

MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held remotely.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86523275284>

Meeting ID: 865 2327 5284

One tap mobile

+1 312 626 6799, 86523275284# US (Chicago)

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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 July 15, 2026
3. 6:05 Special Town Meeting Article Review
 - a. Prior Year Bills - \$1,643.02
 - b. Airport FY26 Operating Deficit - \$38,550.27
 - c. Airport FY27 Revenue Deficit - \$15,000
 - d. Grant Deficit Cleanup - \$61,502.31
 - e. Cemetery Maintenance/Sexton Stipend - \$12,032
 - f. Departmental Requests - \$16,300
 - i. \$5,600 for walk-behind automatic floor scrubber
 - ii. \$7,700 for infield groomer
 - iii. \$3,000 for resurfacing Unity Park walkway and whale unit area
 - g. Guardrail repurposing – \$80,821
 - h. Consolidated Elementary School Feasibility Study - \$1,750,000
 - i. Senior Tax Work Off
4. 6:45 Discussion Financial Investment Policy
5. 7:00 Updates from Town Administrator
 - a. Franklin County Technical School vote and funding
6. 7:15 Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting.
7. 7:20 Next Meeting dates/topics
 - a. September 30 – STM votes/financial policy
 - b. October 14 – STM prep and stipend review
 - c. October 21 – Pre Town Meeting
 - d. October 28 – Special Town Meeting
8. 7:25 Adjourn

MEETING OF MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 15, 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 6:11 PM.

Finance Committee members present: Chair Dorinda Bell-Upp, Chris Menegoni, Josh Bell, Stuart Mieher

Finance Committee members absent: Leigh Rae, Emiley Siegenthaler

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

The meeting was recorded by MCTV.

Reserve Fund Transfers

- Solid Waste Budget - \$19,300
 - Mr. Menegoni moved to approve \$19,300 to account number 001-433-5280 Solid Waste Removal and authorize the chair to sign. Seconded by Mr. Bell.
 - Mr. Ramsey reported that the amount of waste has increased substantially over the last couple of years and started around when the transfer from Republic to Casella occurred. The sale of trash and barrel stickers has increased along with it. The Selectboard and DPW are looking into what has caused this increase. Also possibly looking at trash and barrel sticker pricing to help offset.
 - Bell-Upp – Aye, Mieher —Aye, Bell – Aye, Menegoni – Aye

Stipend Fall Review – Begin Survey/Review Process

- Ms. Bell-Upp gave the overview that this is a routine review of the stipends. In the past there is an email sent out requesting any changes in the roles or request for stipend adjustments. The Finance Committee will also take into consideration a cost-of-living adjustment if needed. Ms. Desroches stated that she would send out an email to all individuals with stipends requesting if there are changes in the position or if there is a request to change the stipend.

Meeting minutes:

- Mr. Menegoni moved to approve the minutes of June 10, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Bell and approved.
 - Bell-Upp – Aye, Mieher —Abstain, Bell – Aye, Menegoni – Aye

Reorganization

- Ms. Bell-Upp made a motion to nominate Ms. Rae as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr. Bell and approved.
 - Bell-Upp – Aye, Mieher —Aye, Bell – Aye, Menegoni – Aye
- Mr. Menegoni made a motion to nominate Ms. Bell-Upp as Chair. Seconded by Mr. Mieher and approved.
 - Bell-Upp – Aye, Mieher —Aye, Bell – Aye, Menegoni – Aye

- Ms. Bell-Upp made a motion to nominate Mr. Menegoni as Clerk. Seconded by Mr. Bell and approved.
 - Bell-Upp – Aye, Mieher – Aye, Bell – Aye, Menegoni – Aye

Updates from Town Administrator

- Mr. Ramsey updated the Finance Committee that the Town is looking at having a Fall Special Town Meeting. Discussed that one of the biggest requests will be from the school for the feasibility study for the MSBA elementary school project. There are also several Airport articles related to current year's budget and cleaning up old grant deficits.
- The Selectboard approved a restructuring of the police department. This restructuring does not add positions but is renaming and updating positions. This will be a cost neutral transition for the current fiscal year.
- Selectboard had its strategic planning session a few weeks ago. Their primary goals identified are the special district consolidation, regionalization of dispatch, health insurance costs, and senior tax work off program.

Topics not anticipated in 48 hours

- The Finance Committee is currently looking for a member to replace a member whose term ended June 30, 2026.

Next Meeting dates/topics:

- August ? – 5 year forecast
- September ? – Financial Policy review
- October ? – Stipend Review

Adjournment

Mr. Menegoni makes the motion to adjourn at 6:33 PM. Seconded by Mr. Mieher and approved.

- Bell-Upp – Aye, Mieher – Aye, Bell – Aye, Menegoni – Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Angelica Desroches

Documents and exhibits:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	Accounting	Submitted by:	Angelica Desroches
Item/Project Cost:	\$1,643.02	Date Prepared:	9/3/2026
Item/Project Title:	Prior Year Bills		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$1,643.02**, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying prior year unpaid bills of the Police Department and Shared Services, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

There are two prior year bill currently.

Police Department has a Signet bill for 1,585 from 2/24/25.

Shared Services has a Verizon bill for 58.02 from 6/17/26.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

Yes**No**☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

This will be managed by the Town Accountant.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

This is essential to make sure the Town is up to date on the payments of all invoices to vendors.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

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X

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Comments and additional information:

This is being proposed to fund 1,643.02 through free cash.



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Airport</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Angelica Desroches</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$38,550.27</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>9/3/2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Airport FY26 Operating Deficit</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$38,550.27**, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the Airport FY26 operating deficit, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

In FY26 the Airport Enterprise fund ran an operating deficit. The Town is legally required to fund this deficit. To prevent this deficit from hitting taxation it is recommended that we fund this through free cash. There are two drivers for the deficit. The first is that the Airport was unable to meet the FY26 budgeted revenues by \$18,671.57 due to loss of a rental in January 2026 and they were unable to fill that vacancy prior to the end of the year. The second driver is that the Airport over expended the FY26 budget by \$19,878.52. Over-expenditure was caused by costs associated with repairing and preparing the space that caused the loss in rental revenue to make this space more attractive to potential future lessees. The Airport had a large cost of installing network equipment and security cameras.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

Yes**No**☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

This will be managed by the Town Accountant.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

This is essential to fund because it is a legal deficit that if we do not fund through free cash we will have to raise it through taxation during the FY27 tax rate setting process later this year. The Town is required by state law to fund this deficit.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

X

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Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
FY 27

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☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Airport</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Angelica Desroches</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$15,000</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>9/3/2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Airport FY27 Revenue Deficit</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$15,000**, or any other amount, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations of the Airport, including the payment of wages and benefits for airport employees, maintenance of property and equipment, the purchase of supplies, debt service, and anything incidental or related thereto, with \$10,000 to be used to fund the expected Fiscal Year 2027 revenue shortfall in the Airport Enterprise Fund and \$5,000 to increase Airport Overtime, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

The current revenue projections for FY27 with the changes in lease holders would leave the Airport Enterprise fund short approximately \$10,000 in the revenue lines. The ask is that the Town fund an additional \$10,000 of the Airport Enterprise fund out of free cash to ensure that the tax rate setting process can be completed in the fall without delay. The Airport is also predicting an overage in the overtime line due to predicted staffing adjustments needed to provide proper and legal coverage of the Airport services. The current ask is to fund \$5,000 of additional overtime from free cash.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Yes**No**☐☒

Is there a lease option for this expense?

☐☒

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

☐☒

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

☐☒

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

☐☒

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

☐☒**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

This will be managed by the Airport Manager.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

This is essential to fund because it is a predicted revenue deficit that if we do not fund through free cash we run the risk of not being able to set our tax rate in a timely fashion.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

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Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

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Special
FY 27

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☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Accounting</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Angelica Desroches</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$61,502.31</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>9/3/2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Grant Deficit Cleanup</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$61,502.31**, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding structural grant deficits, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

The following grants have been identified by the state and the Town Accountant as structural grants that will need to be funded:

FY23 Wildlife Management (-\$5,525)

FY23 Retrofit Approach Lighting (-\$714.30)

FY23 Approach Safety Equipment (-\$11,418.99)

ASMP 2024-OB5-38 (-\$656.55)

ASMP 2021-OB5-33 OB% VLTGEN (-\$5,013.42)

ASMP 2022-OB5-38 Beacon (-\$6,858.37)

ASMP 2022-OB5-40 Building Safety (-\$22,893.35)

Green Communities (-\$8,422.33)

Most of these structural deficits are caused by Town matches that were not funded.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

Yes**No**☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

This will be managed by the Town Accountant.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

This is essential to fund because once the state identifies that there is a structural deficit in grants they will require a community to raise these deficits through taxation as part of the tax setting process.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

X

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Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Cemetery</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Angelica Desroches</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$12,032</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>9/3/2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Cemetery Extraordinary Maintenance/Sexton Stipend</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$12,032**, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing goods/services for the cemetery and providing funds for the cemetery sexton stipend, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

This article is to create a special article that the Cemetery Commission can use for maintenance costs beyond the Town budgeted landscaping. This is for upkeep of the grounds beyond mowing and line trim. With the Highland Cemetery still in its early stages there are extra costs to mark graves and establish the space. \$2,032 of this article will go to funding the other half of the Cemetery Sexton stipend, which the Town funds \$2,000 of with taxation. Funds to support this purchase come from the Sale of Highland Cemetery Lots Account, which holds the balance of funds transferred to the Town when it accepted ownership of the original Highland Cemetery and the additional sales. The current balance of that fund is \$126,352.62.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)**Yes****No***Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page*

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

☐☒*If yes, attach the estimate*

Is there a lease option for this expense?

☐☒

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

☐☒

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

☐☒

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

☐☒

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

☐☒**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed***This will be managed by the Cemetery Commission who will vote on expenses in their regular meetings.***Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?***This is essential to make sure the Cemetery Commission has the funding to create a safe, structured, and well maintained cemetery for the residents of Montague.***Relative Priority :** Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

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X

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Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

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☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Police</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Jason Haskins</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$5,600</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>9/8/2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Purchase Automatic Floor Scrubber</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$5,600**, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing a walk-behind automatic floor scrubber, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

A walk-behind automatic floor scrubber is essentially a commercial machine for washing hard floors. This would replace the failed unit that was purchased when the Police Station was opened in 2009. The replacement unit would be smaller than the current unit. The unit would be housed at the police department but would be available for less frequent use across other municipal facilities.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

Yes**No**☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

Police Chief will make the purchase.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

The current unit has failed and repair/ rehab is unfeasible.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

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X

Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

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☒ This is a general financial request

Department:	<u>Parks & Recreation</u>	Submitted by:	<u>Jon Dobosz, Director</u>
Item/Project Cost:	<u>\$7,700</u>	Date Prepared:	<u>Sept. 1, 2026</u>
Item/Project Title:	<u>Infield Groomer</u>		

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$7,700**, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing an infield groomer to maintain park ballfields.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

The infield groomer will be a tow-behind unit that can be used by the Parks & Recreation Department and DPW when needed. The unit includes adjustable scarifiers, patented adjustable profile blades w/pitch control, a 1/2" steel finish and grading rake w/pivot control, large transport/gauge wheels, and a patented wheel lift system. Additional attachments are included.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

Yes**No**☒☐☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒☐☒**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

The Parks & Recreation Department will purchase this item.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

Over the years, MPRD and DPW have tried various methods in which to manage grass and weed growth on ballfield infields. Such efforts proved overly time-consuming and resulted in only temporary improvement. A professional-grade infield groomer would provide greater efficiency in managing these areas, and keeping the fields in optimum playing condition.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

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Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☒ This is a general financial request

Department: Parks & Recreation Submitted by: Jon Dobosz, Director

Item/Project Cost: \$3,000 Date Prepared: Sept. 1, 2026

Item/Project Title: Unity Park Playground Walkway & Spray Unit Resurfacing

Proposed Article Wording:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of **\$3,000**, or any other amount, for the purpose of filling cracks and painting the Unity Park Playground Walkways and Whale Spray Unit surface.*

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

Work will include crack filling on the asphalt walkways, in addition to two coats of sport court grade paint. Paint will also be applied to the surface of The Whale spray feature.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)**Yes****No***Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page*

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

☒☐*If yes, attach the estimate*

Is there a lease option for this expense?

☐☒

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

☐☒

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

☐☒

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

☐☒

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

☐☒**Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed**

Parks & Recreation will manage procurement and execution of the project. There will be no need for external design or engineering services.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

It has been about three years since the walkways had the cracks filled and were repainted. This is work that needs to be done every two years to maintain the integrity of the walkways in addition to keeping the area aesthetically pleasing. The Whale spray feature also needs consistent re-painting due to heavy use over the summer months.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

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Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
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☒ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☐ This is a general financial request

Department:	Gill-Montague Regional School District	Submitted by:	Elementary School Building Committee
Item/Project Cost:	\$1,750,000	Date Prepared:	9/8/2026
Item/Project Title:	Consolidated Elementary School Feasibility Study		

Proposed Article Wording:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,750,000)** for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Feasibility Study for the Sheffield Elementary School, located at 43 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, including consideration of renovation, addition, new construction, and the potential consolidation of Sheffield Elementary School with Hillcrest Elementary School into a PreK–5 elementary school facility, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”);

and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said sum pursuant to **M.G.L. c. 44, §7**, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor;

provided 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 that any costs incurred by the Town in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town;

and provided further that the amount of borrowing authorized by this vote shall be reduced by the amount of any grant approved by the MSBA for the Feasibility Study;

or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Detailed Description for Background Materials: *(Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.)*

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

	Yes	No
Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work? <i>If yes, attach the estimate</i>	☐	☐
Is there a lease option for this expense?	☐	☐
Will this item or project replace a capital asset?	☒	☐
Will this create ongoing costs or savings?	☐	☐
Will this leverage grant or other external funding?	☒	☐
Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?	☒	☐

Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed

First an Owners Project Manager will be contracted. Then the OPM will help facilitate the designer selection process for the architect that will conduct the study. All contracting will be closely overseen by the MSBA and the Town's Procurement Officer. The Elementary School Building Committee will play a strong role in vetting and recommending the preferred vendors and negotiating the scope and terms of the respective contracts.

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

The Town has been invited into the MSBA Eligibility Phase. Accordingly, the Town has until January 2027 to decided whether to appropriate funds for the feasibility study. Subsequently, the Town would be invited into the MSBA School Building program.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

X

Comments and additional information:



SPECIAL ARTICLE REQUEST – Financial

Fall
Special
FY 27

Please complete this form in its entirety!

☐ This is a capital request (*building repair, vehicles, and equipment costing >25,000 and lasting > 5 years*)

☐ This is a general financial request

Department: Selectboard Submitted by: Town Administrator

Item/Project Cost: _____ Date Prepared: 9/8/2026

Item/Project Title: Senior Tax Work Off Program

Proposed Article Wording:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5K, authorizing the Selectboard to establish a program whereby persons over the age of sixty may volunteer to provide services to the Town in exchange for a reduction in their real property tax obligations, beginning in Fiscal Year 2028, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Detailed Description for Background Materials: (*Provide a full description of the item or service. Use attachments as needed.*)

This article would accept G.L. c. 59, § 5K, which allows the Town to establish a Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program for eligible residents over age 60. Under such a program, participating seniors could perform approved volunteer service for the Town in exchange for a reduction in their property tax bill. Acceptance of the statute would not itself establish the final program rules; those details, including eligibility preferences, the number of participants, the amount of the credit, work assignments, and administrative procedures, would be developed and approved by the Selectboard following Town Meeting. The Selectboard is considering the program as a way to provide modest property tax relief to seniors while also creating opportunities for residents to contribute useful volunteer service to municipal departments.

Scoping Questions (for Capital and purchases)

Yes

No

Please elaborate in the comments box at bottom of the page

Do you have a written estimate or proposal for the scope of work?

☐☐

If yes, attach the estimate

Is there a lease option for this expense?

☐☐

Will this item or project replace a capital asset?

☐☐

Will this create ongoing costs or savings?

☐☐

Will this leverage grant or other external funding?

☐☐

Is this request identified on the Capital Improvement Plan?

☐☐

Describe how the project/ purchase will be managed

The Selectboard will adopt policies that govern the Program. The Council on Aging Director will administer the program with support from the Selectboard Office

Why is it essential that the Town makes this investment in the current fiscal year?

Town Meeting authorization in FY27 will allow for program roll-out in FY28.

Relative Priority : Your assessment of the how important this is to the Town at the present time.

Critical Importance

Highly Important

Moderately Important

X

Comments and additional information: