

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE and SELECTBOARD MEETING NOTICE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96877334839?pwd=RFBXU2UvLzZmOTU2QWo0SVVxV1IMUT09>

Meeting ID: 968 7733 4839

Passcode: 793230

Call in numbers: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Meeting Being Recorded*

Votes May Be Taken

1. Chairs open the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded, roll call, and guidelines for participation (5 minutes)
2. Town Administrator's Updates
3. Special Town Meeting Warrant, October 13, 2020 – To review draft warrant, attached hereto, and to make recommendation on all items in warrant; votes may be taken
4. Topics not anticipated within the 48 hour posting requirements
5. Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Materials:

Preliminary Warrant: https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/Preliminary_10-13-20_STM_Warrant_Sept_13.pdf

Proposed appropriations and budget adjustments: https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/FY21_TM_Appropriations_and_Budget_Adjustments_9-13-20.pdf
(Excel file with additional detail is available at: <https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/374/>)

Background:

Description of articles deferred from Annual Town Meeting:

https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/FY21_Fin_Comm_Report.pdf (pages 28-33)

Montague Financial Management Policies:

https://www.montague-ma.gov/files/Financial_Management_Policies.pdf

* This meeting is scheduled for live broadcast on Channel 17 and will be archived on <https://vimeo.com/mctvchannel17>.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Finance Committee Meeting (scheduled): Wed., September 30, 2020, 6pm on Zoom
Special Town Meeting, Tues, October 13, 2020, 6:30pm at 128 Turners Falls Rd.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
October 13, 2020**

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 Montague DPW Garage, 128 Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 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 vote taken under Article #6 of the June 13, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$10,481,863 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, by reducing the amount to be raised by taxation by \$109,000, so that the total amount raised by taxation is reduced from \$10,481,815.70 to \$10,372,815.70, and to amend **Schedule III: Town Operating Budget**, as shown on the **Revised Schedule III: Town Operating Budget**, set forth below, with all other line items remaining unchanged, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Revised Schedule III: Town Operating Budget

Dept. #		Article #6 06/13/20 FY21	Revised FY21
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
151	Town Counsel	90,000	80,000
155	Information Technology	58,100	62,100
159	Shared Costs	72,759	74,759
190	Public Bldg Utilities	141,320	106,320
	HUMAN SERVICES		
543	Veterans' Services	98,400	88,400
	MISCELLANEOUS		
910	Employee Benefits	2,298,057	2,238,057
	Total Town Operating Budget	10,481,863	10,372,863

ARTICLE 2: 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 replacing the Council on Aging roof and any other necessary exterior repairs, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Council on Aging Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$5,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of hiring professionals to survey the parcels comprising Montague Center Park in support of its future redevelopment or use, and anything incidental or related thereto, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks & Recreation Commission Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$4,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of making necessary improvements to the Shea Theater fire protection system, and anything incidental or related thereto, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(DPW Request)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$820.49, or any other amount, which represents the net premium paid to the Town upon the sale of the Town's \$5,785,000 DPW Facility Bonds dated January 22, 2020, to pay costs of the DPW facility authorized by the vote of the Town passed March 29, 2018, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project by such amount, as set forth in M.G.L. c. 44, §20 or any other applicable law, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Treasurer 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 \$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 7: 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	\$61,507
Town Capital Stabilization Fund	\$273,911
Town OPEB Trust Fund	\$118,000
Town Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund	\$35,791
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	\$39,185
Franklin County Technical School Stabilization Fund	\$68,000
Total:	\$596,394

(Finance Committee 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 \$50,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2021 Reserve Fund budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$82,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of obtaining engineering, design, permitting, bidding, oversight and construction services related to the capping of the former Montague Burn Dump, and anything incidental or related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the date of the Annual Town Election from the third Monday in May of each year to the third Tuesday in May each year, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

The petition for special legislation shall take the following form; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION IN THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 1974 is hereby amended by striking the word "Monday" in the first sentence and replacing it with the word "Tuesday".

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
(Town Clerk Request)

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 2 from the Town's General Bylaws, relative to the date of the Annual Town Election, as show below, provided, however, that any amendments approved pursuant to this article shall not take effect unless and until the Legislature enacts amendments to Chapter 9 of the Acts of 1974 relative to the date of the Annual Town Election, as set forth in Article 10 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

The bylaw amendment will strike section 2 of the Town's General Bylaws, which currently reads as follows:

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 2: The annual meeting for the election of Town officers required by law to be elected by ballot shall be held on the first Monday in March of each year. *(This section was rescinded at a Special Town Meeting on 11/15/1973, by the following act passed by the General Court on February 22, 1974.)

Chapter 9, Acts of 1974, "An act relative to the dates of the Annual Town Election and Town Meeting held in the Town of Montague". Be it enacted as follows:
Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law or by-law of the Town of Montague to the contrary, said Town shall hold the Annual Town Meeting for the election of Town officers and the determination of such matters as by law or vote of the Town are required to be elected or determined by official ballot on the third Monday in May of each year. All other business shall be considered at a meeting to be held on the first Saturday of May of each year. Separate warrants may be posted for said election and business meetings.

And replace it with the following:

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 2: Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law or by-law of the Town of Montague to the contrary, said Town shall hold the Annual Town Meeting for the election of Town officers and the determination of such matters as by law or vote of the Town are required to be elected or determined by official ballot on the third Tuesday in May of each year. All other business shall be considered at a meeting to be held on the first Saturday of May of each year. Separate warrants may be posted for said election and business meetings.

(Town Clerk Request)