

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
April 8, 2015

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Meeting Date: April 8, 2015

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Location: 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

Finance Committee Members Present: John Hanold, Sharon Kennaugh, and Lynn Reynolds. Michael Naughton arrived at 6:07 PM). Greg Garrison was absent.

Selectmen Present: Mark Fairbrother and Michael Nelson. Christopher Boutwell was absent

Others Present: Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen, Broadband Committee member Rob Steinberg, and FRTA Alternate Member Jeff Singleton

Minutes

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 1, 2015.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 25, 2015.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Mr. Naughton arrived.

FRTA

Jeff Singleton presented information on the FRTA assessment process.

- Presentation included a Net Program Costs Analysis showing a necessary subsidy of almost \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2015 for the two major programs.
- There are also fully-funded programs done directly for the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Fares only generate about 10% of total revenues.
- Allocations of the net costs of the Fixed Routes are based on allocating the total hours in each town.
- The net Demand Response program costs are allocated by the number of rides.
- According to the FRTA's numbers, Montague's assessment should be over \$73,000 but the state has only been charging \$59,000. The state's charges have been the same number for the last few years.

Revenue Update – No addition information is expected in time to incorporate changes into the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for Annual Town Meeting.

Reconsider Previous Votes

Review and reconsider previous votes on operating budgets, special articles, funding sources, revenue estimates, re-vote as needed or desired.

WPCF Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: Total now \$2,224,913 (reduction of \$14,186)

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$2,224,913 for the Fiscal Year 2016 WPCF Budget, with \$2,024,913 from Sewer User Fees and \$200,000 from Taxation.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$2,224,913 for the Fiscal Year 2016 WPCF Budget, with \$2,024,913 from Sewer User Fees and \$200,000 from Taxation.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed Abstained

Broadband Article- The requested amount for this project has been increased from \$215,600 to \$400,000 to reflect the correct cost. Mr. Steinberg presented information on the cost breakdown and work to be done.

- The additional amount covers the costs of all work not being done by Matrix.
- A lot of progress was made in the last few weeks. The original cost estimated covered make-ready costs and the cost to run broadband fiber from existing facilities to the Montague Center Fire Department.
- The new amount covers the costs to service the entire town.
- Members of the Broadband Committee met with representatives from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and Representative Kulik's office and requested Montague's pro-rata share of total allocation.
- The amount of reimbursement from MBI is unknown, but delay of approval by town meeting could eliminate funding options. It is hoped that the reimbursement will be at least 70%.
- The cost estimate from Matrix includes promise that any cost over-runs will be paid by Matrix. Committee is soliciting other bids, but does not expect a lot of responses.
- Comcast will commit to Meadow Road only, with an unknown timeline. Committee is working to pivot this to cover other un-serviced areas of town. Comcast has served 94% of homes in town for over 10 years.
- Mr. Steinburg noted that it is very difficult to sell homes with no internet service, to the point that abatements are being requested in some cases.
- Mr. Naughton suggested that a well-written proposal be provided for Town Meeting.
- Mr. Naughton asked if we are sure that the only alternative to waiting for a September Special Town Meeting is to handle it at the Annual Town Meeting, and noted that the Town has held Special Town Meetings in August in the past. Mr. Naughton is concerned that adequate, concrete information will not be available by May 2nd.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$400,000 for broadband service extension, to be funded from Long-Term Borrowing.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 2 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$400,000 for broadband service extension, to be funded from Long-Term Borrowing.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed Abstained

Mr. Fairbrother noted for the record that he could be affected by this.

Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting

It was decided to use the adjusted Fiscal Year 2015 budget in all areas for consistency.

Topics not anticipated within in the 48 hour posting requirements-

- Information only – The special articles for the GMRSD utility trailer and one ton truck with plow and sander have been removed from the warrant at the request of the GMRSD.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Next Meetings:

April 15, 2015 Final votes/re-votes for recommendations, final report
Reserve Fund Transfer Request – Snow & Ice

List of Documents and Exhibits

- Minutes for April 1, 2015
- Draft Finance Committee Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

Fiscal Year 2016

The Montague Finance Committee proposes a balanced budget of **\$21,911,117** to provide municipal services during Fiscal Year 2016. These services include the town's general operations, educational assessments, the Water Pollution Control Facility, maintenance of the Colle building, and the Turners Falls Municipal Airport.

Montague has staffed and operated effective municipal programs and services, which serve our residents as well as attracting visitors from outside the town. Approval of this budget will fund the town's services and support continued progress toward the goal of fiscal sustainability. The proposed budget includes assessments from both the Gill-Montague Regional School District (\$8,498,343) and the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) (\$760,615), derived from the budgets approved by the respective school committees.

At the time this report went to press Governor Baker had delivered his proposed budget to the legislature, including municipal aid figures slightly higher than in Fiscal Year 2015, but final mid-year cuts to Fiscal Year 2015 aid have not been determined. Neither house of the legislature has proposed increased municipal aid; consequently, our recommendation uses the Fiscal Year 2015 figure for all elements of State Aid.

These following estimated revenue and spending reflects our cautious view of recovering economic conditions and tax collections. In view of this uncertain environment we acknowledge that department heads have accepted fiscal challenges to help balance the budget

Here are Summaries of the Total Proposed Budget Revenue and Expense categories. Fiscal Year references are to budget cycles ending June 30th. **Fiscal Year 2015 figures reflect the budget approved at the May 2014 Annual Town Meeting, adjusted by the following appropriations at later Special Town Meetings:**

Settlement of union contracts	Throughout budget
Legal: recurring support	\$22,500
Police: for extraordinary repairs	\$ 3,000
Police: cover shifts for injury	\$12,000
Dispatch: cover shifts for turnover	\$20,000
Water Pollution Control: Engr. Svcs.	\$20,000
Water Pollution Control: Temp employee	\$13,700

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
April 8, 2015

Change figures in parentheses are reductions from Fiscal Year 2015.

	FY 2015 ATM	FY 2016 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues				
Taxation	14,424,463	14,896,389	471,886	3.27%
State Aid	1,509,148	1,509,148	0	0.00%
Local Receipts	1,290,810	1,260,000	(30,810)	(2.39%)
Available Funds/Reserves:				
Free Cash for Town Budget	125,000	125,000	0	0.00%
Free Cash for GMRSD	125,000	125,000	0	0.00%
Special Article Balances	15,000	18,700	3,700	24.67%
Stabilization for FCTS	0	0	0	0.00%
Stabilization for Spec Articles	113,000	TBD	TBD	(0.0%)
FCTS SRO Reimbursement	75,645	56,706	18,939	(25.04%)
Colle Receipts	86,738	80,350	(6,388)	(7.36%)
Sewer User Fees	2,018,586	2,059,099	40,513	2.00%
Airport User Fees	36,185	30,847	(5,338)	(14.75%)
	FY 2015 ATM	FY 2016 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Airport Retained Earnings	5,650	0	(5,650)	(100.0%)
Long Term Borrowing-Town	0	1,801,764	1,801,764	100.0%
Long Term Borrowing-WPCF				
Total Revenues	TBD	TBD	TBD	0.0%
Total Rev Net of Borrowing	18,922,410	19,841,455	919,045	4.86%
Expenses				
General Town	8,222,035	8,373,806	141,771	1.71%
WPCF	2,147,193	2,259,099	111,906	5.21%
Airport	45,512	46,278	766	1.68%
Gill-Montague Assessment	8,293,458	8,498,343	204,885	2.47%
Franklin Cty. Tech Assessment	682,601	760,615	78,014	11.43%
Colle	86,738	80,350	(6,388)	(7.36%)
Recommended Special Articles	374,255	4,012,276	3,638,021	(972.07%)
Total Expenses	18,900,125	23,379,013	4,478,888	23.70%
Total Special Articles Net of Borrowing	374,255	452,276	78,021	20.85%

Our recommendation differs from the budget presented by the Town Administrator in the following areas:

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Town Administrator</u>	<u>Finance Committee</u>
122 SELECTMEN	166,035	162,535
423 SNOW & ICE	226,500	216,500
440 SEWER – OPERATING	1,457,463	1,525,575
440 SEWER – BENEFITS	215,327	227,327

Revenue Highlights

The town’s budget is funded mostly from four sources: property taxes, state aid, local receipts, and reserves (principally from Free Cash or Stabilization Funds).

Property Taxes The proposed budget assumes that the total levy will rise to the 2.5% limit. Net levy revenue, including New Growth, is 3.27% over fiscal year 2015. New Growth is forecast at a level typical of earlier years, and we continue to set aside a provision for settlement of disputed valuations.

State Aid is estimated the same as 2015 levels, pending agreement between the Governor and legislature on the extent of recovering economic activity. This is a cautious position, in view of possible Fiscal Year 2015 mid-year cuts.

Local Receipts This source is projected slightly below the Fiscal Year 2015 level, based on information through March 2015. Nearly 70% comes from Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and Trash Sticker sales.

Reserves are a combination of Free Cash, Stabilization Funds and other miscellaneous reserves. Within this category is reimbursement for the services of the Tech School Resource Officer, which cover the full cost (salary, benefits and related non-personnel expenses) of an additional police officer. Other significant sources of reserves, compared to Fiscal Year 2015, are:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2016</u>
Free Cash to support Town Budget	\$125,000	\$125,000
Free Cash to support GMRSD Budget	\$125,000	\$125,000
Stabilization to support GMRSD Budget	\$0	\$0
Stabilization to support Spec. Articles	\$113,000	\$136,000
Unspent prior Special Articles balances	\$0	\$18,700

In preparing the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget, the Finance Committee continued pursuing two general goals from prior years. The first is to fund annual needs (both departmental operating budgets and recurring Special Articles) from taxation, and to avoid using reserves for non-recurring projects less than \$10,000. The second is to

allocate funds available for annual operations in a set proportion between the Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment and other town functions.

We have nearly accomplished the first goal by funding only one recurring Special Article for \$75,000 from Stabilization, the same as for Fiscal Year 2015.

We addressed the second goal by recommending, as for Fiscal Years 2012 through 2015, that 51.5% of available funds (as defined) be allocated to the town budget and 48.5% to the Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment. Continued use of these percentages maintains the balance of resources devoted to town and District budgets, and seems adequate to meet their respective needs. This method resulted in a target maximum assessment of \$8,497,498, about \$204,040 higher than the final Fiscal Year 2015 figure; this approximates the School Committee's requested Fiscal Year 2016 figure of \$8,498,343, which we are pleased to recommend.

It is disappointing that State Aid to the District rose only slightly from Fiscal Year 2015, as has been true for several years. Though the Town and District managed to achieve the goal of financial affordability in Fiscal Year 2016, we recognize that in the absence of Chapter 70 increases future years will impose increasing funding stresses, which will not be eased by enrollment increases.

Town Operating Budget (excludes Special Articles)

General Conditions

Requests from town departments generally met the initial guideline of a "level services" budget. For Fiscal Year 2016, the cost of general town operations rose by about \$142,000, or 1.72% to \$8,373,806.

Staffing Changes

No new positions are included in this budget, but an additional five hours per week each for both the Health Agent and Executive Assistant have been requested by the Board of Health and Town Administrator, respectively. The justification is increased work for the state's Receivership program (remediating substandard buildings), and administrative support for Selectboard meetings and document requests. Their weekly totals will become 20 and 35 hours, respectively.

Wages & Benefits

Wages reflect a 1% Cost of Living increase and step-increases per collective bargaining agreements. All unions are under contract at this time. Employee Benefits costs fell \$31,064, or 1.65%, due primarily to lower health insurance costs.

General Government

These departments include statutory or otherwise essential functions for basic municipal operations. Principal departments are the Selectboard, Town Accountant, Assessors, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Town Planner, Legal Expenses, and Public Building Utilities.

The recommended budget for this group totals \$1,138,602, a 3.21% increase over Fiscal Year 2015. Lower costs for elections partially offset higher hours for the Executive Assistant and software costs for the Assessors. Total Utilities costs, a volatile area, are projected to rise 4%.

Public Safety

The budgets for Police and Dispatch continue to be affected by overtime costs. The need to cover shifts, while a replacement officer attends the Police Academy and during mandatory training classes, is the main force, and the Chief has accepted a challenge to manage these costs with minimal impact on safety and services. Increases in requested non-personnel spending are primarily fuel and forecasted repair expenses. In total, the budgets for this group of departments rose 5.10% (from the adjusted Fiscal Year 2015 budget) to \$1,917,968.

Public Works

A new contract for solid waste handling and a slight increase in Snow & Ice materials results in these costs rising about \$18,000 (2.74%) from Fiscal Year 2015. Personnel costs fell, a result of retirement-related separation payments in Fiscal Year 2015, but parts, repair & maintenance costs rose. The recommended total budget for this group is \$1,818,029, a 1.83% increase over Fiscal Year 2015. The Capital Improvements Committee considers the vehicle fleet to be in good condition.

Human Services and Culture & Recreation

These departments provide social services and other functions that enhance quality of life in Montague. These include the Council on Aging, Libraries, Parks and Recreation, and Veterans' Services. For Fiscal Year 2016 the separation of fee-based Recreation programs from basic-foundation services makes a year-to-year comparison (10.9% rise) less significant than for other municipal departments. The proposed total budget for this group is \$803,105, which is 2.59% above Fiscal Year 2015. The overall increase reflects a lower case-load in Veterans' Benefits, added hours for the Health Agent (mentioned earlier), and a Library increase limited to 4%.

Debt Service

This category fell very slightly from Fiscal Year 2015, to \$661,201. Debt service for the Public Safety Building and the town's share of the Combined Sewer Overload project

accounts for about 82% of the town's debt service, but does not divert funds from the operating budget because it is paid from taxes assessed beyond the Proposition 2-1/2 limit. **Any significant planned borrowing is expected to be excluded debt, as well.**

Water Pollution Control Facility

The Water Pollution Control Facility's Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget of **\$2,244,913** is about **\$97,000, or 4.50%**, higher than Fiscal Year 2015. **We recommend the continuation of a temporary position for exploration of other revenue sources. Septage handling for other towns has generated higher revenues, and may be expanded if it appears promising.** The approaching year will see the **continuation** of regular sewer line evaluation to plan for future-years repair/replacement.

Capital spending for sewer facilities in Fiscal Year 2016 will amount to **\$385,000, which will come from borrowing (see also Special Articles & Reserves section below)**. This project will continue the inspection, cleaning, lining and rehabilitation of old lines, or lines similar to those replaced or repaired during Fiscal Year 2015. These are the next steps in the long-term capital investment plan, specific to the Treatment Plant, which was mentioned in last year's report.

Of the Facility's total 2016 budget request (including the Special Article) about 78% is funded by current-year user fees and 15% from borrowing -- leaving \$200,000 to be covered by taxation. This remainder represents "inflow and infiltration" into the system from non-metered sources.

Airport

As in prior years, user fees and revenue from non-aviation sources are insufficient to cover all Fiscal Year 2016 spending, which will rise less than 2%. The airport is roughly **67%** self-supporting, a reduction from Fiscal Year 2015, because there are no significant retained earnings to offset spending. The Commission is actively pursuing development plans for areas not suitable for aviation operations.

Educational Assessments

Franklin County Technical School

The Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) assessment **rose by about \$78,000 (7.81%)** in Fiscal Year 2016, due in part to an **increase** in the proportion of Montague students to total enrollment. **We chose not to absorb the increase from the FCTS Stabilization Fund, pending agreement on a clear policy defining what is an "unusual" shift in the proportions.**

Gill-Montague Regional School District

The approved Gill-Montague Regional School District budget, on a basis similar to last year, rose from \$19,428,823 to \$20,452,361 (5.27%). However, the assessment request to Montague alone increased 2.47% to \$8,498,343, due in part to a reduction in our proportion of enrollment and a shift in the state-calculated minimum contribution. As in recent years, there was very little increase in state aid (Chapter 70) and a reversal of improving transportation reimbursements (Chapter 71)). The breakdown by category is as follows:

GMRSD Assessment	BUDGET <u>FY 2014</u>	BUDGET <u>FY 2015</u>	REQUEST <u>FY 2016</u>	REQUEST <u>INCR</u>
Minimum Contribution	4,704,760	4,858,813	5,006,608	147,795
Transportation	309,429	289,256	261,628	(27,628)
Debt Service	145,918	143,645	137,227	(6,418)
Over Minimum	2,805,450	3,001,744	3,092,880	91,136
Total	7,965,557	8,293,458	8,498,343	204,885
% Increase	1.46%	1.46%	2.47%	

As noted earlier, the Finance Committee’s recommended “affordable assessment” (\$8,497,498) was calculated by allocating total forecasted available funds between the Gill-Montague district and the total of other town services. We had expected that the state’s Chapter 70 support for the district would have returned by now to historic levels. In fact it has remained nearly unchanged in recent years, which continues to challenge the district as it balances its educational goals with available funds. Declining enrollment and increasing choice- and charter-out costs have exacerbated this challenge.

Special Articles & Use of Reserves

As noted earlier, we continue to ensure a financially sustainable future for Montague that funds ongoing expenses with taxes and other recurring revenue. Here are the principles that guide our recommendations:

1. We recommend regular appropriation of discretionary funds for needed purchase and repair of Information Technology, Police, and Public Works equipment. Though these continue to be presented as Special Articles (to enable unused balances to be preserved for future use for their intended purpose) our intent wherever possible is to fund them from Taxation. In Fiscal Year 2016 we recommend a total of \$98,200 for the discretionary funds, of which \$23,200 will come from Taxation and the remainder from Capital Stabilization. We hope to fund these entirely from taxation in the future.
2. We recommend funding vehicle leases from Taxation and outright purchases from Capital Stabilization, and accordingly a lease payment of \$43,325 will come from Taxation. No major equipment purchases are planned.

3. In Fiscal Year 2016 we recommend approval of small non-recurring expenditures (below \$25,000) from Taxation and not from Capital Stabilization. This includes maintenance expenses for the former Montague Center Elementary School, until such time as it is sold to a developer. The avoidance of spending from General Stabilization preserves that fund for protection from future cuts in state aid.
4. We believe it is important to continue the practice of regular replenishment of the Town General Stabilization and Capital Stabilization Funds when an adequate Free Cash balance is available, and ask your future support for setting money aside prior to beginning major projects. The recommendation for Fiscal Year 2016 includes such replenishment for the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, but we recommend deferral of an appropriation to General Stabilization until the first half of Fiscal Year 2016, when we know the final state aid and Free Cash amounts.
5. This year the Finance Committee recommends all articles and funding sources as presented in the motions (a separate document in the information packet). **The only non-unanimous vote was for Article #19, Records Preservation, with the dissenting vote in favor of funding from General Stabilization.**

Conclusion

There has been continuing pressure to maintain town services with the funds we have available. In recent years the Town has increased staff levels modestly to better support existing services, but is still below the levels of a decade ago. Our ability to maintain services in recent years has been significantly aided by the commitment and resourcefulness of town employees, the gradual recovery of revenue sources, cost controls at the two school districts that serve our town, moderation of employee benefit cost increases, and efficiencies at the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Looking forward to Fiscal Year 2017 we expect that state aid and local receipts will continue a slow rebound, as recovery comes in the form of a “new normal” balance of national and state economies. The town’s fiscal strength is good, and expected to improve, but the efforts of state and federal governments to address their own program needs and replenish their own reserves will slow the growth of grants and other aid, on which we have relied for some of our development plans. **The increasing age of our buildings and equipment, within both the General Fund and the Water Pollution Control Facility, will require continuing spending for repair, maintenance or replacement.** We expect to work with the Selectboard and Capital Improvements Committee to formulate and follow a clear plan for vital and effective town government without relying on the use of reserves for operating expenses.

In future years the Town may face the difficult choice of **how** to raise more revenues (through user fees, debt exclusions or a Proposition 2 ½ override) if we wish to replace or upgrade municipal buildings and infrastructure. Examples include a Public Works Garage, Senior Center, Library, and **Water Pollution Control Facilities**. We invite both general comments and specific questions from residents and Town Meeting members as

to how Town services should be prioritized. We may be contacted directly through the Town’s website at www.montague-ma.gov. The website also contains this report, revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2016, and line item budgets for all Town departments. To locate this information, go to the website, and from the **Departments** list, select “Finance Committee and Town Accountant,” then “Annual Budget Information.”

Respectfully submitted,

John Hanold, Chair
Sharon Kennaugh

Greg Garrison
Michael Naughton Lynn Reynolds

SUMMARY OF WARRANT ARTICLES

PLEASE NOTE: All Special Articles that affect Stabilization Funds require a 2/3 vote. These are shown below with an asterisk in front of the Topic.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

<u>ART NO.</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>
1.	Annual Reports		
2.	Accept Grants		
3.	Hazardous Materials Revolving Fund	7,500	Available Funds
4.	Elected Officials Salaries		
5.	Appointed Officials Salaries		
6.	Operating Budget	8,428,454	Taxation/Free Cash
7.	WPCF Operating Budget	2,244,913	Taxation/Sewer Fees
8.	Colle Receipts Operating Budget	80,350	Available Funds
9.	Airport Operating Budget	46,847	Taxation/Airport Fees
10.	Franklin County Technical School	760,615	Taxation
11.	Gill-Montague Regional School District	8,498,343	Taxation/Free Cash
12.	Sewer Lines	385,000	Sewer Debt
13.	Sheffield Windows	1,116,764	Town Debt
14.	Sheffield Boilers/Burners	145,000	Town Debt/SpArt Bal
15.	*Purchase/Repair DPW Equipment	100,000	Town Capital Stab
16.	Lease Payment 6 Wheel Dump Trucks	43,325	Taxation
17.	Repair Shea Theater Roof	20,000	Taxation
18.	Police Equipment	15,000	Taxation
19.	*Town Records	46,000	Town Capital Stab
20.	Increase Town Capital Stabilization Fund	32,632	Taxation
21.	Montague Center School Maintenance	15,000	Town Capital Stab
22.	Amend bylaw- Town Meeting Postings		
23.	Information Technology	8,200	Taxation
24.	Broadband Network	400,000	Town Debt
25.	Graffiti By-law		

26. Approve Five-Year Recycling Contract
27. Alcohol License
28. Petition Article-Require Written Legal Proposals
29. Petitioned Article – Ban Fracked Gas Pipelines
30. Petitioned Article – Approve Contract with Montague Community Cable Incorporated

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

May 2, 2015

MOTIONS

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town vote to see if the Town will vote to receive and act upon the reports of the Officers of the Town and to receive the report of any committees and act thereon.

ARTICLE 2. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or other Town departments with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, 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.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

ARTICLE 3. MOVED: That the Town vote in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, as amended, to reauthorize a revolving fund for the Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. the SARA Title III Committee) into which fund will be placed the fees collected from individuals responsible for oil and hazardous material spills, and to further authorize the SARA Title III Committee to expend up to a maximum of \$7,500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 from the Revolving Fund for the purpose of cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills.

(Emergency Manager Request)

ARTICLE 4. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

SCHEDULE I

Elected Officials

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY14 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY15 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY16 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY16 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	340	340	340	340
BOARD OF SELECTMEN				
All Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
BOARD OF ASSESSORS				
All Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	64,379.93	66,270	68,271*	68,271
*Step increase from G-9 to G-10 with 1% COLA				
TOWN CLERK	61,879.56	63,697	65,620*	65,620
*Step increase from G-7 to G-8 with 1% COLA				

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY14 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY15 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY16 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY16 RECOMMEND</u>
BOARD OF REGISTRARS				
Town Clerk	800	800	800	800
TREE WARDEN	1,300	1,300	1,500	1,300
BOARD OF HEALTH				
All Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 5. MOVED: That the Town vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY14 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY15 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY16 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY16 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>				
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	500	500	500	500
EMERGENCY MGMT DIR	5,490	5,490	5,490	5,490
BURIAL AGENT	670	670	zero	zero
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
BARN INSPECTOR	500	500	1,000	1,000
IT ADMINISTRATOR	2,000	2,000	3,500	2,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631	1,631
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>				
ASST BLDG INSPECTOR	27.06	27.06	27.50	27.50
GAS INSPECTOR	27.06	27.06	27.50	27.50

**SCHEDULE II
 Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY14 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY15 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY16 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY16 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>				
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	27.06	27.06	27.50	27.50
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	27.06	27.06	27.50	27.50

<u>HOURLY RATES</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>	<u>Ranges/hr.</u>
EXTRA CLERICAL	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00
ELECTION WORKERS	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00
SUMMER HIGHWAY	8.00-12.00	8.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
P/T POLICE OFFICERS	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00
P/T DISPATCHERS	13.00-15.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00
PARKS & RECREATION	8.00-25.63	8.00-25.63	9.00-25.63	9.00-25.63

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2015</u>		<u>With 1% COLA Range FY2016</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<u>SALARIED</u>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	84,888	104,470	85,737	105,515
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	55,194	67,595	55,746	68,271
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	77,171	94,972	77,943	95,922
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	70,156	86,339	70,858	87,202
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	55,194	67,595	55,746	68,271
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	55,194	67,595	55,746	68,271
WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	H	70,156	86,339	70,858	87,202

HOURLY

SELECTMEN'S SECRETARY	E	20.51	25.25	20.72	25.50
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Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2016 budgeted wages with 1% COLA

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	101,417	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	66,933
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	66,933	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	60,033
CHIEF OF POLICE*	98,267	WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	87,202
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	82,173	SELECTMEN'S SECRETARY	25.01

*includes additional 20% educational incentive pay

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
 Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,428,454 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town and for any other necessary changes, with \$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$8,303,454 to be raised from Taxation said sums to be allocated in accordance Schedule III, Budget.

**SCHEDULE III
BUDGET**

DEPT NO.		ADJUSTED BUDGET FY15	REQUESTED FY16	TOWN ADMIN RECOMMEND FY16	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY16
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
113	TOWN MEETING	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720
122	SELECTMEN	155,102	166,035	166,035	162,535
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	840	840	840	840
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	75,360	76,100	76,100	76,100
141	ASSESSORS	149,978	156,533	156,533	156,533
141	ASSESSORS SOFTWARE		3,860	3,860	3,860
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	207,707	212,387	212,387	212,387
151	TOWN COUNSEL	92,500	70,000	70,000	70,000
159	SHARED COSTS	71,506	79,656	79,656	79,656
161	TOWN CLERK	131,099	130,320	130,320	130,320
175	PLANNING	76,610	79,226	79,226	79,226
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	2,710	2,710	2,710	2,710
182	MEDIC	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	107,010	111,215	111,215	111,215
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,125,642	1,142,102	1,142,102	1,138,602
PUBLIC SAFETY					
211	POLICE	1,385,561	1,470,962	1,440,962	1,440,962
211	POLICE CRUISER	39,500	39,500	39,500	39,500
212	DISPATCH	272,703	275,691	270,691	270,691
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	122,238	125,384	125,384	125,384
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
291	EMERG MANAGEMENT	5,740	5,740	5,740	5,740
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	17,850	17,800	17,800	17,800
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631	1,631
299	TREE WARDEN	13,670	13,710	13,510	13,510
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	127,905	136,908	136,908	136,908
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	1,989,548	2,090,077	2,054,876	2,054,876
PUBLIC WORKS					
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,133,471	1,148,529	1,148,529	1,148,529
423	SNOW & ICE	212,000	226,500	226,500	216,500
433	SOLID WASTE	433,800	447,000	447,000	447,000
491	CEMETERIES	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,785,271	1,828,029	1,828,029	1,818,029

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

April 8, 2015

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DEPT NO.		ADJUSTED BUDGET FY15	REQUESTED FY16	TOWN ADMIN RECOMMEND FY16	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY16
	HUMAN SERVICES				
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	38,288	39,669	39,669	39,669
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	172,500	157,500	157,500	157,500
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	210,788	197,169	197,169	197,169
	CULTURE & RECREATION				
610	LIBRARIES	337,643	357,096	351,149	351,149
630	PARKS & RECREATION	104,784	116,179	116,179	116,179
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
	TOTAL CULTURE & REC	444,127	474,975	469,028	469,028
	DEBT SERVICE				
700	DEBT SERVICE	662,036	661,201	661,201	661,201
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL				
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	94,169	94,259	94,259	94,259
	MISCELLANEOUS				
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,882,335	1,851,271	1,851,271	1,851,271
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	87,619	89,371	89,371	89,371
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	1,969,954	1,940,642	1,940,642	1,940,642
	GRAND TOTAL GENERAL	8,281,535	8,428,454	8,387,306	8,373,806

Finance Committee recommends \$8,373,806 Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend \$8,373,806 Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,244,913 for the purpose of operating the Water Pollution Control Facility and associated pumping stations, with \$200,000 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,044,913 to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

DEPT NO.		BUDGET 2015	REQUEST 2016	TOWN ADMIN RECOMMEND 2016	FIN COMM SELECTMEN RECOMMEND 2016
	WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY				
440	Wages & Expenses	1,457,325	1,525,575	1,457,463	1,525,575
700	Debt Service	461,198	437,052	437,052	437,052
910	Employee Benefits	202,806	227,327	215,327	227,327
	SUBTOTAL WPCF	2,122,327	2,189,954	2,109,842	2,189,954

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
April 8, 2015

DEPT NO.		BUDGET 2015	REQUEST 2016	TOWN ADMIN RECOMMEND 2016	FIN COMM SELECTMEN RECOMMEND 2016
	WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY				
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY				
	Wages & Expenses	46,959	46,959	46,959	46,959
	Capital Outlay	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	54,959	54,959	54,959	54,959
	TOTAL WPCF	2,177,286	2,244,913	2,164,801	2,244,913

Finance Committee recommends \$2,244,913 Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend \$2,244,913 Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,350 for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance, and debt service of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised by Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriations.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$46,278 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport with \$15,431 to be raised from Taxation and \$30,847 from Airport User Fees.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$760,615 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.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,498,343 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 with \$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$8,373,343 to be raised from Taxation.

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$385,000 for the purpose of documenting and improving various sewer and storm water lines and drains, including any related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer Borrowing.

(DPW and WPCF Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0-1
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town hereby approves the **\$1,116,764.00** borrowing authorized by the **Gill-Montague Regional School District**, for the purpose of paying costs of **GMRSD Window Project at the Sheffield Elementary School, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376 replacing windows in the auditorium/gymnasium wing**, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of **GMRSD the School Building Committee**; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; provided further that any grant that District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) **seventy six percent (76%)** of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 21/2); and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

(GMRSD Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

Energy Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$145,000 for the purpose of replacing and repairing boilers and burners at the Sheffield School, said sum to be raised from \$18,700 of the unexpended balance of Article #23 of the September 12, 2013 Special Town Meeting, and \$126,300 from Borrowing.

(GMRSD Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(Department of Public Works Request)

Finance Committee recommends \$75,000 Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend \$75,000 Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends \$75,000

ARTICLE 16. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$43,325 for the purpose of funding the lease payment for a Six Wheel Dump Truck, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Department of Public Works Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 17. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of repairing the Shea Theater roof, including all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 18. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of funding purchases of Police equipment such as firearms and accessories, computers and accessories, police cruiser equipment, department furniture, bullet-proof vests, tasers, radios or any similar items as well as extraordinary repairs to same, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Police Department Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 19. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$46,000 for the purpose of funding and supporting the retention and storage of Town records through a storage management system, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(Town Clerk Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 4-1*

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Capital Improvements Committee Recommends

*dissenting vote favored funding from General Stabilization

ARTICLE 20. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$32,632 for the purpose of increasing the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Finance Committee Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 21. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 or any other amount for the purpose of maintaining the Montague Center School building, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 22. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend Article 1, Section 1 of the by-laws of the Town of Montague (amended 3/12/92) by replacing the words “in some conspicuous place in each of the post offices of the Town and in each of the public libraries of the Town, and the Town office building,” with “on the Town’s website and on the official Town Hall Bulletin Board”.

(Town Clerk Request)

ARTICLE 23. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate, the sum of \$8,200 for the purpose of funding the purchase of information technology equipment, parts, accessories, and software and for the installation thereof, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Computer Administrator Request)

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

ARTICLE 24. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 for costs associated with the design, construction, and installation, including any costs associated with or incidental thereto, of a broadband fiber-to-the-home network to provide cable service to sections of the Town that do not have access to such service, to also include installation of a fiber backbone to enable future expansion of cable service throughout the Town, the expenditure therefore to be reduced by the amount of any gift, grant, or other funding source obtained for this purpose; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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 to defray the cost of said project, and to enter into such agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing; and to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to Chapter 44, section 7(25) of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority.

(Board of Selectmen Request)
Finance Committee recommends Voted 3-2
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0-1

ARTICLE 25. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend Article IV of the By-laws of the Town of Montague, by adding the following new section to be consecutively numbered at the end thereof.

GRAFFITI AND SPRAY PAINT BY-LAW

A. Graffiti Abatement

1. Definition of "Graffiti". Any word, figure or painted design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, painted, pasted or otherwise affixed to or on any surface, regardless of the nature of the material of that structural component, unless the same was authorized in advance by the owner thereof.
2. The existence of Graffiti on any surface within the town is expressly declared to be a public nuisance affecting public health, safety and welfare.
3. No person shall apply or allow Graffiti to remain on any surface within the Town.
4. No owner of any surface within the town shall allow any Graffiti to remain thereon when the Graffiti is visible from the street or from other public or private property.

5. Whenever the Building Inspector, the Board of Health or its designee or a member of the Police Department determines that Graffiti on any surface within the town is visible from the street or from other public or private property, the owner thereof shall abate the Graffiti within 10 days of service of an order to abate or in such other time as the enforcement official shall order.
6. A property owner shall be deemed to have complied with an order to abate the Graffiti if it is obliterated by a matching building paint or by such other means as shall obliterate the Graffiti and remove the nuisance.
7. This by-law may be enforced by the Building Inspector, Board of Health or its designee or any police officer of the Town of Montague.
8. A property owner who violates any provision of this by-law may be penalized by non-criminal disposition as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D and the Town's Non-Criminal Disposition By-Law, and may be punished by a non-criminal fine of twenty-dollars (\$20) for each offense. Each day that Graffiti remains on the owner's property after expiration of an order to abate shall constitute a separate offense.
9. Any person who applies Graffiti to any surface in the Town may be penalized by non-criminal disposition as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D and the Town's Non-Criminal Disposition By-Law, and may be punished by a non-criminal fine of three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense. Each day that Graffiti remains shall constitute a separate offense.
10. Whoever violates any provision of this by-law may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the District Court. The maximum penalty for violation of this by-law shall be three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense. Each day on which a violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.
11. Nothing in this by-law shall be construed to limit in any way the Town's authority to order the abatement of a nuisance as set forth in any applicable law, including but not limited to the authority of the Board of Health as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Sections 122-125. The Town may enforce this By-law or enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process, and the election of one remedy by the Town shall not preclude enforcement through any other lawful means.

B. Sale or Delivery of Spray Paint to Minors

1. Definition of "Spray Paint". Any aerosol container that is adapted or made for the purpose of applying paint or any other substance capable of defacing the surface to which it is applied.

2. No person shall sell or deliver Spray Paint to any person under seventeen (17) years of age.
3. No employee of any establishment offering Spray Paint for sale to the public shall be penalized under this by-law if they reasonably rely on a facially valid form of identification issued by a federal, state, county or municipal government or subdivision or agency thereof, including, but not limited to, a motor vehicle operator's license, a registration certificate issued under the Federal Selective Service Act (50 App. U.S.C. *451 et seq.), identification card issued to a member of the Armed Forces or a birth certificate.
4. This bylaw may be enforced by any member of the Town of Montague Police Department. Any person who violates this bylaw may be penalized by non-criminal disposition as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D and the Town's Non-Criminal Disposition By-Law, and may be punished by a non-criminal fine of three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense.
5. Whoever violates any provision of this by-law may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the District Court. The maximum penalty for violation of this by-law shall be three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense.
6. Any person who owns, manages or operates a place of business wherein Spray Paint is offered for sale to the public shall conspicuously post notice of this law in such place of business in letters of at least one inch (1") high stating: "The sale and possession of Spray Paint to persons under age 17 is prohibited by law and subject to penalties; valid identification may be required."

C. Possession of Spray Paint by Minors

1. No person under seventeen (17) years of age shall possess Spray Paint, unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or in the course of employment involving the manufacture, distribution, sale or use of Spray Paint.
2. This bylaw may be enforced by any member of the Montague Police Department. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) found violating the provisions of this by-law may be penalized by non-criminal disposition as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D and the Town's Non-Criminal Disposition By-Law, and may be punished by a non-criminal fine of two hundred dollars (\$200) for each offense.
3. Whoever violates any provision of this by-law may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the District Court. The maximum penalty for violation of

this by-law shall be three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense. Each day on which a violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

(Police Chief Request)

ARTICLE 26. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five-year contract with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management Recycle America, LLC for recycling services at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

ARTICLE 27. MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for one (1) additional all alcohol on premises liquor license to be exercised and located at 37 Third Street, in the Turners Falls Village of the Town, by the Five Eyed Fox, 37 Third Street, Turners Falls, or its successors or assigns, said license not to be transferred to any other location; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

The petition for special legislation shall take the following form:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE TO ISSUE ONE
ADDITIONAL LIQUOR LICENSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws or any other general or special, rule or regulation to the contrary, the licensing authority of the town of Montague may grant one (1) additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be consumed on premises under section 12 of said chapter 138 to Five Eyed Fox, or its successors or assigns, to be exercised at and located at 37 Third Street, in the Turners Falls Village in said town. A license granted under this section shall be subject to all of said chapter 138 except said section 17.

(b) Once issued, the licensing authority shall not approve the transfer of the license issued under this section to any other location, but it may grant the license to a new applicant at the same location if the applicant files with the authority a letter from the department of revenue indicating that the license is in good standing with the department and that all applicable taxes

have been paid.

(c) If the license granted under this section is cancelled, revoked or no longer in use, it shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights, privileges and restrictions pertaining thereto, to the licensing authority, which may then grant the license to a new applicant at the same location under the same conditions as specified in this section.

(Board of Selectmen Request)

ARTICLE 28. MOVED: That the Town vote to act on the following petition:

The undersigned direct the selectboard to solicit written proposals (for time task and money) for legal services for the upcoming fiscal year (2016-2017; all said proposals shall be presented to town meeting at the next special or annual town meeting for their vote.

(Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 29. MOVED: That the Town vote to act on the following petition:

RESOLUTION TO BAN “FRACKED GAS” PIPELINES AND TO CHAMPION SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Whereas a proposed High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing may come through Montague, or neighboring communities, bringing said fuel en route to Dracut, Massachusetts to be used for electricity generation; and

Whereas said pipeline goes against current Massachusetts commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change; and

Whereas said pipeline would destroy unknowable amounts of forest, conservation land, and farmland; and

Whereas a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leak, rupture or devastating explosion causing untold damage to property and lives; and

Whereas the cost of said pipeline would require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C (“TGP“, a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

Whereas, we the citizens of Montague, Massachusetts choose not to participate in such encumbrances to the life, vibrancy, economic stability, and general well-being to our neighbors in New York and elsewhere, wherever hydraulic fracturing is occurring and the pressurized pipeline is running now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the people of Montague, Massachusetts:

1. Hereby call on our Selectboard to stand in opposition to TGPs high pressured pipeline and not allow it within our town borders;
2. Oppose said pipeline, and any pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, within the borders of our Commonwealth or our Nation; and
3. Hereby instruct our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well being and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources.

(Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 30. MOVED: That the Town vote to act on the following petition:

To see if the Montague Annual Town Meeting will vote to approve a contract between the town of Montague and its PEG access provider, Montague Community Cable Incorporated, or take any other action relative thereto. The contract shall not be for more than three years and shall be accompanied by a plan, submitted by MCCI, to expand local content and community involvement in the station (MCTV).

(Petitioned Article)