

MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held **IN PERSON** in the Montague Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room,
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

This meeting/hearing of the Finance Committee will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting.

Meeting Being Recorded

Votes May Be Taken

Recordings are archived at <https://vimeo.com/mctvchannel17/videos>

1. 6:00 Call to order for all, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded, roll call, welcome to visitors, and guidelines for participation.
2. 6:02 Review of meeting minutes of April 29, 2026
3. 6:05 Reserve Fund transfers
 - a. Recreation Department - \$6,200
 - b. Snow and Ice - \$15,200
 - c. EV Charging Station - \$2,000
 - d. Property and Liability Insurance - \$7,300
4. 6:20 Debrief of ATM and Budget Process
5. 6:40 Discuss summer schedule and plans
 - a. 5-year forecast
 - b. FCTS budget strategy
 - c. DPW/CWF Budgetary lines
6. 6:50 Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting.
7. 7:00 Next Meeting dates
 - a. To be determined
8. 7:01 Adjourn

MEETING OF MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6 PM

This meeting was held via zoom and recorded:

<https://vimeo.com/982262386>

Finance Committee Chair Dorinda Bell-Upp called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Finance Committee members present: Chair Dorinda Bell-Upp, Leigh Rae, Stuart Miehler, Emily Siegenthaler, Josh Bell, Francia Wisnewski, Chris Menegoni

Finance Committee members absent:

Others present: Town Administrator Walter Ramsey, Town Accountant Angelica Desroches

The meeting was recorded by MCTV.

Meeting minutes:

- Mr. Miehler moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Menegoni and approved.
 - Bell-Upp – Aye, Siegenthaler – Aye, Miehler – Aye, Rae – Aye, Bell – Aye, Wisnewski – Abstain, Menegoni – Abstain

Finance Committee Town Meeting Preparation

- **Review of pre-Town Meeting**
- Ms. Bell-Upp noted that there were not a lot of questions asked at the pre-town meeting. Ms. Rae added that the questions that John Hanold asked were very thorough and tuned to the Town's fiscal responsibility.
- Ms. Bell-Upp brought up that a lot of articles are being funded with unspent special articles and that maybe there should be a brief discussion of this during the Town Meeting, so it is clear why this approach is being taken this year.
- The concerns around the police budget were brought up in the pre-town meeting. Ms. Wisnewski specifically added that there was information that was requested about the usage of cars related to shifts that were never provided. She reported that she wanted that information to feel confident during Town Meeting about the necessity of the two police cruisers. The Capital Improvement Committee has additional information in their report about the need for cars but there is no information about shift schedule and cruiser use during the shifts.
- Mr. Miehler reported that during one of his precincts meetings there was a lot of discussion around the library about that last night there appeared to be less discussion. Ms. Rae added that the overall concern with the library project seems to be the impact on the tax bills. Other issues include the size of the building and parking.
- Mr. Miehler questioned when the affordable assessment is predicted to change if the regionalization vote passes. Ms. Bell-Upp stated there would be several years of transition. The assessment would be based on a 5-year foundation enrollment. Mr. Miehler pointed out that this is another pressure the budget may feel in the not-too-distant future on top of the library bonding discussion and technical school discussions.
 - **Assign speakers to articles for ATM**
- Ms. Bell-Upp inquired when the Finance Committee needs to do another review of stipends. Determined it is summer 2027. Ms. Rae also commented that a lot of the budget is Human

Resource related, which is mostly out of the control of Town Meeting due to negotiated contracts with unions.

- Ms. Bell-Upp reported she would be willing to speak to the school articles. Ms. Bell-Upp volunteered Ms. Rae to speak on the article about the police cruisers because she did a tour of the police department for more information. Mr. Ramsey added that last year there was no request for a cruiser, so this is a make-up year. There was also discussion that now that the department is fully staffed there is more need for cars.
- Ms. Bell-Upp discussed that everyone is welcome to speak about any article that they want. This meeting does not disallow them from speaking on all articles.
- Mr. Menegoni reported that he is going to be prepared for most of the capital articles as a member of both Capital Improvement Committee and Finance Committee.
- Further discussion on the usage of unexpended articles as a funding source. Ms. Desroches added that most years there will not be as much money to use as a funding source. This year we are closing out the FirstLight lawsuit articles which make up a large portion of that funding source.
- Mr. Ramsey pointed out that there may need to be more explanation on the FCTS budget and why the stabilization money is being used to offset the cost. Ms. Desroches explained the finance committee policy and that the plan is to change it over the summer to match the new lottery system.

Updates from Town Administrator

- Mr. Ramsey reported he has none this week.

Topics not anticipated in 48 hours

- Brief discussion on what the summer topics for the Finance Committee Meetings could be. FCTS budget process, 5-year financial forecast, DPW discretionary fund, and review financial policies.

Next Meeting dates/topics:

- May 2 – Annual Town Meeting
- June ? – Reserve Fund Transfers and End of Year Transfers

Adjournment

Ms. Rae makes the motion to adjourn at 6:49 PM. Seconded by Mr. Menegoni and approved.

- Bell-Upp – Aye, Siegenthaler – Aye, Mieher – Aye, Rae – Aye, Bell – Aye, Wisnewski – Aye, Menegoni – Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Angelica Desroches

Documents and exhibits:

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- 1. Amount requested: \$ 5,600.00
2. To be transferred to account number 001-630-5242
Account Title Facilities/Grounds Maint.
3. Present balance in said line-item appropriation: \$ -20,941

The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose): Cover the cost of budget overrun and anticipated expenses in the last month of fiscal year.

This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:

Facilities/Grounds Maintenance line-item has been over-expended significantly this fiscal year due to unforeseen maintenance items at an exceptional cost.

- Whale Sprinkler Unit required both technical and mechanical repairs.
o Control unit's motherboard malfunctioned requiring the purchase of a new one. The new motherboard was not received until late September, resulting in increased water use for the entire summer 2025 operating season. The sprinkler unit does not operate via recycling circulation system, and therefore requires the constant use of Town water, which we need to pay for.
o One of the two solenoid valves also needed replacing
- Replacement of spinner unit in Unity playground
- Replacement of Sun Shelter canopy (insurance deductible)

Handwritten signature of Officer/Department Head

Date: 6/2/26

Officer/Department Head

ACTION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

Date of Meeting: Number present & voting:
Transfer recommended in the amount of \$ Transfer disapproved:
Chairperson

ACTION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: Number present & voting:
Transfer voted in the amount of \$ Transfer disapproved:
Chairperson, Finance Committee

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND

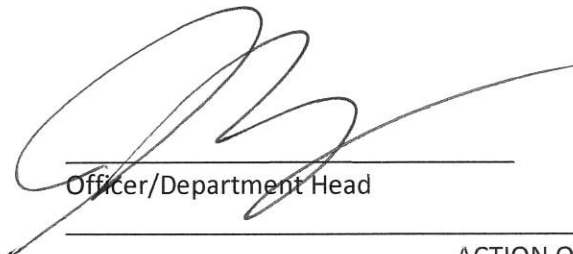
Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- 1. Amount requested: \$ 600.00
- 2. To be transferred to account number 001-630-5342
Account Title Rec Internet
- 3. Present balance in said line-item appropriation: \$ - 3,010.30

The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):

We are not entirely sure why we are over budgeted in this line-item and can only attribute this to increased fees on the part of Comcast as services were not expanded from our end.

This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:



Officer/Department Head

Date: 6/2/26

ACTION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____
Transfer recommended in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____
Chairperson _____

ACTION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____
Transfer voted in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____

Chairperson, Finance Committee

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- 1. Amount requested: \$ 15,200
- 2. To be transferred to account number 001-423-5532-000000
Account Title Snow and Ice Salt
- 3. Present balance in said line item appropriation: \$-55,399.20 _____

The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):
To cover the deficit in the Snow and Ice budget for FY26.

This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:
This year there were more storms than in previous years. The storms required additional salt due to ice in the storms. The price of salt increased over last year.

Samuel Urkiel

Officer/Department Head

Date: 6/3/26

ACTION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____
Transfer recommended in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____
Chairperson _____

ACTION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____
Transfer voted in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____

Chairperson, Finance Committee

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- 1. Amount requested: \$ 2,000
- 2. To be transferred to account number 001-480-5211-000000
Account Title Charging Station Electricity
- 3. Present balance in said line item appropriation: \$-672.32 _____

The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):
To fund the electricity for the EV Charging stations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:
There was an additional charging station that came online in December. And both charging stations have been utilized more than was anticipated.

Officer/Department Head Date: _____

ACTION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____
Transfer recommended in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____
Chairperson _____

ACTION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____
Transfer voted in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____

Chairperson, Finance Committee

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

1. Amount requested: \$ 7,300
2. To be transferred to account number 001-946-5740-000000
Account Title Property and Liability Insurance
3. Present balance in said line item appropriation: \$-7,275.40 _____

The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):
To fund deficit in property and insurance line for FY26.

This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:
Unexpected costs related to employee costs. Including increased workers comp liability resulting from wage increase, as well as employment liability claims. There were additions of vehicles throughout the fiscal year as well, which were unexpected due to not knowing when those vehicles would be received by the Town.

Walter Ramsey

Officer/Department Head

Date: 6/3/26

ACTION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____

Transfer recommended in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____

Chairperson _____

ACTION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: _____ Number present & voting: _____

Transfer voted in the amount of \$ _____ Transfer disapproved: _____

Chairperson, Finance Committee