system break.

Flood Safety Tips:

- **Be Informed** by receiving alerts, warnings, and public safety information before, during, and after emergencies.
- **Prepare your home.** Are you in a flood prone or high risk area? Create a family emergency plan. Make a record of your personal property by taking photos or videos of your belongings. Store these records in a safe place. Flood Insurance is available in most communities.
- **Be alert** to changing weather conditions.
- **Follow Instructions** given by Public Safety Officials
- **Stay away** from fast moving water, downed power lines. Electrocutation is a serious danger in flood as electrical currents can travel through water.

These are only a few tips. For more Information you can go to www.mass.gov

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

Energy Committee

- The Montague Energy Committee discussed with Assistant Town Administrator, Walter Ramsey, incorporating energy-saving municipal projects into the 6-Year Capital Plan that he has begun to develop, including heating and cooling upgrades from fossil fuels to heat pumps/mini splits, which would also require upgrades to building weatherization and ventilation. Walter recommended that MEC proposes potential capital improvement projects.
- Together with the Solar Planning Committee, formed to help facilitate solar planning with UMass Clean Energy Extension (CEE), MEC worked with CEE faculty to follow up on CEE's development of a draft *Community Solar Action Plan for the Town of Montague* and on their draft *Solar Resource & Infrastructure Assessment for the Town of Montague*, continuing to help finalize those documents and starting a plan for engaging the town in using them as resources for planning for solar across our community.
 - In collaboration with the Solar Planning Committee, MEC members helped distribute and provide outreach for UMass CEE's solar survey of town residents.
 - Met twice with the Planning Board and Town Planner to summarize and discuss ideas on solar planning presented in the draft *Action Plan*.
 - Developed a short summary of the draft *Action Plan* as an introduction to the resources and ideas presented in this extensive document.
 - Began planning for a meeting or meetings to introduce the draft *Action Plan* to the town and community and explore next steps.
- With the select board's interest in using a portion of the town's American Rescue Plan Act funds for solar on municipal buildings, a member of both the Solar Planning and Energy Committee requested and received initial proposals from an installer for solar on two municipal buildings.
 - The town moved ahead with planning for 75 kilowatts of solar to be installed on the Town Hall Annex roof, tapping the \$205,000 of ARPA funds set aside for this project.
- Kept current on town matters that might be within MEC's purview by MEC members also serving on the Capital Improvements Committee.
- Researched the concept of transitioning to biodiesel, from the local Northeast Biodiesel plant, for heating town buildings using oil & for town trucks that use diesel. Decided that it was premature to further explore this lower climate impact option given that Northeast Biodiesel was not yet distributing biodiesel and did not have plans in place for blending biodiesel with regular diesel, which may be necessary for biodiesel to work in trucks in the winter.
- The Sheffield/Hillcrest school facilities manager informed a MEC member that there are no time controls on Hillcrest and Sheffield's building ventilation systems, and that he would be happy if grant funds were allocated for ventilation controls. The cost may be limited to time clocks and installation.

- *MEC held several discussions with Chelsey Little*, Superintendent of Montague's Clean Water Facility (CWF) when she requested input from the committee on energy-saving projects:
 - Discussed goal to replace a truck for the facility with a fully electric transit van and considerations such as charging and range needs. The van was delivered in June.
 - Helped her to explore the concept of installing a new mini hydroelectric system at the CWF and to find informational resources and tools on these systems. Chelsea did extensive research on current options and on a previous hydroelectric system at the CWF, leading her to apply for a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant for a feasibility study for hydroelectric.
 - Provided input on more energy efficient heating and ventilation options.
- Discussed the new solar incentive for towns, offered by the federal Inflation Reduction Act, which now allows entities that do not pay federal taxes to access 30% direct payments on the cost of solar in lieu of 30% tax credits.
- Continued to discuss and propose to the town priority energy-saving projects for Green Communities grants.
 - Recommended that the town apply for a Green Communities grant to cover the cost of installing new LED streetlights in Montague Center and assisted the Montague Center Lighting District (MCLD) in obtaining the technical information needed for MCLD to complete the grant proposal in collaboration with Walter Ramsey.
- At its December meeting, the committee agreed to explore working with the Gill Energy Commission to encourage the Gill-Montague School Committee to pursue applying for the Mass Clean Energy Center's Building Electrification & Transformation Accelerator pilot program. The pilot program can develop detailed, step-by-step decarbonization plans for school buildings.

Finance Committee

This year marked the first time our Finance Committee utilized the Town's newly updated financial policies and guidance during the budget process; these policies were adopted in November 2022 and revised in January 2023. We undertook a comprehensive review, receiving detailed narrative budgets from each municipal department. We held joint sessions with the Selectboard and Capital Improvement Committee to meticulously examine departmental operating and capital budget requests and any special article requests for the upcoming fiscal year. Department heads, boards, representatives from the Gill-Montague Regional School District, Franklin County Technical School, and the Capital Improvement Committee were invited to attend and provide supplemental information and insights to address our inquiries directly. This thorough investigation enabled us to evaluate funding needs through the lens of our new financial management policies.

One of our key tasks this year was to evaluate all stipends and our process for setting the cost, accounting for changes in position requirements, and adjusting for inflation. The current process had a review cycle of five years, which is long. The stipends will now be reviewed every three years. It is reasonable to provide modest stipends for board positions and additional duties beyond the main job description, with amounts adjusted for inflation periodically. Stipends for work like inspections should adequately compensate employees for time and travel costs. Providing fair compensation for extra roles helps attract qualified applicants and board members. Token payments to board members offset personal costs, enabling residents to participate in governance. All stipends should be rounded dollar amounts, with any monthly stipends evenly divisible by 12. Recently increased stipends, such as for the Moderator, Board of Registrars, Farmers Market Manager, and Hearing Officer roles, did not require immediate adjustment.

The Finance Committee views with deep concern the ongoing issue our school district is suffering due to the instability of funding based on the Chapter 70 system. A robust public education system is vital to the future success of our community and its children. We recognize that insufficient resources can severely hamper the district's ability to provide a quality learning environment, attract and retain talented educators, maintain facilities, and offer a comprehensive curriculum. It is a top priority for our committee to work hand-in-hand with school administrators and officials to gain a thorough understanding of the district's budgetary needs. We are committed to collaborating to identify opportunities to bolster funding support. Ensuring our schools have the resources to excel is important to us.

Our committee also shares concerns regarding the aging infrastructure and hazardous conditions currently facing our town's clean water facility enterprise fund. We highly support working collaboratively to identify the best strategic solutions to address these issues without generating further burdensome costs for our citizens. Superintendent Little has provided knowledgeable and prudent recommendations for remedying the many budgetary needs, proposing short-term stopgaps and long-range plans. With the superintendent's guidance, we are committed to thoughtfully examining all options to resolve and upgrade systems effectively while upholding our fiscal responsibility to the town.

This year, the airport enterprise fund has encountered an unanticipated revenue shortfall, and we hear loud and clear the town's aspiration for this enterprise to achieve self-sufficiency. Although we previously supported a favorable recommendation for funding support at the special town meeting, we continue to actively participate in efforts to enhance accountability and learn from strategic approaches to mitigate these funding challenges to bring greater sustainability. We are eager to

join the economic development initiatives focused on reducing fossil fuel usage and aligning the airport's operations with this environmentally conscious approach. By thinking progressively about diminishing the airport's carbon footprint, new economic opportunities might surface to reinforce its financial viability while serving the community's values.

As we approach the new fiscal year, the town will be undergoing a transition in leadership at the town hall. The Finance Committee is excited to play a collaborative role in ensuring this change in administration occurs seamlessly. Transitions like this are opportunities to reaffirm our commitment to the citizens we serve. A top priority for our committee will be finding new and improved ways to engage with residents more directly. We want to continue cultivating open lines of opportunities for communication to raise awareness about our work and the rationale behind the recommendations we provide. Transparency remains paramount, and we will pursue avenues to share our thought processes and fiscal guidance with the public more comprehensively. We aim to make opportunities for citizen input and discourse an integral piece of how we operate and arrive at our budgetary determinations going forward.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen for lending her expertise and financial wisdom throughout this past year. Her guidance has been invaluable. We also thank Town Administrator Steve Ellis for his many years of supportive leadership, acting as a liaison, and sharing vital information during our meeting sessions. This collaborative approach enables us to make fully informed recommendations. Finally, we want to recognize our esteemed colleague Greg Garrison, whose term on the committee is ending. Greg's participation over many years provided a fundamental business perspective and thorough understanding of capital improvement approaches that were critical assets to our work. We are thankful for his dedicated service to thoughtfully representing the community's interests. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Francia Wisnewski (Chair), Dorinda Bell-Upp (CO-Chair) Fred Bowman (Clerk), Greg Garrison, John Hanold, Chris Menegoni, and Jennifer Waryas.

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, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2023 shows that it was almost identical to 2022 recycling tonnage. District residents recycled just over 2,500 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 2023. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield highway garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 500 households and collected over 45 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2023 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 360 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 \$107,100 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

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

FY25 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2023-24 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. As a reminder, the FY25 budget represents October 1, 2023 enrollment count, which is always a year behind the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment of 568 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	30	Erving	27	Montague	74	Sunderland	9
Buckland	18	Gill	13	New Salem	14	Warwick	5
Colrain	23	Greenfield	132	Northfield	40	Wendell	8
Conway	7	Heath	11	Orange	90	Whately	18
Deerfield	35	Leyden	4	Shelburne	10		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 123 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2023. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their 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 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023 FCTS has approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased courses 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 increased enrollment and 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 Technician program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15.

Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45-minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS is in the final process of completing a new 4800 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The new building is located on Industrial Blvd next to FCTS. The facility is planning to open in the spring of 2024 and will be used for the FCTS Veterinary program and provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program is slated to start during the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials to be certified as an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2 million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000 sq. ft. aviation hangar with no additional assessment to towns. The FCTS hangar will be located along the boundary line between FCTS and the Turners Falls Airport. The facility will include; 1 twin engine airplane, 2 single engine airplanes, 1 glider, and 1 helicopter as well as FAA machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA to start a new program. FCTS is planning to become one of the few high schools in the United States to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students graduating from the program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training to sit for the FAA license test and be on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and is one of the few remaining regional vocational schools in Massachusetts without a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded facility. In late 2022, FCTS was invited into the MSBA eligibility phase of the process, which will conclude in May of 2024. At this time, the MSBA will make a determination if FCTS will enter into the Feasibility Study phase of the program. The Feasibility Study will take several years to complete and will include a design phase which will determine anticipated costs of a potential project. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to go out to bond with member towns. At the conclusion of the Feasibility Study, the MSBA and FCTS will determine if it is “feasible” to go out to our member towns to build a new facility, renovate, or seek other alternatives.

Franklin County Technical School’s technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in grants over the last 6 years without using tax dollars from member communities. 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 an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines. Through the highly competitive skills grant FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to be used to develop technical skills towards certification. FCTS will partner with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab as an opportunity to help inmates acquire advanced technical skills which can lead to employment upon release.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million-dollar multi-year grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth’s Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant and plans to explore more programs for 2024. FCTS also started its own Electrical adult program and plans to add more in the near future. To accomplish these goals and to meet industry and community needs, FCTS has hired a full-time adult coordinator.

Franklin County Tech’s Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the

community. The current construction continues on the house on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Beyond the Greenfield house project, the Carpentry program constructed a new storage shed for the Town of Charlemont Federated Church, is constructing a pavilion for the Town of Shelburne Falls, and built a related classroom for our Automotive Tech program.

The Landscaping and Horticulture department worked with the Town of Shelburne Falls in the consultation and design of a pocket park, Source to Sea annual cleanup, Franklin County Fairgrounds tree planting, beautification design projects and fence repair, made wreaths for the Conway covered bridge, worked at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery for fall cleanup, consulted and designed the Veteran's Memorial in Pelham, the Peskeompskut Park signage in Turners Falls, and planted trees for the towns on South Deerfield and Turners Falls. In Montague LH is working with the Montague Planning Department on the Millers trail modification.

The Programming and Web Design students worked with the Montague Senior Center and will be providing Tech Support beginning in December of 2023. The program also helped to develop a website for the UCC Church in Conway and a senior student is working with the First Congregational Church in Ashfield and coordinates the video and audio for online services.

The Electrical department continues working with the Town of Heath, retro fitting new parking and office lights at the town hall. Additionally, there is ongoing work at the office of the Turners Falls Airport, the support of the wiring for the newly constructed Vet Science building on campus and the automotive technology related classroom, installation of securing cameras in the welding department, and supporting the FCTS NIS department.

The Advanced Manufacturing program collaborated with our welding and carpentry shop on the design and construction of the Towns of Deerfield and Northfield 350th time capsules. Currently the students are manufacturing rollers for the horticulture program for the striping of the athletic fields in addition to assisting with making replacement parts for the automotive and horticulture departments, and they have worked with carpentry to operate the CNC router with a MasterCam program.

The Culinary Arts program did a crepe presentation for the Northfield Senior Center, and will provided a holiday luncheon in December for the Montague Housing Authority. They will serve the Erving Lady's Red Hat Society for a Valentine's Day luncheon, have created ice carvings for the Annual Winter Festival in Greenfield, hosted the Annual Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, the School Resource Officer's Breakfast, the Superintendent's Award Dinner, the Light Up The Fairgrounds Breakfast, the Annual National Honor Society's luncheon, . Also provided food and baked items for the Annual FCTS Car Show and Little Drummer Craft Fair.

The Welding department repaired the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls, have created an air conditioner unit cover for the Town of Warwick, a bench to be located at the French King Bridge in Erving, engine stands for the Aviation program scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024, brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage, worked on the recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair and they are in discussion with the High Street Cemetery in Greenfield to restore their gates.

The Health Technology program has run public blood pressure clinics, a nail clinic at the Erving Senior Center, volunteered at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield, collected items for a Hygiene Drive, work with the Ja'Duke Preschool observing child development and the creation of activities, and helped to serve holiday meals at the Stone Soup Café in Greenfield.

The Cosmetology program continues to provide services for residents of the Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center.

The Veterinary Science program ran a pet food and toy drive for local shelters, and has volunteered at the Dakin Humane Society. Services will expand to the public once the program occupies the new building.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which 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 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, Cooperative Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Inspection, and Town Accounting – 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 assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

The following pages list services specific to Montague.

Climate Resilience, Land Use, and Housing

- Assisted with completion of the visioning and goal-setting phase for development of Montague Comprehensive Plan. For phase 2, developed technical memos and chapters for the climate & energy, housing, and transportation elements of the plan for Town staff and steering group review.
- Assisted with the first steps for Montague Municipal Vulnerability Plan pilot process.
- Held a workshop for communities involved in the Regional Pollinator Action Plan, including Montague, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding pollinator habitat in their towns.
- Provided technical assistance related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects, resulting in a signed recreation settlement agreement. The process continues into 2024.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted in to the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that info to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.
- Organized and facilitated the Small Town Housing Working Group, which met 6 times in 2023, including once in downtown Turners Falls. Several Montague representative attended at least one meeting, joining reps from 15 other Franklin County towns, 3 other municipalities, and several organizations.
- 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.
- As part of a 6-town Complete Neighborhoods "Greenfield Area" grant project, FRCOG worked on a zoning analysis of the area, to draft recommendations for increasing housing diversity.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) administrators on results from 81 G-M students, representing 59% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Staff reported to Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) administrators on results from 248 FCTS students representing 86% of the 10th and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided funding to Montague Catholic Social Ministries to support their after-school leadership and STEM program for low income and immigrant young women and girls.
- Provided 17 Montague children with summer camp scholarships through a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.

Community Health, continued

- Worked with GMRSD administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the GMRSD.
- Supported Montague Mass in Motion Age-friendly workgroup on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. Mass in Motion funding supported a Montague resident to coordinate the workgroup and facilitate the age-friendly identification of needs and potential strategies. The group produced a report, which the town leveraged to apply for and receive funding for digital literacy for older adults.
- Provided training/stipends to parent leaders — “PEER Ambassadors” — for outreach to other parents on topics such as positive parenting, youth substance use prevention, and mental health resources.
- Provided outreach materials to cannabis businesses that focus on safeguarding children and pets from cannabis exposure by emphasizing safe storage, plus other tips and resources.
- Supported the Montague Board of Health with marketing and outreach for mobile vaccine vendor clinics held at town hall and the elementary and high schools.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Worked with town officials to recruit residents to fill out the Massachusetts Community Health Survey, to better understand local needs and encourage state investment in improving health outcomes.
- Provided a CHIP grant to Atlas Farm to bring a mobile farmers market bus to Millers Falls.

Economic Development

- Supported access to the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Targeted Brownfields Assessment program to assess two town-owned sites.
- Supported municipal and Turners Falls business community engagement with the consultants conducting the Rural Downtown District Management Study, as funded by a state grant to FRCOG.
- Provided assistance for the town’s application for local digital equity planning services from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and began working on the Montague Digital Equity Plan.
- Participated in meetings of local and state representatives working on Strathmore Mill property.
- Provided technical assistance on historic preservation related planning.

Shared Municipal Services

- Montague contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, fire alarm and fire extinguisher services, dog tags and licenses, and water treatment chemicals. Staff facilitated a bid for installation of a generator at the water pollution control facility, and conducted a collective 5-year bid for student transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Montague public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Public Health & Community Awareness

Age & Dementia-Friendly Community Talk — 6 Health Workforce Performance Standards — 1

Mass in Motion Community Engagement — 3 State Tobacco Updates — 1

Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia — 5 USDA Rural Development Grant Info Session — 1

Emergency Prep & Homeland Security

Child Emergency Assessment & Stabilization — 2 K-9 Life Support Certification — 14

Assault and Battery Response — 3

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

One-Stop Municipal Grants Info Session — 2

Transportation

- Assisted the town with implementation of project funded through the MA Shared Streets and Spaces Program to improve the bus stop at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Participated in the Northern Tier Rail study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Conducted 12 traffic counts, including pedestrian counts on Montague City Road at the Farren site, intersection turning movement counts on Turnpike Road at the Sandy Lane intersection, and pedestrian and bicycle counts on the Canalside trail near Depot Street.
- Completed a summary report for an electric vehicle station survey in the town of Montague.
- Provided assistance to facilitate the Route 2 Task Force.
- Completed a data request for a Montague-based business.

Gill-Montague Regional School District

Superintendent's Report

The Gill-Montague Regional School District's vision is to be **"A community that empowers every student for continuous learning, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment"**. Examining instructional data from across all schools, consulting with district staff, students, and families, as we are examining research related to pandemic learning loss, the District Administrative Team developed a 3-year long-term strategic plan. The research foundation for our approach to post-pandemic improvement strategy has been the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's *Acceleration Roadmap*, which can be found through the following link: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/roadmap/>. We are continuing the third and final year of implementation, currently. In order for our students to recover from lost learning opportunities, we are committing to the following priorities in the development and implementation of the district and school-based annual strategic plans: foster a sense of belonging and partnership among students and families; continuously monitor students' understanding; ensure strong grade-appropriate instruction, with scaffolding to provide access to new content and skills. What follows are the long-term strategic goals.

Strategic Plan Goals:

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT- Our schools will welcome and engage families as active partners to support the academic and social-emotional development of students.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT- Staff will welcome and engage students as active partners in their learning, who take pride in their efforts, and make positive contributions to the school.

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT- Educators will regularly monitor the impact of instruction on student learning and will make adjustments to maximize student growth and achievement.

GRADE-APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION - Educators will deliver grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning.

INCLUSION & EQUITY- Educators commit to creating an inclusive and equitable school environment that provides relevant and accessible educational opportunities, embodies social justice practices, and affirms all students' cultures and identities.

Student Enrollment:

Total student enrollment has gone from 976 in 2017 to 863 in 2023. The distribution of student enrollment across the district in the fall of 2022 was as follows:

Gill Elementary (Grades K-6)	105
Hillcrest Elementary (Grades Pre K-1)	146
Sheffield Elementary (Grades 2-5)	211
Great Falls Middle School (Grades 6-8)	207
Turners Falls High School (Grades 9-12)	194

Finances:

In May, 2022, the citizens of Montague, and in June, 2022, the citizens of Gill, showed their support for the district with their approval of a FY23 Budget that reflected a 3.29% increase in local assessments from the prior year. The general fund budget for FY23 was \$ 22,985,805, a 6.4% increase from the FY22 budget of \$21,597,185.

.Gill-Montague Regional School District – General Fund
Statement of Revenues & Other Sources, & Expenditures & Other Uses – Budget & Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022 (Unaudited)

FY22	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive/(Negative)
Revenues and Other Sources:				
Assessments to member towns	12,675,489	12,675,489	12,675,489	-
Tuition	1,150,000	1,150,000	976,812	(173,188)
Intergovernmental	7,561,696	7,561,696	7,813,389	251,693
Investment Income	7,000	7,000	6,886	(114)
Miscellaneous	-	-	46,241	46,241
Other Sources	203,000	203,000	212,020	9,020
		-		
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$21,597,185	\$21,597,185	\$21,730,837	\$ 133,652
			\$ 133,652	
Expenditures and Other Uses:				
Administration	660,087	683,321	676,788	6,533
Instruction	9,813,941	9,809,410	9,519,230	290,180
Other School Services	1,353,716	1,354,716	1,327,663	27,053
Operation and maintenance	1,929,520	1,940,270	1,887,813	52,457
Fixed charges benefits	4,759,542	4,712,389	4,593,788	118,601
Community Services	26,082	26,082	24,822	1,260
Capital Equipment	-	16,700	-	16,700
Debt Service	190,368	190,368	190,368	-
Special education tuitions	120,298	120,298	66,016	54,282
School choice/charter	2,743,631	2,743,631	2,880,156	(136,525)
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$21,597,185	\$21,597,185	\$21,166,645	\$ 430,540
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditure and othe				\$ 564,192

The surplus in funds at the end of FY22 are a continued reflection of the pandemic. Between the struggle to fill vacant positions and the short-term funds made available since the pandemic, we have a surplus in the instructional and benefits accounts. We were also able to keep a couple of Special Education Out of District Students In-District, resulting in a savings in the Special Education tuitions line.

**Gill Elementary School
2022-2023**

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2022-2023 progress at Gill Elementary School.

Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Gill Elementary School during the 2022 - 2023 school year may be found below:

- Gill Elementary School served grades K-gr 6 with 1 class per grade.
- There were 105 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
 - African American 1.0%
 - Asian 0%
 - Hispanic 4.8%
 - Native American 0%
 - White 88.6%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
 - Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 5.7%

Overview of School Improvement Goals 2022-2023

Goal 1 Growth and Achievement

Initiative A: Literacy data meetings will be held three times a year to review student literacy data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.

Initiative B: Math data meetings will be held three times a year to review student math data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.

Initiative C: Educators will meet in grade level teams to review the implementation of Wit & Wisdom curriculum, make adjustments to ensure access for all students, and monitor student progress on Wit & Wisdom assessments.

Initiative D: The SST process used by the school will be revitalized through the use of new documentation and format in order to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students.

Goal 2 Student Engagement

Initiative A: Student work and projects will be showcased using venues such as bulletin boards and display cases throughout the school as well as venues outside the school.

Initiative B: Students will be given various opportunities to share their thoughts and demonstrate their learning to their peers, teachers, and family.

Initiative C: Create a virtual Morning Meeting for a daily gathering of the school where birthdays, announcements, and student learning is highlighted.

Goal 3 Family Engagement

Initiative A: Staff will introduce families to classroom expectations, curriculum, and programs through newsletters, phone calls, emails, and other means.

Initiative B: Classroom contact booklets will be made for each class so that families can connect and support each other.

Initiative C: Staff will contribute on a rotating basis to the monthly newsletter so that learning, staff, and students are recognized regularly.

Goal 4 Inclusion and Equity

Initiative A: Counselors and staff will utilize diverse literature consistently throughout the year to explore and discuss topics that impact students and incorporate Teaching Tolerance Standards. Titles will focus on a range of issues to promote social justice and social-emotional growth.

Initiative B: In the Spring of 2023, re-administer the school climate survey for school staff and families given Spring 2022 and compare the results.

Initiative C: Staff will engage in safe and respectful meetings to engage in productive dialogue regarding issues of equity, effectively implementing instruction and engaging students in developmentally appropriate dialogue about race, culture, and equity.

Goal 5 Grade-Appropriate Instruction

Initiative A: Develop and implement a consistent and uniform SST process to identify students who need academic support and to engage the reading, math,

Initiative B: Continue to implement the second year of the literacy program, Wit and Wisdom for grades K-6.

Initiative C: Coordinate the sixth-grade math program offered at GES with the sixth-grade math program at GFMS so students are able to transition to grade 7 at GFMS.

Hillcrest Elementary School 2022-2023

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2022-2023 progress at Hillcrest Elementary School.

Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Hillcrest Elementary School during the 2022-2023 school year may be found below:

- Hillcrest Elementary School served grades PK, K & 1 with 3 preschool classes, 3 kindergarten classes, 3 first grade classes, a Therapeutic Special Education Classroom and a Special Education Classroom serving students with Autism Spectrum Disorder & Developmental Delay.
- There were 146 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
 - African American 0%
 - Asian 0.7%
 - Hispanic 16.4%
 - Native American 0.7%
 - White 74.7%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
 - Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 7.5%
- 62.3% of the students were categorized as Low Income
- English Language Learners made up 12.3 % of our student population
- 33.6% of our students were Students with Disabilities
- 69.9% of our students were categorized as High Needs

Overview of School Improvement Goals 2022-2023

Goal 1 Family Engagement:

Initiative A: Re-establish monthly All School Meetings beginning in October 2022.

Initiative B: Each grade level will host at least one classroom-based event for students' families featuring opportunities for students to share their learning.

Initiative C: Hillcrest will host a Family Math Night featuring the Bridges Program and Math Recovery and a Family Literacy Night featuring Wit & Wisdom, Foundations, Heggerty and the Diverse Books Family Lending Library.

Goal 2 Student Engagement:

Initiative A: Hillcrest classrooms will engage in key Responsive Classrooms practices each day. These will include Morning Meeting, Quiet Time and Closing Meeting.

Initiative B: All Hillcrest students will have the opportunity to present their learning at an All School Meeting.

Goal 3 Growth & Achievement:

Initiative A: Kindergarten and first grade educators will collect ongoing mathematics data for all of their students using the AVMR Screener, the Number Corner Assessment and iReady Math at three established data collection points during the 2023-2034 school year (October, January & June). The data from these assessments will be the focus of Math Data Meetings in October 2023 and January 2024.

Initiative B: Kindergarten and first grade educators will collect ongoing literacy data for all of their students using the DIBELS and the Heggerty Assessment three established data collection points during the 2023-2034 school year (September, January and May). The data from these assessments will be the focus of Literacy Data Meetings in October 2023, January 2024 and April 2024).

Initiative C: Preschool educators will collect literacy data using the Heggerty Assessment in October 2023, January 2024 and May 2024, mathematics data using the Bridges Interview Assessment in November 2023 and April 2024 and overall developmental data using the ESI-P screener in October 2023. Review of data will take place at Preschool Team Meetings in November 2023 and April 2024.

Goal 4 Grade Appropriate Instruction:

Initiative A: Develop and implement a consistent and uniform SST process.

Initiative B: Continued implementation of Ready Bodies, Learning Minds in the preschool classrooms and introduction to Ready Bodies, Learning Minds in the kindergarten classrooms.

Initiative C: Continued implementation of Wit & Wisdom and Geodes in Kindergarten and First Grade.

Goal 5 Inclusion & Equity:

Initiative A: A team of Hillcrest educators will contribute to the selection of an SEL curriculum that will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year.

Initiative B: Hillcrest educators will teach lessons focused on SEL on each of the 16 early release days.

Initiative C: Hillcrest staff members will establish monthly opportunities for families to access the Diverse Books Family Lending Library.

Sheffield Elementary School 2022-2023

We are pleased to present you with the School Annual Report, which provides key information about the 2022-2023 progress at Sheffield Elementary School.

Student Data

Statistics describing the student population served by Sheffield Elementary School during the 2022-2023 school year may be found below:

- Sheffield Elementary School served grades 2-5 with 3-2nd grade classrooms, 3-3rd grade classrooms, 3-4th grade classrooms, 3-5th grade classrooms, 1-Therapeutic Special Education Classroom and 1-Special Education Classroom serving students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- There were 211 students enrolled during the school year.
- Our student population included the following racial/ethnic groups:
 - African American 3.3%
 - Asian 0.5%
 - Hispanic 19.4%
 - Native American 0%
 - White 72%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
 - Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic 4.7%
- 63.5% of the students were Economically Disadvantaged
- 9.5% of the students were English Language Learners
- 28.9% of our students had Educational Disabilities

Overview of School Improvement Goals 2022-2023

Goal 1 Family Engagement

Initiative A: Staff will introduce families to classroom expectations, curriculum, and programs through Remind, Class Dojo, newsletters, phone calls, emails, and other means.

Initiative B: Staff will plan and hold monthly All School Meetings with invitations to family and community members.

Initiative C: Classroom contact booklets will be made for each class so that families can connect and support each other.

Initiative D: Staff will contribute on a rotating basis to the weekly school newsletter so that learning, staff, and students are recognized regularly.

Goal 2 Student Engagement

Initiative A: Student work and projects will be showcased on bulletin boards and display cases throughout the school.

Initiative B: Students will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts and demonstrate their learning to their peers, teachers and family.

Initiative C: Students will work in collaborative learning groups to develop higher-level thinking skills, work effectively with peers, and improve social and interpersonal skills.

Goal 3 Growth & Achievement

Initiative A: Literacy data meetings will be held three times a year to review student literacy data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.

Initiative B: Math data meetings will be held three times a year to review student math data, develop tiered instructional groupings, and plan instructional approaches.

Initiative C: Educators will meet in grade level teams to review implementation of Wit & Wisdom curriculum, make adjustments to ensure access for all students, and monitor student progress on Wit & Wisdom assessments.

Initiative D: Educators will utilize a variety of resources to focus on social-emotional learning and development.

Goal 4 Grade-Appropriate Instruction

Initiative A: Staff will demonstrate the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework that uses common and reliable data to provide academic and social emotional instruction that is culturally responsive, strength-based, and scaffolded to ensure access and meet the learning needs of all students.

Initiative B: The district, building leader and other staff will establish a MTSS team that is representative, meets regularly and monitors school-wide tiered instruction and supports data gathered through curriculum assessments, Redeker, and behavior logs.

Initiative C: The MTSS team will monitor student progress to evaluate effectiveness of tiered instruction and support. Staff will use a decision-making process that includes multiple data points to tier supports for students based on student growth/performance benchmarks.

Initiative D: The Student Support Team (SST) process used by the school will be revitalized through the use of new documentation and format in order to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students. The team will identify at-risk students who need Tier 2 support and use data from multiple domains to determine appropriate interventions.

Initiative E: The district will use the MTSS framework to shift to prevention and monitoring of student growth through “universal” Tier 1 support to strengthen school climate, relationships, and classroom instruction.

Goal 5 Inclusion & Equity

Initiative A: Counselors and staff will utilize diverse literature consistently throughout the year to explore and discuss topics that impact students and incorporate Teaching Tolerance Standards. Titles will focus on a range of topics to promote social justice and social-emotional growth.

Initiative B: Develop and administer a school climate survey for school staff and families.

Initiative C: Staff will engage in safe and respectful meetings to engage in productive dialogue regarding issues of equity, effectively implementing instruction and engaging students in developmentally appropriate dialogue about race, culture, and equity.

Great Falls Middle School 2022-2023

At Great Falls Middle School, we provide a welcoming, nurturing, and academically challenging learning environment for our enrollment of over 230 students in grades six through eight. The philosophy that guides our educators is to empower and inspire our early adolescent learners by guiding them in their development as they recognize their strengths and interests, and begin to find their value and place in the local and global community. Through our middle school programming model, we deliver a structured, supportive, and intentionally designed transition to secondary school in the Gill-Montague District. The grade level team structure offers a cohesive group of educators with common planning time to collaborate on our practices and student support, so that we may respond with improvements to our instruction and programmatic design.

GFMS has been growing over the past two years with an increase in enrollment of over 15% by the Fall of 2023. This growth has contributed to a livelier and more vibrant school, and it has also had a great and positive impact on our extra-curricular activities.

The growth of student participation in school activities illustrates the commitment that our students have to the school, and to their own development. Our teachers and coaches enthusiastically promote their programs and sports and welcome any interested students. Great Falls Middle School offers concert band, chorus, yearbook, as well as Student Council and the Gender Sexuality Alliance. In addition, a great many students participate in our theatrical performances and our interscholastic athletics program which includes soccer, cheer, volleyball, golf, basketball, swimming, baseball, softball, tennis, and track. At GFMS, we continue to host New Family Orientations, parent conference nights, the annual "Great Falls Challenge" field day, and several Middle School dances.

Within our Developmental Design (DD) model, we continue to work towards increasing our implementation of Restorative Practices, and thereby, teach our students to understand how their behavior impacts the community. These conversations are embedded in the small groups that teachers lead three days a week in the Circle of Power and Respect (CPR). Within CPR our goal is to develop supportive relationships, a positive culture, and attend to social-emotional teaching and learning through conversation. We are working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for guidance and training in this area. Additionally, Great Falls Middle School also utilizes an all-school, morning meeting twice a week to build community.

Turners Falls High School 2022-2023

Turners Falls High School is a four-year, comprehensive high school with a wide array of offerings, and during the 2022-2023 school year, we enrolled approximately 200 students. Although we are a small school, at TFHS we are proud of the amazing array of academics, programs, and activities that we offer. In addition to typical core content classes in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, TFHS provides a diverse set of elective courses, including three world languages (Latin, Spanish, and French), technology education (including graphic arts, digital filmmaking, television studio production, Maker Lab with 3D printing, and CNC machining), health education, physical education, art, and band and chorus. We are an Innovation Pathway school recognized by DESE with three pathways, *Healthcare and Social Assistance*, *Advanced Manufacturing*, and *Environmental and Life Sciences*, which was added in the Fall of 2023. The growth and talent trajectory of our Band, Chorus, and Theater programs continues to amaze us and make us proud. The strength of these programs has become a cornerstone of our school and a draw for students to remain or to Choice in. We also offer ten Advanced Placement courses through which students may simultaneously earn college credit and meet TFHS graduation requirements, and we augment our A.P. offerings with courses through Virtual High School (VHS).

At Turners Falls High School, we pride ourselves on knowing all of our students. This empowers our dedication to promoting a caring atmosphere, building a strong sense of community, and to student learning and experiences. Our students participate in a great variety of leadership opportunities including Student Council, National Honor Society, MIAA Student Ambassadors, and Student Government. Every other Tuesday, the entire TFHS community gathers for the *All School Meeting* to deliver news, to celebrate students, and to acknowledge classwork and accomplishments. On Thursdays, students participate in an *Advisory* that uses conversation circles for learning, development, and ultimately, restorative practices. Our aim is to increase our implementation of Restorative Practices, and we are working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for guidance and training in this area. The Advisory group and their Advisor stay together for four years in order to achieve our goal of having long-lasting relationships with teachers in our school.

This year we continued our promotion of TFHS as a great place with exciting things happening by hosting the 2nd annual TFHS Extravaganza in March of 2023, and we held our 3rd Extravaganza in the Fall of 2023. Our school hosts many other events throughout the year, of which, a few notable ones include; the return of the TFHS bonfire in the Fall of 2023, which was preceded by a flag football game, Senior Sunrise Breakfast, Spirit Week, a Pep Rally and Homecoming, the Snowball, Prom, Unity Day, a play and a musical, and a number of band and chorus event.

We also brought back the *TFHS/GFMS School Council*, which is composed of parents and teachers and focuses on the development and implementation of the School Improvement Plan. The goals set forth in the School Improvement Plan are listed below the TFHS report.

End of Year Athletics Report 2022-2023, and Fall of 2023

Fall

- Volleyball- 36 participants from GFMS through TFHS
 - Won the league title, lost in WMass championship, lost in elite 8 of State Tournament
- Golf- 8 participants, qualified for WMass and came in 9th out of 13 with no seniors on the team
- Field Hockey- 13 participants

- Made WMass tourney and lost in semifinals
- Football Co-op had 4 players on the Greenfield HS team
- Boys Co-op Soccer had 17 participants play for FCTS
 - Made the State Tournament and lost in the round of 32
- Girls Co-op Soccer had 8 participants
 - Made the State Tourney and lost in the preliminary round
- Cheer- 16 participants in a Co-op with FCTS
 - Cheered for football games at FCTS
- GFMS Soccer had 15 players and played an 11 game schedule

Winter

- HS Boys Basketball had 26 participants
 - This was the first time in 8 years that no GFMS players were needed to fill out the roster
- HS Girls Basketball had 17 participants
 - Lost in the quarterfinals of the WMass Tournament and in the first round of the State Tournament
- Swim Co-op with FCTS and Frontier had 15 total swimmers
 - 6 competed in the Fast Chance Meet
- Wrestling co-op with FCTS had 2 members
- Cheer had 14 participants
 - Won a tourney and came in 2nd twice
- MS Boys Basketball had 13 players and played 14 games
- MS Girls Basketball 16 players, played 9 games

Spring

- Baseball had 18 players
 - We just missed out on the WMass and State Tournaments
- Boys Tennis had 7 players and played 11 matches
- Girls Tennis had 16 players and played 17 matches
- MS Baseball had 15 players and played 11 games
- Track and Field Co-op with FCTS had over 35 TFHS participants
 - All practices/meets were hosted by TFHS
- Softball had 23 players
 - Won the league, and won WMass,

Other notable accomplishments and news in extracurricular activities:

- Had over 350 athletes participated in sports
- Over 90% of athletes made the Honor Roll
- Received MIAA Sportsmanship recognition
- Installed NFHS cameras in the gym and purchased cameras for Softball and Basketball
- Brought back Boys Varsity Soccer for 2023 Fall season
- Had the Softball field names for Gary Mullins
- Swimming Pool was named for Wes Snapp
- Purchased a new golf cart
- Gym Floor was completely re-done in summer 2023
- Continued with the Athletic Leadership Council (ALC) and Helping Hands as clubs
 - ALC provided 22 Thanksgiving Baskets and 26 “everyday food baskets” in December
- Added an Auxiliary Scoreboard to our Gymnasium
- Purchased NFHS cameras, installed March 2023 to our gym, baseball, and softball fields
- Reconditioned our Tennis Courts

At Turners Falls High School, we have a great appreciation of the community's support of our many activities, athletic events, fundraisers, concerts, and field trips, as well as the help of the many volunteers who assist our school. Our priorities are built upon our mission and philosophy, which are then transformed into goals for our School Improvement Plan.

Goal 1 Student Engagement:

- Implement a Positive Behavior Intervention System to encourage the development of positive relationships and the foundational skills that students need for success in life.
- School Counselors will use data from social-emotional health diagnostics to initiate counseling groups and more efficiently target students with similar concerns. The topics for this work are supportive of academics by working to improve motivation, stamina, engagement, and grit. Parents/Guardians will be contacted to provide permission for group work. Parents/Guardians may also request that their students are included.
- Through our partnership with Franklin Regional Council of Governments, we will train staff on Restorative Practices.

Goal 2 Family Engagement:

- A minimum of two parent/guardian/student surveys will be conducted to gain feedback from community members.
- We will host a talent show for Great Falls Middle School as a community event to engage students and families, and to develop greater pride for our school.

Goal 3 Growth & Achievement:

- Educators will deliver writing prompts at least two times per quarter and evaluate student writing using department designed rubrics.
- Educators will dedicate their in-service time to developing, sharing, and planning for the implementation of Tier 1 & 2 academic supports and strategies.

Goal 4 Grade-Appropriate Instruction:

- Educators will utilize iReady data to determine student performance levels and then target the improvement of student performance with instructional design and remediation.
- Educators will dedicate their in-service time to developing, sharing, and planning for the implementation of Tier 1 & 2 academic supports and strategies.

Goal 5 Inclusion & Equity:

- We will develop a kindness/anti-bully campaign to improve school climate, and to have the students set the culture of our school.
- We will create a committee that focuses on intentional celebrations and acknowledgement of holidays such as 9/11, Patriot's Day, Veteran's Day, Pearl Harbor Day, MLK, Jr Day, Black History Month, International Women's Day, etc. to create meaningful understanding and appreciation for life outside the classroom which has shaped our society.
- Educators will dedicate in-service time to developing, sharing, and improving our pedagogy with anti-racist/anti-bias, culturally responsive, restorative, and inclusivity practices.

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.

During 2023, 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.
- Toured **Strathmore building 11** with town officials. Tracked progress on Canal Master Plan.
- Reviewed **Capital Improvement Plan** with Assistant Town Administrator.
- Tracked repairs to masonry, roof, and windows for **Montague Center Library / Old Town Hall**.
- **Changed roles** for commission members: David Brule is now Vice Chair/Secretary. Janel Nockleby is now Chair.
- Tracked progress on the **Montague Comprehensive Plan**. Plans to review the Economic Development Chapter, including historical and cultural resources in 2024. The commission seeks to include development of a **Montague Historic Preservation Plan** in the town comprehensive plan, including consideration of Historic Districts in Montague City and Lake Pleasant.
- Tracked updates for the **Habitat for Humanity building site on 1st Street**/town parking lot, encouraging caution regarding any potential disturbance of archeological artifacts.
- Provided feedback to Parks and Recreation department regarding the **blacksmith shop** located on Montague Center Park lands in an historic district. Funds approved by town meeting in March 2023 to obtain an architectural evaluation, and the commission is tracking progress.

- Tracked updates to the future **Strathmore Mill pedestrian bridge** demolition by First Light, and monitored FERC relicensing as it relates to **Cabot Camp** historic preservation in Millers Falls.
- Provided feedback to the planning department on future uses of the **Farren Property**, on use of remaining Farren artifacts, and on proposals for a **Shea Theater mural**.

Submitted by:

Janel Nockleby, Chair

Commissioners:

- David Brule, Vice Chair, Secretary
- Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno
- Ed Gregory
- Chris Clawson
- Suzanne LoManto (resigned June 2023)

Public Libraries

Based on community feedback from the 2022 strategic planning process, the Montague Public Libraries embarked on several new and exciting projects in 2023.

After Montague residents expressed that the Carnegie Library is too small and inaccessible to support community needs, the Trustees and Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, decided to pursue the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP), which would allow us to expand the Carnegie Library or build a new main library in Turners Falls. After submitting a letter of intent to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in April, we were informed that, should our project be funded, the state would cover 52% to 77% of the construction costs, depending on the size of the project.

To prepare for the MPLCP application, the libraries' Building Committee visited half a dozen libraries that have been recently constructed or added to. We hired a building consultant and collected building feedback from the community through surveys, focus groups, community forums, and more. Though decisions about whether to expand the Carnegie Library or build new will not be made until fall of 2024, the libraries' Building Committee did work with town administration to select 38 Avenue A as the site of potential new construction. The Trustees plan to apply to the MPLCP this spring, after a town meeting vote.

Patrons also remarked that the Carnegie Library's hours were too confusing and limited. This led to changing the hours of operation to: Monday through Wednesday 10:00AM to 7:00PM and Thursday thru Saturday 10:00AM to 5:00PM. Since the hours changed in July, a 12% increase in open hours has led to a 14% increase in library visitation, year over year.

As use of the food pantry at the Millers Falls Branch increased, we realized that we could not meet demand through food donations alone. To remedy this, the Library Director first partnered with Montague Catholic Social Ministries on a grocery program, funded by both a Community Development Block Grant and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. This spring, the libraries partnered with the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries to designate the Millers Branch pantry an official site of the Food Bank of Western Mass. Between 22 and 26 families are served by the pantry, with library volunteers picking up almost 1000lbs of canned and shelf stable foods, frozen meats, vegetables, and dairy from the Food Bank each month. Visitation to the Millers Branch has increased by 35%.

Every outdoor concert the Library Director put together got rained out, but the Crossroads: Changes in Rural America program series, facilitated in collaboration with PVMA, DCR, RiverCulture, and NEPM, was so successful that we decided to pursue a second-year grant, which will fund programs throughout 2024.

To better support the technology needs and interests of the community, the libraries developed a 4-year technology replacement plan with Suzor IT. Almost all the public computers have been tuned up or replaced. Faxing and scanning services are now offered.

To streamline communication with the public, the libraries started a monthly newsletter with information about what's going on at the libraries and a list of upcoming programs. To keep the

public informed about the MPLCP application process, Library Trustee Lydia Ievans created an excellent building page on the libraries' website.

Finally, to better understand the needs of seniors in the community, the Library Director participated in the Montague Mass in Motion committee, a working group that identified challenges facing Montague seniors and made recommendations to alleviate these issues. Participation in this committee led the Library Director to pursue grant funding to support residents with limited vision and/or hearing. A new ADA compliant library website and a collection of assistive technology for the public will be rolled out between 2024 and 2025.

Public Libraries - Youth Programs Annual Report Narrative 2023

The year began with new Children's Programs Assistant, Makayla Skubel, joining the team. In mid-January, she started facilitating weekly Story Time and Playgroup, getting to know the children and their caregivers. Grab & Go crafts and science at all three library branches continued in popularity with hundreds of bags going out monthly.

Spring program highlights included a special visit from local children's author, Astrid Sheckels, who read from one of her Hector Fox. Children made Valentine cards at Carnegie Library to give to loved ones, played a life-sized game of Candyland at Montague Center Library, and brought their stuffed animals to the library for a sleepover. Youth Advisory Committee Members helped with the Stuffed Animal Sleepover by setting up animals in numerous places all over the Carnegie Library so that children could enjoy watching a slideshow of what their stuffies had been up to the night before. In May, children and teens made buttons on Free Comic Book Day.

Patrons of all ages enjoyed the Carnegie Library's outdoor tent, which was available from May to mid-September. Families attended outdoor LEGO and game programs and picked up free summer meals, while adult patrons worked or read in the shade. Makayla left mid-summer for full-time work, but was replaced by Grae McLaughlin, who also works at the Jones Library.

After a unicorn-themed scavenger hunt proved extremely popular, the libraries started offering monthly scavenger hunts at all three locations. Reading programs featured ukulele instruction with Julie Stepanek, a yoga series with local children's author and yoga instructor, Sue Fuller, and a Friends-of-MPL-funded dragon-themed puppet show by No String Marionette Company. The summer ended with the hugely successful visit from the Whalemobile.

Youth Services Librarian, Angela Rovatti-Leonard was awarded two grants. The first, a \$3000 grant from the New Salem Academy to bring Music & Movement, with Tom and Laurie, back for a series, in response to several patron requests. The second, an American Library Association Great Stories Club Grant (GSC) for teens: *Great Stories Club, Imagining Tomorrow*. In collaboration with the Brick House Community Resource Center, GSC meetings took place at the Teen Center twice a month from October 2023 extending into January 2024.

2023 Library Statistics

	Library Visits	Questions Asked, total	Reference Questions	Reader's Advisory	Technology Questions
TF	19084	3989	1788	631	1073
MC	4223	538	6	57	299
MF	2782	140	76	0	10
Total	26089	4667	1870	688	1382

2023 Circulation Stats	Carnegie	Montague Center	Millers Falls	Total
Adult Printed Material	20443	8273	2015	30731
YA Printed Material	1127	439	196	1762
Children's Printed Material	12130	5892	1187	19209
Adult/YA Audio	1370	246	12	1628
Adult/YA Video	15926	2905	4672	23503
Children's Audio	202	128	9	339
Children's Video/DVD	1594	593	341	2528
E-books and E-magazines	-	-	-	6384
Downloadable Audio	-	-	-	9400

2023 C/WMARS Consortium ILL Stats:	2023 In-State ILL Stats
<i>Items Received, total: 23,259</i>	<i>Items Received, total: 36</i>
TF 15,014	
MC 6,681	2023 Out-of-State ILL Stats
MF 1,564	<i>Items Received, total: 67</i>
	<i>Items Sent, total: 93</i>
<i>Items Sent, total: 16,121</i>	
TF 10,072	
MC 3,685	
MF 2,364	
<i>Items sent between Montague Libraries: 2,849</i>	

Montague Community Cable Inc.

Montague Community Cable Inc., Home of Montague Community Television

34 Second Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, Phone (413) 863-9200, www.montaguetv.org,
infomontaguetv@gmail.com

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:

Despite the ongoing effects of Covid, we were still able to get 238 new programs produced and uploaded to Vimeo. Currently there are over 2763 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.

In 2023, MCTV continued to cover local events, but also collaborated with organizations and individuals to enhance or host of cultural events:

- Great Falls Discovery Center: Smithsonian Exhibition Opening And Closing Events, Family Fish Day.
- Shea Theater: Welcome Yule, Four Rivers Variety Show, Connecticut River Defenders Peoples Hearing
- Peske Park: Fall Music Fest
- Montague Public Libraries: Walking The Appalachian Trail, Local Author Series, Future of The Carnegie Library Public Hearing.
- Parks & Rec: Makers Market Festival, Homelands Festival, Nolumbeka Festival.
- Wendell Town Hall: Honoring Our Elders Series

2023 Description of facility and equipment use:

Equipment Reservations: 220

Facilities Reservations: 78

Videos Uploaded to Vimeo: Public: 102 Videos Government: 136 Videos Total: 238

Weekly Programming Breakdown: Local: 136 Hours Out of Town: 32 Hours

Board:

The MCCI Board of Directors is still in a rebuilding phase since the passing of former Board President Mike Langknecht. In that time, we have maintained monthly board meetings to keep the Board involved in and engaged with the current projects at MCTV. We are currently actively seeking additional board members.

Fundraising:

MCTV secured a Covid Relief Grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

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
- Black Lives Matter Movement Turners Falls
- 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
- Buckingham Rabbits
- Soapbox Derby
- Watershed
- Unnameable Books

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 month's 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 montaguetv.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:

In 2023, we added a fourth PTZ Camera to the School Committee Meeting Room at TFHS to provide better coverage of meetings in that space. We purchased 5 new tripods and Zoom Controllers to augment our existing inventory.

We also purchased two Accsoon Wireless Transmitter and Receiver Units with the primary intent of using them at the soapbox derby. So as to mitigate the signal drop off through long runs of cable. Unfortunately this year’s soapbox derby was canceled. We have used them for other venues and eagerly await the 2024 Soapbox Derby.

MCTV 2023 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING

Selectboard Meeting 1/9/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/3/23
Selectboard Meeting 1/17/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/17/23
Selectboard Meeting 1/23/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/30/23
Selectboard Meeting 1/30/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 1/31/23
Selectboard Meeting 2/6/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/6/23
Selectboard Meeting 2/13/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/13/23
Selectboard Meeting 2/27/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 2/27/23
Selectboard Meeting 3/6/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/6/23
Selectboard Meeting 3/13/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/13/23
Selectboard Meeting 3/27/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/20/23
Selectboard Meeting 4/3/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/27/23
Selectboard Meeting 4/10/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 3/28/23
Selectboard Meeting 4/24/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/10/23
Selectboard Meeting 5/1/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 4/24/23
Selectboard Meeting 5/8/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/8/23
Selectboard Meeting 5/15/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 5/22/23
Selectboard Meeting 5/22/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 6/5/23
Selectboard Meeting 6/6/23	Gill Annual Town Meeting 6/12/23
Selectboard Meeting 6/12/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 7/17/23
Selectboard Meeting 6/26/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/14/23
Selectboard Meeting 7/10/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 8/28/23
Selectboard Meeting 7/24/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/11/23
Selectboard Meeting 8/7/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 9/25/23
Selectboard Meeting 8/21/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/10/23
Selectboard Meeting 8/28/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 10/23/23
Selectboard Meeting 9/11/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/6/23
Selectboard Meeting 9/18/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 11/27/23
Selectboard Meeting 9/25/23	Gill Special Town Meeting 11/27/23
Selectboard Meeting 10/2/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/4/23
Selectboard Meeting 10/16/23	Gill Selectboard Meeting 12/18/23
Selectboard/Dog Hearing 10/17/23	GMRSD Meeting 1/10/23
Selectboard Meeting 10/23/23	GMRSD Meeting 1/17/23
Selectboard Meeting 10/30/23	GMRSD Meeting 1/24/23
Selectboard Meeting 11/6/23	GMRSD Meeting 2/14/23

Selectboard Meeting 11/13/23	GMRSD Meeting 3/7/23
Selectboard Meeting 11/20/23	GMRSD Meeting 3/14/23
Selectboard Meeting 11/27/23	GMRSD Meeting 4/11/23
Selectboard Meeting 12/4/23	GMRSD Meeting 4/25/23
Selectboard Meeting 12/11/23	GMRSD Meeting 5/9/23
Selectboard/Dog Hearing 12/18/23	GMRSD Meeting 5/23/23
Annual Town Meeting 5/6/23	GMRSD Meeting 6/13/23
Special Town Meeting 3/2/23	GMRSD Meeting 6/27/23
Special Town Meeting 10/10/23	GMRSD Meeting 7/12/23
Finance Committee Meeting 1/4/23	GMRSD Meeting 7/26/23
Finance Committee Meeting 1/11/23	GMRSD Meeting 8/9/23
Finance Committee Meeting 1/25/23	GMRSD Meeting 8/23/23
Finance Committee Meeting 2/1/23	GMRSD Meeting 9/6/23
Finance Committee Meeting 2/8/23	GMRSD Meeting 9/20/23
Finance Committee Meeting 2/15/23	GMRSD Meeting 10/11/23
Finance Committee Meeting 2/22/23	GMRSD Meeting 10/25/23
Finance Committee Meeting 3/1/23	GMRSD Meeting 11/8/23
Finance Committee Meeting 3/8/23	GMRSD Meeting 11/22/23
Finance Committee Meeting 3/15/23	GMRSD Meeting 12/6/23
Finance Committee Meeting 3/22/23	GMRSD Meeting 12/20/23
Finance Committee Meeting 3/29/23	GMRSD Budget Meeting Gill/Montague 1/31/23
Finance Committee Meeting 4/5/23	Board of Assessors Meeting 4/19/23
Finance Committee Meeting 4/26/23	Board of Assessors Meeting 6/6/23
Finance Committee Meeting 5/10/23	Board of Assessors Meeting 7/10/23
Finance Committee Meeting 6/14/23	Board of Assessors Meeting 9/18/23
Finance Committee Meeting 7/5/23	Planning Board 8/22/23
Finance Committee Meeting 7/12/23	Board of Health Meeting 4/12/23
Finance Committee Meeting 7/26/23	Board of Health Director Interview 2/8/23
Finance Committee Meeting 8/9/23	Five Villages One Future Workshop 2/4/23
Finance Committee Meeting 9/6/23	Re-Envisioning Farren Property PM 11/18/23
Finance Committee Meeting 9/13/23	Six Town Regionalization Planning BD. 11/14/23
Finance Committee Meeting 10/11/23	Future of The Carnegie Library Forum 12/13/23
Finance Committee Meeting 12/13/23	Assessment Meeting of Sawmill River

MCTV 2023 LOCAL PROGRAMMING

Smithsonian Museum At Turners Falls	Music Walk Antenna Cloud Farm
Turners vs Pioneer Boys Basketball 1/13/23	Music Walk Antenna Cloud Farm: Act 3
What's The Hoopla About Heat Pumps 1/29/23	Music Walk ACF: Blood Drum Spirit
Joe Parzych Exhibit 11/28/23	Music Walk Antenna Cloud Farm: Aisha Burn
Local Author Series: David Detmold 1/18/23	Pocumtuck Homeland Festival: Tom Porter
Local Author Series: Jennifer Acker 2/15/23	Pocumtuck Homeland Festival: Memories
Local Author Series: Caroline Wampole 3/15/23	Pocumtuck HF: David Brule & Evan Prichard
Local Author Series: Rebecca Daniels	Pocumtuck HF: Doug Harris & Howard Clark
Local Author Series: Emily Monosson 5/17/23	Pocumtuck HF: Keith Secola & Hawk Henries
Local Author Series: Marina Goldman 6/21/23	Pocumtuck HF: Nehukkusqk
Local Author Series: Karen Latuchie 7/19/23	Pocumtuck HF: Hawk Henries
Local Author Series: David James	Pocumtuck HF: Mixashawn Trio
Local Author Series: Richie Davis 10/18/23	Pocumtuck HF: Annawon Weeden
Local Author Series: Gray Davidson 11/15/23	Pocumtuck HF: Black Hawk Singers

<p>Local Author Series: Stories Of Light 12/20/23 GMEF Annual Gala 2023 Smithsonian Exhibition Opening 2/5/23 Four Rivers Variety Show 2023 What's The Hoopla About Heat Pumps 2 1/29/23 Crossroads Kickoff Event 2/11/23 Nina Rossi: Illustration from MR 2019-2023 19th Annual Brass Spectacular 3/13/23 Manchester Citadel Charter Oak Band The Young Dubliners 3/15/23 Toxic Reality Episode 1 Toxic Reality Episode 2 Toxic Reality Episode 3 Crossroads Closing Event 3/12/23 Slamvovian Circus Of Dreams 3/31/23 Free Heat Pumps And Weatherization 3/30/23 Living With Nature: Dave Small 3/16/23 Mother Tongue 4/17/23 Turning A Barren Lawn Into A Thriving Habitat Turners Falls Annual Bazaar 8/27/22 Oz/DC Concert 4/28/23 Hiking The Appalachian Trail 4/27/23 Food As Medicine Exhibit Montague Ctr. Memorial Day Ceremony 5/28/23 Turners Falls Memorial Day Ceremony 5/29/23 Cielito Lindo Day Of Remembrance 5/19/23 Extravaganja 4/15/23 Immigrant Voices 5/21/23 Franklin County Community Spring Concert Local Business Spotlight: Swanson's Fabric Fab Fashion Showcase Unity Park Makers Mark Music Fest 6/3/23 Unity Park Makers Mark Interviews 6/3/23 New Snow Moon Dance Social The Amazing Geology Of Gill 5/29/23 16th Annual Family Fishing Day</p>	<p>Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Paintings Music Walk: Lily Pakia Chandler Music Walk: Travis Laplante Music Walk: James Bird 3rd Annual Most Wuthering Heights Vera For Love Honoring Our Elders: Susan And Jonathan Von Ranson 9/14/23 Honoring Our Elders: Dorthie 10/12/23 Local Business Spotlight: Sadies Bikes Turners Falls vs Pioneer Boys Soccer 9/18/23 Local Farming In The Climate Crisis 9/17/23 No Assault In Battery Storage In Wendell 10/24/23 Art Salon Healing Waters 11/5/23 Rag Shag Parade 2023 A Happening 10/21/23 Conn. River Defenders Public Hearing 11/18/23 7th Annual Migration Festival 10/14/23 Only Human: Living In A Changing World With Jill Stoddard 10/15/23 New England Repertory Orchestra 10/6/23 Fab Fashion Week 2023 Poetry Marathon At Unameable Books 10/21/23 Kisstory 10/7/23 Misty Blues: Halloween Special A Drag For The Holidays It's A Wonderful Night 2023 Welcome Yule 12/8/23 Turners Falls vs Franklin Tech Softball 6/10/23 T.F. vs Hopkins Academy Softball 6/18/23 Turners Falls vs Greenfield Softball Composting Made Easy The Ten Condiments For A Delicious Life</p>
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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, 2023

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

In 2023 Montague Housing Authority has a total of 7831 applications. 6129 applications are applying for family housing, chapter 200-1, and 2296 application are applying for Elderly/Younger Disabled housing, chapter 667-1,2,3. (This total amount is including 680 for elderly and 1615 for Younger Disabled/Handicapped). In 2023 we able to Lease/House 1 unit of 2 bedrooms apartment and 1 unit of 3 bedrooms to chapter 200-1 family housing, and 5 units of 1 bedroom to chapter 667-1 and 2, Elderly/Handicapped. All the elderly applicant is local from Town of Montague and one for the family is not local.

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 one site.

In 2023 Montague Housing Authority continue received a funding/award from DHCD for Capital Improvement, Project #192072, Replacement of Federal Pacific Unit Panel at Hillcrest Home Apartment, chapter 200-1, Phase 4 Project #192073, Under Force Account project at Sunrise Terrace Development, Chapter 667-1, replacement of Kitchen Cabinet and floors, and Project #192074 Exterior painting job at Sunrise Terrace Development, Chapter 667-1 has 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

Judith Hastings, Chairman
Paula Girard, Vice Chairman
Karen Casey-Chretien, Treasurer
Stanley Zera, Member

Parks & Recreation Department

The start of the year is always a busy one. We certainly don't shut down for the winter, and without question stay busy. While we typically start the New Year with our Annual Sawmill River 10K in Montague Center, due to January 1st being on a Sunday, we held the event on Saturday, December 31st. This was our first in-person race since the pandemic, and we were thankful to have almost one-hundred runners. We typically have closer to about one-hundred and thirty, but we need to give people another year to get back on track, so to speak. The Sawmill Run is our biggest special event, logistically, as we rely on significant volunteer assistance from many in our fine community to make it work. Our Youth Basketball Program saw the largest participation in several years. We had two, 3 & 4 grade travel teams and two, 5 & 6 grade travel teams. It's been about twelve to fifteen years since we've had two travel teams at each level, and we certainly hope this trend continues. We also had eighteen little ones participating in our K-2 program. We've seen a significant surge in youth sports participation in the last year and we hope it continues. The Bluefish Swim Team also returned to in-person swim meets this season. Approximately forty-five swimmers throughout area towns swam for the Bluefish, as we are the only youth swim team in the county. The Bluefish is a member of the Pioneer Valley Swim League and typically have the smallest roster in the league yet are still very competitive amongst other teams. 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. We also run a babysitting course for two nights in mid-winter. This is one of our smaller programs, participant-wise, but it is often booked up. Young adults ages 11 – 15 learn basic safety and organizational skills in addition to first aid.

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 and Rookie Baseball programs continue to flourish, as we had over forty Tee-Ballers and about twenty Rookies participating in the program. In June, we also hosted the second Unity Fest & Makers Market at Unity Park and Second Street, which Nova Motorcycles and Pioneer Valley Brewing spearheaded. This event was partially funded through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and unfortunately it was a rather cold, early-June day of art and music for our community down here in "Unityville". Nevertheless, those who attended the event seemed to have a great time.

The summer we offered a variety of programs and events. Our most popular, Summer Camp, continued to be a major success. We served almost sixty kids a week between the ages of 5 to 12 during our seven-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. The summer also saw the return of our Adult Co-Ed Softball League! This program was also a victim of the pandemic, with many adults re-prioritizing their leisure pursuits. Adult softball has been a staple in Montague for generations, and it was great to see five teams join the league. We hope that the league returns to its former popularity in the coming years. MPRD also partnered with RiverCulture to sponsor the Movies in The Park series at Peskeomskut Park. We showed three movies over the summer, which has become a nice tradition this time of year. The Turners Falls High School Music Boosters provided snacks, and Turners Falls resident Paul Wonsey served as our "tech dude". We are already looking ahead to seeing what great films we can show next summer. Unfortunately, in September we needed to postpone the Montague Soap Box Races to the spring of '24, due to lack of drivers. The event has now been re-scheduled to the beginning of June, as winter and spring may be an easier time to build a cart.

The Fall saw another successful Youth Soccer season. We had three travel teams; one Junior (Grades 2 & 3) and two senior teams (Grades 4 – 6). Including our K-2 intro program, we had approximately sixty kids play soccer in Montague this year! However, probably the biggest event of the season was that we were informed that the Montague Center Park Improvement Project was awarded funding through the State's Parkland Acquisition & Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant! The design portion of the project will begin early spring, with construction beginning the summer of 2024. We're looking to make improvements to the playground, build a formal parking area, as well as pollinator and rain gardens. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page (c) for updates.

We would like to note that our ability to offer quality programs, services, 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, The Franklin County House of Corrections, and the Gill-Montague Regional School District for their support. Additionally, we would like to recognize The Great Falls Apple Corps for organizing and facilitating the operation of the Unity Park Community Garden.

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 programs this past year. Their community spirit contributes significantly to the success of our department, and we simply could not function without them. Finally, we would like to thank our patrons for their interest and enthusiasm in Montague Parks & Recreation programs and services. We look forward to 2024 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

Parks & Recreation Commission

Barbara Kuklewicz, Chair
Albert Cummings, Vice Chair
Jeff Singleton, Secretary

Planning & Conservation Department

Department Staff:

- Maureen Pollock, Town Planner 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 2023 included project development and management of the following projects:

- Adopted of the Design Standards and Administrative Regulations for applications and Plan Review under 40R Smart Growth Zoning District in Franklin County affecting the Griswold property and First Street in Turners Falls
- Completed the Montague Mass in Motion Age Friendly Report
- Assisted with the creation of the Montague Pollinator Action Group, which was a recommendation from the 2021 Montague Pollinator Action Plan.
- Commenced the 5 Villages: 1 Future Comprehensive Plan to update the 1999 Comprehensive Plan (to be finalized in spring/summer 2024)
- Commenced the preparation of the Town's first ever Digital Equity Plan (to be finalized in spring 2024)
- Commenced the Montague Village Center Land Use Study and residential and commercial market feasibility analysis (to be finalized in spring 2024)
- Commenced MVP 2.0 project (two year project – to be completed in 2025)
- Commenced Shea Mural Project (to be completed by fall 2024)

Planning Board

The Planning Board maintains the Comprehensive Plan, prepares zoning bylaws 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:

Two (2) Special Permits:

253 Millers Falls Road (Parcel #17-0-31); 253 Millers Falls Road (Parcel #17-0-31)

Four (4) Site Plan Approvals:

Millers Falls Road (Parcel #23-0-31); 78 Industrial Blvd (Parcel #17-0-015), Millers Falls Road (Parcel #23-0-28); 253 Millers Falls Road (Parcel #17-0-31); 78 Industrial Blvd (Parcel #17-0-015)

Five (5) "Approval Not Required" (ANR) Subdivision Plans Endorsements:

505 Turners Falls Road (Parcel #42-0-29); 263 Millers Falls Road (Parcel #29-0-096); 17 Sunset Drive (Parcel # 4-0-198); Turnpike Road (Parcel #21-0-004); and Millers Falls Road (Parcel #23-0-28)

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

Zoning Map Change - The Board initiated a petition for a Zoning Map change for a ±15.6 acre area of land identified as #21-0-152 (Turnpike Road) and a ±13.2 acre area of land identified as #21-0-004 (Turnpike Road) from Neighborhood Business (NB) Zoning District to General Business (GB) Zoning District. The rationale for this zoning map amendment was to allow a permit pathway for a potential manufacturing use or multi-family residential use (3 units or more) to occur on Parcel #21-0-152. At its August 22, 2023 meeting, the Planning Board opened and closed the public hearing and voted 3-0-2 to recommend the Selectboard to place the following petition on the Town Meeting warrant: Redistrict a ±15.6 acre area of land identified as #21-0-152 (Turnpike Road) from Neighborhood Business (NB) Zoning District to General Business (GB) Zoning District to the Town Meeting warrant. The petition was not placed on a Town Meeting warrant within 6 months from the close of the Planning Board public hearing date (August 22, 2023). Therefore, any reconsideration of this petition would require the Planning Board to initiate a new petition and start the process over again.

Planning Board Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ronald Sicard (Chair) | 2. Elizabeth Irving (FRCOG Rep) |
| 3. George Cooke | 4. Samuel Guerin |
| 5. Robert Obear | 6. Vacant - 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:

- Eight (8) Requests for Determination of Applicability: Montague City Road municipal sewer easements; 2 Gatehouse Drive (Parcel #04-0-0005); Sixth Street Bridge; 82 Chestnut Hill Loop (Parcel #53-0-043); 15 Cabot Street (Parcels #08-0-1 & 09-0-001); 11th Street Bridge Over Utility Canal; 312 Transmission Line Hazard Tree Removal: Lake Pleasant Road to Green Pond Road
- Two (2) Notice of Intent: 2 Fosters Road (Parcel #51-0-10); South Ferry Road Culvert Replacement Project;
- Two (2) Emergency Certificates: Water Pump House, 104 Main Street; culvert near 224 Montague City Road

Conservation Commission Members in December 2023:

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:

Suzanne LoManto, Program Director of RiverCulture

2023 Steering Committee:

1. Lisa Davol,
2. Tess Poe,
3. Kristi Bodin,
4. Kathy Lynch.

RiverCulture was established in 2006 with a grant from the Mass Cultural Council. Town Meeting voted to incorporate the program into the Planning Department in 2018 when that grant was sunsetted. RiverCulture facilitates the Turners Falls Cultural District and is the Town's liaison with the Shea Theater Arts Center. Supervision and guidance is provided by the Town Planner, and a steering committee which is appointed by the Selectboard.

RiverCulture works to: Foster art and culture; Enhance quality of life; Establish art and culture as a highly visible element of our identity; and Cultivate an environment that attracts new businesses, residents, partners, investment and visitors to Montague.

RiverCulture accomplishes this by: Serving as a central sounding-board for the Arts; Participating in economic development initiatives; Grant writing; Producing events; Building partnerships; Supporting artists; Developing marketing strategies; Building a social media presence; Maintaining a website and calendar; Creating a weekly events newsletter; and Managing placemaking projects inside the planning department.

Website: www.riverculture.org

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

2023 Highlights:

RiverCulture produced or co-produced dozens of free festivals and cultural events to the public including: First Generation "Mother Tongue", Música Franklin Fun Fest, Antenna Cloud Farm Music Walk, Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, Home Body, Migrations Festival and outdoor movies.

RiverCulture was a key partner in the traveling Museum on Main Street exhibition, Crossroads: Change in Rural America which was on display at the Great Falls Discovery Center from February 5-March 18, 2023. Support for the exhibition and companion programs were provided by the United States Congress with a \$20K Smithsonian Grant.

2023 Grants and Business Support:

Smithsonian Crossroads Exhibition Grant. (20K)

Mass Humanities Crossroads Year 2 Programming Titled: Foods Farms and Factories (10K)

Turners Falls Cultural District Grant (\$15K)

Summer Events Donation (\$5000) A generous grant from Greenfield Cooperative Bank.

Holiday Advertising Donation (\$1000) A generous grant from Northeast Solar

Police Department

2021	2022	2023	
15,108	15,286	16,502	Calls for Service
2366	3073	3115	911 Emergency Calls
296	281	276	Persons arrested by the Police
214	187	184	Persons were male, 9 were juveniles
82	94	92	Person were female, 2 were juveniles
368	306	304	Victims of crime
66	51	46	Restraining orders served (209a &258E)
8	13	6	Alarm by-law tickets
74	25	25	Registered Sex Offenders

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

2021	2022	2023
112	115	127

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

2021	2022	2023
26	16	21

TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLES ACCIDENTS

2021	2022	2023
138	131	148

INJURED PERSONS

2021	2022	2023	
9	18	14	Operators
2	3	3	Passengers
0	0	1	Pedestrians
1	2	1	Bicyclist
1	1	2	Motorcyclists
0	0	1	Fatalities
13	24	22	Total Injuries

MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS

2021	2022	2023
642 (Fines \$2,730.00)	880 (Fines \$2,925.00)	1093 (Fines \$4,400.00)

FIREARMS REGISTRATION: PERMITS TO CARRY

2021	2022	2023
153	152	184

PARKING TICKETS ISSUED

2021	2022	2023
297 (\$6,010.00)	182 (\$3,530.00)	123 (\$2,240.00)

HOUSE CHECKS WHILE PEOPLE WERE AWAY

2021	2022	2023
19	19	16

SUMMONS SERVED

2021	2022	2023
65	71	47

Retirement

Assets and Liabilities	2023 End Balance	2022 End Balance	2021 End Balance
1040 - 1049 Cash	259,444.08	78,360.37	235,633.25
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	151,544.27	70,983.28	170,019.11
1199 - PRIT Fund	58,396,730.44	53,827,203.44	61,651,912.71
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	18,261.03	17,384.62	16,109.42
2020 - Accounts Payable	-2,896.87	-19,119.64	-932.28
Total	58,823,082.95	53,974,812.07	62,072,742.21
Funds:			
3293 - Annuity Savings Fund	7,750,242.54	7,273,560.92	7,054,417.73
3294 - Annuity Reserve Fund	3,288,738.59	3,529,393.38	3,629,285.63
3295 - Military Service Fund	6,551.42	6,544.88	6,538.34
3296 - Pension Fund	142,536.15	208,764.46	345,201.11
3298 - Expense Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
3297 - Pension Reserve Fund	47,635,014.25	42,956,548.43	51,037,299.40
Total Assets at Market Value	58,823,082.95	53,974,812.07	62,072,742.21

Receipts		2023	2022	2021
1. Annuity Savings Fund:				
(a) 4891 - Members Deductions		868,494.79	818,820.21	773,654.14
(b) 4892 - Transfers from Other Systems		138,039.53	98,956.62	274,244.57
(c) 4893 - Make Up and Redeposit Payments		189.00	0.00	10,375.29
(d) 4900 - Member Payments from Rollovers		3,578.95	31,875.59	0.00
(e) Investment Income CR to Members A/C		12,936.77	9,228.40	8,409.18
	Subtotal	1,023,239.04	958,880.82	1,066,683.18
2. Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Investment Income Cr to Annuity Res. Fund		99,114.39	105,617.38	87,731.50
	Subtotal	99,114.39	105,617.38	87,731.50
3. Pension Fund:				
(a) 4898 - 3(8)c Reimburse from Other Systems		175,997.29	172,465.85	155,734.08
(b) 4899 - Rec'd from State for COLA & Survivor Ben.		5,301.27	6,679.08	4,379.81
(c) 4894 - Pension Fund Appropriation		2,409,188.00	2,284,240.00	2,171,331.00
(d) 4840 - Workers Compensation Settlement		0.00	0.00	3,000.00
(e) 4751 - Recovery of Pension from Reinstatement		0.00	0.00	0.00
(f) 4841 - Recovery of 91A Overearnings		14,078.14	2,643.92	5,106.86
	Subtotal	2,604,564.70	2,466,028.85	2,339,551.75
4. Military Service Fund:				
(a) 4890 - Contributions Received from Municipality		0.00	0.00	4,320.33
(b) Investment Income Credited		6.54	6.54	2.22
	Subtotal	6.54	6.54	4,322.55
5. Expense Fund:				
(a) 4896 - Expense Fund Appropriation		0.00	0.00	0.00
(b) Investment Income Cr to Expense Fund		428,704.00	426,285.21	405,340.34
	Subtotal	428,704.00	426,285.21	405,340.34
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		393.23	1,158.37	0.00
(d) 4825 - Misc. Income		0.00	0.00	0.00
(e) Excess Investment Income		5,567,535.61	-7,276,450.34	10,001,355.33
	Subtotal	5,567,928.84	-7,275,291.97	10,001,355.33
TOTAL RECEIPTS		9,723,557.17	-3,318,473.17	13,904,984.65

Disbursements		2023	2022	2021
1. Annuity Savings Fund:				
(a) 5757 - Refunds To Members		109,664.47	51,637.90	28,926.55
(b) 5756 - Transfers to Other Systems		70,948.64	204,847.56	97,028.61
	Subtotal	180,613.11	256,485.46	125,955.16
2. Annuity Reserve Fund:				
(a) 5750 - Annuities Paid		710,199.51	688,761.80	604,389.65
(b) 5759 - Option B Refunds		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Subtotal	710,199.51	688,761.80	604,389.65
3. Pension Fund:				
(a) 5751 - Pensions Paid Total		3,314,689.76	3,156,069.82	2,853,148.22
Regular Pension Payments		2,681,859.20	2,545,558.15	2,301,513.93
Survivorship Payments		175,145.34	168,416.40	151,783.45
Ordinary Disability Payments		4,649.58	4,325.58	4,167.96
Accidental Disability Payments		453,035.64	437,769.69	395,682.88
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		241,080.25	251,854.68	226,768.14
(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	3,555,770.01	3,407,924.50	3,079,916.36
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		23,100.00	23,100.00	23,100.00
(b) 5119 - Salaries & Benefits		72,083.82	61,487.73	59,283.28
(c) 5304 - Management Fees		283,813.39	282,787.75	280,919.62
(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		2,896.87	2,221.87	2,915.62
(g) 5309 - Medical Expenses		0.00	0.00	25.00
(h) 5310 - Fiduciary Insurance		2,620.00	2,582.00	2,555.00
(i) 5311 - Service Contracts		23,950.00	23,100.00	22,300.00
(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		7,500.00	6,500.00	5,500.00
(n) 5320 - Education and Training		2,420.00	450.00	900.00
(o) 5589 - Administrative Expenses		8,284.17	6,088.73	6,451.82
(p) 5599 - Furniture and Equipment		0.00	17,857.13	1390.00
(q) 5719 - Travel		2,035.75	110.00	0.00
	Subtotal	428,704.00	426,285.21	405,340.34
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		4,875,286.63	4,779,456.97	4,215,601.51

Investment Income	2023 End Balance	2022 End Balance	2021 End Balance
Investment Income Received From:			
(a) Cash	4,395.93	644.54	1,411.36
(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	1,500,736.20	1,444,137.96	1,320,141.90
(f) Commission Recapture	0.00	0.00	0.00
4821 – TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	1,505,132.13	1,444,782.50	1,321,553.26
Plus:			
4884 - Realized Gains	768,799.21	519,840.62	4,383,501.65
4886 - Unrealized Gains	8,771,505.46	5,337,920.34	6,132,783.20
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	55,772.27	165,150.21	0.00
4887 - Unrealized Losses	4,881,367.22	13,872,706.06	1,334,999.54
1550 - Interest Due & Accrued Prior Year	0.00	0.00	
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	6,108,297.31	-6,735,312.81	10,502,838.57
Income Required:			
Annuity Savings Fund	12,936.77	9,228.40	8,409.18
Annuity Reserve Fund	99,114.39	105,617.38	87,731.50
Expense Fund	428,704.00	426,285.21	405,340.34
Military Service Fund	6.54	6.54	2.22
TOTAL INCOME REQUIRED	540,761.70	541,137.53	501,483.24
Net Investment Income	6,108,297.31	-6,735,312.81	10,502,838.57
Less: Income Required	540,761.70	541,137.53	501,483.24
EXCESS INCOME TO THE PENSION RESERVE FUND	5,567,535.61	-7,276,450.34	10,001,355.33

REPORT OF TREASURER'S CASH AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

BANK ACCOUNTS INTEREST BEARING

UniBank	2,452,707.30	
Easthampton Savings Bank - ARPA Funds	1,872,798.48	
Greenfield Savings Bank - Airport	<u>679,007.66</u>	
		5,004,513.44

BANK ACCOUNTS NON-INTEREST BEARING

Greenfield Savings Bank - Park & Rec.	30,619.61	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank - Sewer	870,952.82	
Greenfield Co-Operative Bank	<u>4,838,965.82</u>	
		5,740,538.25

INVESTMENTS

MMDT	346,857.72	
Greenfield Savings - Sewer	10,033.43	
SRBT	<u>1,208,416.91</u>	
		1,565,308.06

CONSERVATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	6,554.42	
Investment Income	228.38	
Added to Fund	10,000.00	
Balance June 30, 2023		16,782.80

STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	1,133,667.95	
Investment Income	45,999.63	
Added to Fund		
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2023		1,179,667.58

GILL MONTAGUE EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	103,091.96	
Investment Income	1,459.98	
Added to Fund	40,608.00	
Disbursements from Fund	(56,000.00)	
Balance June 30, 2023		89,159.94

FRANKLIN TECH EDUCATIONAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	143,024.57	
Investment Income	3,713.71	
Added to Fund	124,356.00	
Disbursements from Fund		
Balance June 30, 2023		271,094.28

MONTAGUE SEWER CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	387,213.00	
Investment Income	3,740.69	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund	<u>130,000.00</u>	
Balance June 30, 2023		260,953.69

TOWN OF MONTAGUE CAPITAL STAB FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	1,404,857.97	
Investment Income	20,307.44	
Added to Funds	405,361.97	
Disbursements from Fund	<u>250,000.00</u>	
Balance June 30, 2023		1,580,527.38

MSCP PI TRUST

Balance July 1, 2022	27.24	
Investment Income		
Added to Funds		
Disbursed from Fund	<u>(27.24)</u>	
Balance June 30, 2023		-

CANNABIS IMPACT FEE STABILIZATION FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	461,050.66	
Investment Income	3,317.43	
Added to Funds		
Disbursements from Fund	(238,800.00)	
Balance June 30, 2023		225,568.09

CANAL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Balance July 1, 2022	-	
Investment Income	1,012.58	
Added to Funds	250,000.00	
Disbursements from Fund	-	
Balance June 30, 2023		251,012.58

Eileen M. Seymour
Treasurer

REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

2015 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			4,832.73
Receipts	132.50		
Net Receipts		132.50	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>4,700.23</u>	
			<u>4,832.73</u>

2016 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			5,006.26
Receipts	327.08		
Net Receipts		327.08	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>4,679.18</u>	
			<u>5,006.26</u>

2017 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			4,740.43
Receipts	435.42		
Net Receipts		435.42	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>4,305.01</u>	
			<u>4,740.43</u>

2018 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			7,181.90
Receipts	723.12		
Net Receipts		723.12	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>6,458.78</u>	
			<u>7,181.90</u>

2019 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			7,350.54
Receipts	1,004.95		
Net Receipts		1,004.95	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>6,345.59</u>	
			<u>7,350.54</u>

2020 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			11,534.24
Add'l Commitment			<u>20.06</u>
Total Commitment			11,554.30
Receipts	4,101.16		
Net Receipts		4,101.16	
Abatements		100.79	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>7,352.35</u>	
			<u>11,554.30</u>

2021 MOTOR VEHICLE

Commitment Balance			27,239.45
Add'l Commitment			<u>12.17</u>
Total Commitment			27,251.62
Receipts	17,005.90		
Refunds		<u>-451.28</u>	

Net Receipts		16,554.62	
Abatements		352.63	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>10,344.37</u>	<u>27,251.62</u>
<u>2022 MOTOR VEHICLE</u>			
Commitment Balance			74,186.72
Add'l Commitments			<u>69,470.91</u>
Total Commitments			143,657.63
Receipts	114,427.82		
Refunds	<u>-4,411.10</u>		
Net Receipts		110,016.72	
Abatements		8,010.29	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>25,630.62</u>	<u>143,657.63</u>
<u>2023 MOTOR VEHICLE</u>			
Commitment Balance			662,000.32
Add'l Commitments			<u>117,057.73</u>
Total Commitments			779,058.05
Receipts	648,466.07		
Refunds	<u>-3,720.67</u>		
Net Receipts		644,745.40	
Exemptions		5,444.65	
Abatements		2,134.82	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>126,733.18</u>	<u>779,058.05</u>
<u>2015 BOAT EXCISE</u>			
Commitment Balance			408.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>408.00</u>	<u>408.00</u>
<u>2016 BOAT EXCISE</u>			
Commitment Balance			413.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>413.00</u>	<u>413.00</u>
<u>2017 BOAT EXCISE</u>			
Commitment Balance			40.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>40.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>

2018 BOAT EXCISE

Commitment Balance	0.00		164.00
Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>164.00</u>	
			<u>164.00</u>

2019 BOAT EXCISE

Commitment Balance			70.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>70.00</u>	
			<u>70.00</u>

2020 BOAT EXCISE

Commitment Balance			153.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>153.00</u>	
			<u>153.00</u>

INTEREST & CHARGES ON ABOVE

\$62,502.60

Eileen M. Seymour
Tax Collector

REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

2019 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			0.00
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Tax Title		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

2020 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			43,284.03
Receipts	32,114.28		
Net Receipts		32,114.28	
Tax Title		11,172.40	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>-2.69</u>	<u>43,284.03</u>

2021 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			121,915.61
Receipts	70,338.22		
Net Receipts		70,338.22	
Tax Title		12,766.80	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>38,810.59</u>	<u>121,915.61</u>

2022 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			330,658.91
Receipts	182,337.36		
Refunds	-1,033.85		
Turnover Adjustment 7/31/22	<u>-873.79</u>		
Net Receipts		180,429.72	
Tax Title		15,290.15	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>134,939.04</u>	<u>330,658.91</u>

2023 REAL ESTATE

Commitment Balance			8,575,761.47
Add'l Commitment			8,469,529.04
Proforma			<u>1,900.98</u>
Total Commitment			17,047,191.49
Receipts	16,545,955.26		
Refunds	<u>-23,237.24</u>		
Net Receipts		16,522,718.02	
Abatements		3,761.89	
Exemptions		61,107.14	
Transfer In		5,153.48	
Tax Title		53,342.21	
Credit Adjustment		65.88	

Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>401,042.87</u>	<u>17,047,191.49</u>
<u>2015 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			61.82
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Abatements		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>61.82</u>	<u>61.82</u>
<u>2016 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			1,995.12
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>1,995.12</u>	<u>1,995.12</u>
<u>2017 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			1,693.46
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>1,693.46</u>	<u>1,693.46</u>
<u>2018 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			2,161.63
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>2,161.63</u>	<u>2,161.63</u>
<u>2019 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			142,160.10
Receipts	0.00		
Net Receipts		0.00	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>142,160.10</u>	<u>142,160.10</u>
<u>2020 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			5,800.47
Receipts	317.08		
Net Receipts		317.08	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>5,483.39</u>	<u>5,800.47</u>
<u>2021 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			7,241.18
Receipts	317.67		
Net Receipts		317.67	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>6,923.51</u>	

			<u>7,241.18</u>
<u>2022 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			26,584.22
Receipts	1542.82		
Net Receipts		1,542.82	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>25,041.41</u>	
			<u>26,584.22</u>
<u>2023 PERSONAL PROPERTY</u>			
Commitment Balance			1,490,874.33
Add'l Commitment			2,010,306.72
Omitted Assessment			<u>5,292.30</u>
Total Commitment			3,506,473.35
Receipts	3495664.78		
Refunds	<u>-3000.85</u>		
Net Receipts		3,492,663.93	
Abatements		1,305.05	
Outstanding as of June 30, 2023		<u>12,504.37</u>	
			<u>3,506,473.35</u>

INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE

\$76,481.78

Eileen M. Seymour
Tax Collector

SEWER USER FEES AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

2023 SEPTAGE FEES COLLECTED 203,374.04

2023 INDUSTRIAL USE FEES

Committed prior to June 30, 2023 357,154.46

Committed after June 30, 2023 56,653.75

413,808.21

Collected prior to June 30, 2023 327,082.49

Collected after June 30, 2023 30,071.97

Outstanding Balance 56,653.75

2018 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance 480.24

Receipts 0.00

Net Receipts 0.00

Outstanding June 30, 2022 480.24

2019 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance 2,304.85

Receipts 2,304.85

Net Receipts 2,304.85

Outstanding June 30, 2023 0.00

2020 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance 7,057.33

Receipts 3,525.02

Net Receipts 3,525.02

Tax Title 552.70

Outstanding June 30, 2023 2,979.61

2021 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance 9075.47

Receipts 3281.71

Net Receipts 3281.71

Tax Title 1135.68

Outstanding June 30, 2023 4658.08

2022 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance		127807.25
Receipts	117033.16	
Refunds	-6926.29	
Transfer Out	<u>-9706.83</u>	
Net Receipts		100400.04
Sewer Not Liened in Error		132.46
Transfers In		72.28
Tax Title		17195.08
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>10007.39</u>

2023 SEWER USE FEES

Commitment Balance		961007.26
Add'l Commitment		<u>956734.75</u>
Total Commitment		1917742.01
Receipts	1738918.94	
Refunds	-7787.73	
Transfer Out	<u>-72.28</u>	
Net Receipts		1731058.93
Abatements		6599.8
Transfers In		4819.88
Outstanding June 30, 2023		<u>175263.40</u>
		1917742.01

INTEREST AND CHARGES ON ABOVE

\$16,215.74

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 dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in over \$2,005,921.53 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY22 of 341,580.51 a month.
- District hired a new Deputy Director Stacey Geneczko who has completed all her National Certifications for the VA.
- District hired new Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Jeffrey Cochran who has completed all his National Certifications for VA. This brings the office from 1 to 3 VA Certified VSO now in the office.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.
- The Director Chris Demars conducted a Chapter 115 presentation with GCTV for outreach.
- Expect a significant increase to Chapter 115 benefits for all City and Towns due to inflation and cost of living adjustments by the State of Massachusetts.
- We project a slight increase of the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2024.
- The Office has produced 143 claims and 46 appeals with VA for Veterans and their Dependents this year.

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 2023 the Board had 5 members and 1 associate members.

The Board had 18 hearings and collected \$1600.00 in application fees for 2023.

William Ketchen
Zoning Enforcement Officer