

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

Fiscal Year 2018

The Montague Finance Committee proposes a balanced budget of \$23,052,472 to provide municipal services during Fiscal Year 2018. These services include the town's general operations, educational assessments, the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), maintenance of the Colle building, and the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. The warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, and the related Motions, provide figures by major category and operating department. Further detail is available on the town website (see path at end of this report).

Montague strives to operate effective municipal programs and services, in support of our residents' values and objectives. Approval of this budget will fund the town's services and support continued progress toward the goal of fiscal sustainability. Our estimated revenue reflects our cautious view of recovering economic conditions and tax collections, as well as a significant amount of New Growth in property valuations related to utility company assets. The accompanying spending recommendations considered both the spending requests from department heads and the Financial Management Policies adopted by the Board of Selectmen in June 2014.

The Financial Management Policies (see link on the town web site for more details) lay out a set of goals that the town should strive to achieve to ensure its sustainability. These goals refer to the town's general fund operations and exclude the WPCF. We are pleased to report that the Fiscal Year 2018 recommendations include appropriations to several savings funds as part of our progress, and if all recommendations are approved at Town Meeting, our results will be:

- Total Town Stabilization Funds plus Free Cash is \$896,570 or 5.13% of Prior Year General Operating Revenue (PYGOR). The goal is between 5% and 10%. PYGOR consists of:

Net Tax Levy (less Excluded Debt)	\$14,221,310
Net State Aid plus Local Receipts	<u>3,243,621</u>
Total	\$17,464,931

- The General Stabilization Fund balance alone will be \$831,220 or 4.76% of PYGOR; the goal is 5% (\$873,247). This amount includes the recommended annual appropriation of 0.3% of PYGOR (\$52,395) from taxation, and leaves us \$42,027 shy of our recommended minimum.
- The Town Capital Stabilization Fund will have a balance of \$59,911. This amount includes the recommended annual appropriation of 0.2% of PYGOR (\$34,930) from taxation.

- The town's current debt payments plus direct purchase of capital items recommended at this meeting total \$1,055,827, or 6.05% of PYGOR; this is slightly above the minimum 6% (\$1,047,896) called for by the policies.
- Building Renewal and Equipment Replacement is recommended to be 2% of the budgeted General Operating Revenues (GOR), as opposed to the PYGOR used for other recommended amounts. GOR for FY2018 is \$18,398,370, and 2% of that is \$367,967. The recommended budget includes capital appropriations for these purposes (DPW Equipment, Library repairs, GMRSD items, and police cruiser) totaling \$340,850, just \$27,117 below the goal. Our building infrastructure requires ongoing attention, and we expect significant future funding needs in this area.
- The town's total long-term debt service, including our share of GMRSD debt but excluding short term interest, is \$624,218 (3.57% of PYGOR); the policies call for not more than 15%. The town's non-excluded debt service is just \$9,653, well below the policy recommendation of between 2% and 5% of PYGOR.

The policies suggest that the town is not carrying enough of a debt load. There are certainly worthy purposes to which additional debt might be put; later sections for Public Works and the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) mention some anticipated borrowing needs. However, without significant new revenue sources, servicing a higher debt load (without tax-excluded borrowing or tax overrides) can be accomplished only by reducing spending in other areas. This will be an ongoing challenge in upcoming years.

Here are Summaries of the Total Proposed Budget Revenue and Expense categories. Fiscal Year references are to budget cycles ending June 30th.

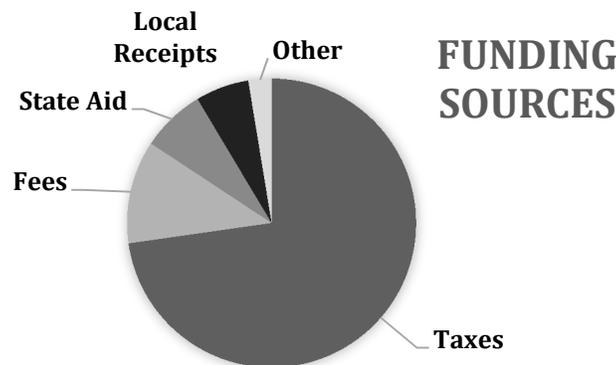
Change figures in parentheses are changes from Fiscal Year 2017 as adjusted.

Revenues	FY2017 BUDGET	FY2018 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Taxation	15,498,658	16,455,441	956,783	6.17%
State Aid	1,584,712	1,617,524	32,812	2.07%
Local Receipts	1,315,000	1,352,000	37,000	2.81%
FCTS SRO Reimbursement	51,826	64,846	13,020	25.12%
Available Funds/Reserves			-	
Free Cash for Town Budget	125,000	100,000	(25,000)	-20.00%
Free Cash for GMRSD	125,000	100,000	(25,000)	-20.00%
Free Cash for Sp Articles		201,000	201,000	100.00%
Sale of Real Estate	132,000	-	(132,000)	-100.00%
Town Stabilization for Sp Articles	276,325	-	(276,325)	-100.00%
Existing Sp Article Balances		22,850	22,850	100.00%
Chapter 90	44,700	-	(44,700)	-100.00%
Colle Receipts	102,150	97,525	(4,625)	-4.53%
Sewer User Fees	2,250,482	2,519,214	268,732	11.94%
Sewer Retained Earnings		108,500		100.00%
Airport User Fees	31,987	33,258	1,271	3.97%

Revenues	FY2017 BUDGET	FY2018 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Airport Retained Earnings	8,350		(8,350)	-100.00%
Long Term Debt-Town	1,285,000		(1,285,000)	-100.00%
Long Term Debt - WPCF	100,000	385,000	285,000	285.00%
Total Revenues	22,931,190	23,057,158	17,468	0.08%
Total Revenues net of Debt	21,546,190	22,672,158	1,017,468	4.72%
Expenses				
General Town	8,753,196	8,993,941	240,745	2.75%
WPCF	2,331,733	2,384,214	52,481	2.25%
Airport	49,020	49,925	905	1.85%
Gill-Montague Assessment	8,852,114	9,356,560	504,446	5.70%
Franklin Cty Tech Assessment	659,356	747,340	87,984	13.34%
Colle	102,150	97,525	(4,625)	-4.53%
Recommended Special Articles	2,181,113	1,422,967	(758,146)	-34.76%
Total Expenses	22,928,682	23,052,472	123,790	0.54%
Total Special Articles net of Debt	(1,378,887)	1,037,967	(1,043,146)	75.65%

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 an unusual amount of New Growth, is 6.17% over Fiscal Year 2017. Although we continue to set aside a provision for settlement of disputed valuations of major utility properties, the estimate of New Growth reflects a significant increase in personal property assets identified by electrical power companies. This will become part of the tax base for future years, as well.

State Aid 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 2017, and the just-released House Budget Committee report does not propose changing this. Consequently, our recommendation uses the governor's proposal for all

elements of State Aid, amounting to 2.07% over Fiscal Year 2017. Unrestricted Aid rose 3.9%, but other types were flat or lower.

Local Receipts This source is projected at 2.81% above the Fiscal Year 2017 level. Approximately 70% comes from Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and Trash Sticker sales.

Reimbursement for School Resource Officer Normally part of Local Receipts, this item is highlighted separately for clarity. The Franklin County Technical School reimburses the full cost (salary, benefits and related non-personnel expenses) of a School Resource Officer. The 25% increase over last year's amount is because the officer will come onto the Town's health insurance in October 2017.

Reserves are a combination of Free Cash, Stabilization Funds and other miscellaneous reserves. Our recommended appropriations from Reserves (compared to Fiscal Year 2017) are presented in the chart on page 3. As part of our objective to reduce our reliance on Free Cash to balance the budget we are reducing its contribution to the budget from \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2017 to \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2018.

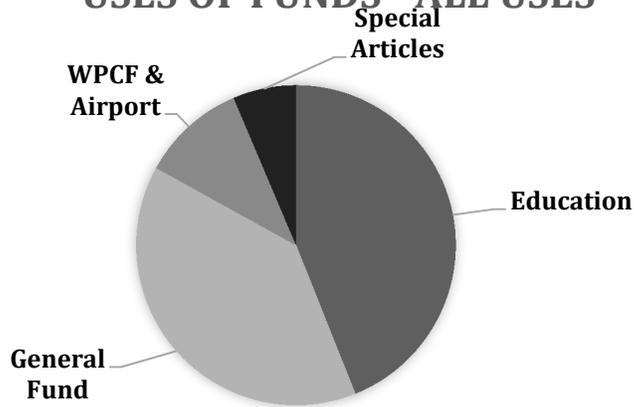
In preparing the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget, the Finance Committee attempted to pursue two general goals from prior years. The first is to fund annual needs (both departmental operating budgets and recurring Special Articles) from non-Reserve sources and to avoid using reserves for non-recurring projects estimated to cost 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 (GMRSD) assessment and other town functions.

We were able to accomplish the first goal, for the first time in several years, because non-Reserve sources were adequate for the year's recurring needs. Several substantial non-recurring requests are funded from Reserves, to a greater extent than we would like. Refer to page 11 for a list of sources for each of this year's Special Articles.

We addressed the second goal by recommending, per our agreement with the GMRSD, that 51.5% of available funds (as defined) be allocated to the town operating budget and 48.5% to the GMRSD assessment for operations. Continued use of these percentages preserves the present balance of resources between town and GMRSD needs, and seems adequate to meet our respective needs. This method resulted in a target affordable assessment of \$9,356,560, or \$504,446 higher than the final Fiscal Year 2017 figure, helped considerably by the significant increase in New Growth mentioned earlier. The School Committee's Fiscal Year 2018 request of \$9,356,560 meets this target, and we recommend approval of their request.

It is disappointing that once again State Aid to the GMRSD rose only slightly from Fiscal Year 2017, as has been true for several years. Last year we predicted that, in the absence of more adequate Chapter 70 increases for our schools, future years would impose increasing funding stresses on towns and districts – that has indeed come to pass. This year, the welcome increase in New Growth eases, but does not eliminate, these stresses.

USES OF FUNDS - ALL USES

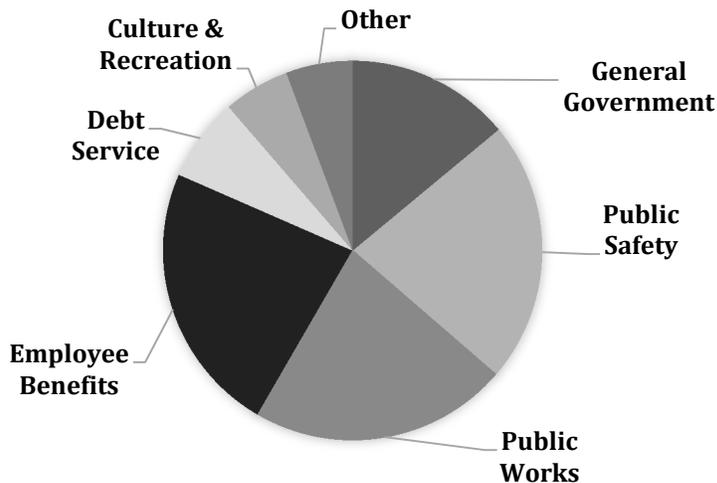


Town Operating Budget (excludes Special Articles)

General Conditions

Requests from town departments generally met the initial guideline of a “level services” budget. For Fiscal Year 2018, the requested (and recommended) cost of general town operations rose by about \$240,745 or 2.75% to \$8,993,941. In the course of our joint review with the Selectboard we suggested some adjustments or reworked estimates, and both the requested and recommended appropriations reflect those adjustments.

USES OF FUNDS - GENERAL FUND



Staffing Changes

No increases in staff are requested for Fiscal Year 2018. Approved re-organizations in the Water Pollution Control Facility and Police department will not alter total staff levels, but did result in re-assignment of some positions within the Pay & Classification structure. The budgets also reflect replacement of our retired Town Administrator and Treasurer/Collector.

Wages & Benefits

Wages reflect a 1.5% Cost of Living increase (except for members of the Police union, as contract negotiations are ongoing), plus step increases per current collective bargaining agreements for those employees not at the top of their range; negotiations with two unions are compete and negotiations with the Police union are about to resume. After several years of modest cost increases Employee Benefits costs rose \$119,948, or 6.11%. Higher health insurance costs contributed the largest share (\$74,000).

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. One change for Fiscal Year 2018 is that Information Technology now has its own department, rather than being included in Shared Costs.

The recommended budget for this group totals \$1,258,683, a 3.58% increase over Fiscal Year 2017. Lower costs for elections were offset by higher legal billing-rates, but staff turnover will soften the impact. Total Utilities costs, a volatile area, are projected to grow only about 5%.

Public Safety (includes Board of Health)

In total, the recommended budget for this group of departments rose 1.39% from the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Police and Dispatch services account for 85% of this category. Dispatch increases are about 3%, featuring no increases in overtime or part-time wages in the wake of per diem increases approved last year. Police costs rose about 0.2%, affected by retirement-related turnover and re-organization efforts.

Public Works

Our recommendation reflects funding of two new positions approved a year ago, for a 3.57 % increase. This addresses the need for increased attention to town buildings and parks, sidewalks, tree management, etc. The Capital Improvements Committee considers the vehicle fleet to be in good condition. Solid Waste handling is under contract and we have agreed with the Superintendent on a slight increase in the Snow & Ice budget.

Human Services and Culture & Recreation (excludes Board of Health)

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. The proposed total budget for these groups is \$687,375 which is 1.2% below Fiscal Year 2017. A lower case-load in Veterans' Benefits is responsible for much of the change.

Debt Service (excludes WPCF)

This category fell slightly from Fiscal Year 2017, to \$639,218. Debt service for the Public Safety Building and the town's share of the Combined Sewer Overflow project accounts for about 81.8% 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. Significant future borrowing is expected to include excluded debt for a new Public Works garage.

Water Pollution Control Facility

The Water Pollution Control Facility's Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget of \$2,384,214 is \$52,481, or 2.25%, higher than Fiscal Year 2017. A re-organization of responsibilities, approved by the Selectboard, followed the retirement of the former Superintendent in late 2017. Septage handling for other towns has continued at a lower rate than before, pending review of the innovative Montague Process by the MA Department of Environmental Protection. It is expected that this service will provide higher revenues when it resumes, helping to offset the cost of needed upgrades to the facility.

As part of planning for long-term operating and sludge storage needs, we recommend the town continue appropriations into a WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund and a Discretionary Fund, similar to those already in use for Police, Information Technology, and Public Works purposes. This would enable prompt response to unanticipated equipment repair or replacement needs. User fees would be the funding source in both cases.

Capital spending for sewer facilities in Fiscal Year 2018 will amount to \$468,500, of which \$385,000 will come from borrowing. That amount continues the effort focused on inspection, cleaning, lining and rehabilitation of sewer lines throughout the town. This is the next step in the long-term capital investment plan, addressing the Treatment Plant and town-wide drain needs, mentioned in prior years' reports.

Of the Facility's total 2018 budget request (including Special Articles), about 73.4% is funded by user fees and 12.8% from borrowing – leaving about \$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 2018 spending, which will rise 1.8% to \$49,925. The airport is expected to be 2/3 self-supporting as in Fiscal Year 2017. The Commission is actively pursuing development plans for areas not suitable for aviation operations, and renegotiates user fees as contracts are renewed.

Educational Assessments

Franklin County Technical School

The Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) assessment for Fiscal Year 2018 increased by \$87,984 (13.34%) to \$747,340, due in part to an increase in the proportion of Montague students to total enrollment. In accordance with our policy to maintain a stabilization fund to cushion sharp changes in this assessment, we also recommend an addition to the FCTS Stabilization Fund, which appears in a Special Article.

Unfortunately, similarly to GMRSD, FCTS has begun to experience an enrollment decline, with a consequent levelling of state aid (Chapter 70). Efforts to maintain the number and quality of its programs in the face of this trend is expected to result in rising assessments to member towns over the coming years.

Gill-Montague Regional School District

The approved Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) budget, on a basis similar to last year, rose from \$21,158,097 to \$21,627,936 (2.22%). The requested assessment to Montague, however, increased 5.70% from \$8,852,113 to \$9,356,560, due in part to an increase in our proportion of enrollment and in part to shifts in the state-calculated minimum contribution. As in recent years, there was very little increase in state aid, though transportation reimbursements (Chapter 71) recovered slightly. Although a legislative commission concluded that some elements of the aid calculations need revision, the Governor’s budget does not reflect them and the legislature’s implementation schedule does not begin until 2019.

The breakdown by category For Montague is as follows:

GMRSD Assessment	<u>BUDGET FY16</u>	<u>BUDGET FY17</u>	<u>REQUEST FY18</u>	<u>REQUEST INCREASE</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY18</u>
Minimum Contribution	5,006,608	5,110,010	5,029,777	(80,233)	5,029,777
Transportation	261,628	304,666	266,320	(38,346)	266,320
Debt Service	137,227	133,485	200,904	67,419	200,904
Over Minimum	3,092,880	3,303,953	3,859,559	555,606	3,859,559
Total	8,498,343	8,852,114	9,356,560	504,446	9,356,560
% Increase		4.16%	5.70%		

As noted earlier, the Finance Committee’s recommended “affordable assessment” (\$9,356,560) was calculated by allocating total forecasted available funds between the Gill-Montague district and the total of other town services. The GMRSD’s request matches this figure. We had hoped that the state’s Chapter 70 support for the district would begin to rise toward historic levels, but 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 continue to exacerbate this challenge.

Special Articles & Use of Reserves

As noted earlier, we try to ensure a financially sustainable future for Montague by funding ongoing expenses with taxes and other recurring revenue, and providing for significant future non-recurring needs by establishing savings funds. Here are the principles that guide our recommendations:

SPENDING

1. The Finance Committee recommendations for articles and funding sources are presented in the Motions (starting on page 12). Most votes were unanimous.
2. We customarily recommend regular appropriations to discretionary funds for needed purchase and repair of Information Technology, Police, Public Works and WPCF equipment. These are presented as Special Articles (to enable unused balances to be preserved for future use for their intended purpose), and our goal is to fund them from Taxation (or, in the case of the WPCF, from user fees) whenever possible.

In Fiscal Year 2018 we recommend a total of \$145,000 for the discretionary funds, all of which will come from Taxation or Sewer User Fees.

3. We customarily recommend funding vehicle leases from Taxation and outright purchases from Taxation or Capital Stabilization.

Vehicle purchases for Fiscal Year 2018 include the annual cruiser replacement for the Police, budgeted as Capital Outlay in the Police department budget, a truck for the WPCF and a dump truck for the DPW, funded from Free Cash or Retained Earnings funds.

4. We customarily recommend that appropriations for small non-recurring expenditures (below \$25,000) come from Taxation.

In Fiscal Year 2018 we recommend seven such requests, funded from that source.

5. We customarily recommend no spending from General Stabilization, in order to preserve that fund for possible future cuts in state aid, and we have been able to do so again this year. However, this was done, in part, by recommending the deferral of some requests until a future town meeting, probably in the fall of 2017.

APPROPRIATIONS TO STABILIZATION FUNDS

We believe it is important to appropriate funds annually from Taxation to the Town General Stabilization and Town Capital Stabilization Funds, and from Free Cash when an adequate balance is available. The welcome increase in New Growth makes it possible to recommend these appropriations. We also recommend that an appropriation to the Other Post-Retirement Benefits Fund be made, as it was in recent years, as an early step toward funding a substantial unfunded liability.

Following past practice, and assuming a sufficient amount of certified Free Cash as of July 1, we will request at a fall Special Town Meeting that amounts of Free Cash not expected to be needed for other Special Town Meetings and the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting be appropriated into various Stabilization funds

Conclusion

It has continued to be challenging to maintain town services with the funds we have available. The Town has re-organized and re-assigned staffing in several areas to better support existing services. Our ability to maintain services 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, and efficiencies and innovations at the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Looking forward to Fiscal Year 2019 we expect that state aid and local receipts will continue a slow rebound, though the extent of economic recovery is uncertain at this time. The town's fiscal strength is still good, and expected to be sustained over time, but the town may need to adapt to a "new normal" balance of national and state economies. Actions of state and federal governments to re-allocate funds to address their own program needs may well slow the growth of grants and other aid on which we rely to support 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 to provide effective government without relying on the use of reserves for operating expenses.

In future years the Town will 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, Libraries, and the Water Pollution Control Facility and related infrastructure. We invite both general comments and specific questions from residents and Town Meeting members as to how Town services should be prioritized to support our common values. 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 2018, details of compliance with Financial Policies, and line item budgets for all Town departments. To locate this information, go to the website, scroll down to the bottom of the main page, and select "Annual Budget Information."

Respectfully submitted,

John Hanold, Chair
Chris Menegoni

Fred Bowman
Michael Naughton

Greg Garrison
Patricia Pruitt

SUMMARY OF WARRANT ARTICLES

<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	8,993,941	Taxation/Free Cash
7.	WPCF Operating Budget	2,384,214	Taxation/Sewer Fees
8.	Colle Receipts Operating Budget	97,525	Available Funds
9.	Airport Operating Budget	49,925	Taxation/Airport Fees
10.	Franklin County Technical School	747,340	Taxation
11.	Gill-Montague Regional School District	9,356,560	Taxation/Free Cash
12.	Hillcrest Electrical Work	80,000	Free Cash
13.	Sheffield Water Heaters	15,000	Taxation
14.	Increase #8 9/29/16 Hillcrest Stage	22,850	Special Art Balances
15.	WPCF SCADA	35,000	Sewer User Fees
16.	WPCF Feasibility Study	85,000	Sewer User Fees
17.	WPCF Stabilization Fund	200,000	Sewer User Fees
18.	WPCF Equipment	15,000	Sewer User Fees
19.	WPCF Utility Truck	48,500	WPCF Ret. Earnings
20.	WPCF Boiler	10,000	WPCF Ret. Earnings
21.	WPCF Stabilization Fund	50,000	WPCF Ret. Earnings
22.	PILOT Agreement – FirstLight		
23.	Ground Lease Agreement – Kearsarge		
24.	PILOT Agreement – Kearsarge		
25.	Carnegie Air Exchange System	5,000	Taxation
26.	Carnegie Roofing	30,000	Taxation
27.	Library Buildings Assessment	45,000	Free Cash
28.	Highland Park Fence	3,500	Taxation
29.	Unity Park Walkways	15,000	Taxation
30.	Sewer Lines	385,000	Sewer Debt
31.	DPW Equipment	100,000	Taxation
32.	DPW One Ton Dump Truck	76,000	Free Cash
33.	Transfer Station Attendant		
34.	Group Leader for Grounds Maintenance		
35.	Police Equipment	15,000	Taxation
36.	IT Equipment	15,000	Taxation
37.	New Town Website	5,000	Taxation
38.	Increase General Stabilization Fund	52,395	Taxation
39.	Increase Town Capital Stabilization Fund	34,930	Taxation
40.	Increase FCTS Stabilization Fund	23,792	Taxation
41.	Increase OPEB Trust Fund	50,000	Taxation
42.	Public Records Software	4,500	Taxation
43.	CIC Membership Change		
44.	Petition – MF Community Building	1,500	Taxation
45.	Petition- Political Donations		
46.	Petition – Municipal Light Plant		
47.	Petition – Immigration Enforcement		

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 7, 2016**

ARTICLE 1. MOVED: That the Town 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 to establish a revolving fund for the Hazardous Materials Response Planning Committee (a.k.a. the SARA Title III Committee), as described under Article 3 in the Warrant for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2017, to amend the Town of Montague General Bylaws relative to revolving funds, and to establish spending limits for the Town's revolving funds, all as set forth under Article 3 of the Warrant.

(Emergency Management Director 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, 2017, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY16 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY17 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY18 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY18 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	340	340	350	350
BOARD OF SELECTMEN				
Chairman	1,500	2,040	2,040	2,040
Second/Third Members	1,500	2,040	2,040	2,040
BOARD OF ASSESSOR				
Chairman	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
TOWN CLERK	65,620	67,602*	69,988**	69,988
*G-9,**G-10				
BOARD OF REGISTRARS				
Town Clerk	800	800	800	800
TREE WARDEN	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,500

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY16 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY17 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY18 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY18 RECOMMEND</u>
BOARD OF HEALTH				
Chairman	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Second/Third Members	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500

Finance Committee recommends Voted 3-0
Selectmen recommend Voted 6-0

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, 2017, as set forth in Schedule II Appointed Officials.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY16 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY17 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY18 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY18 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>				
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	500	500	500	500
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	5,490	5,490	5,490	5,490
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
BARN INSPECTOR	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
IT ADMINISTRATOR	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631	1,631
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>				
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50
GAS INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>				
EXTRA CLERICAL	Ranges/hr. 8.00-10.00	Ranges/hr. 10.00-12.00	Ranges/hr. 11.00-12.00	Ranges/hr. 11.00-12.00
ELECTION WORKERS	8.00-10.00	10.00-13.00	11.00-13.00	11.00-13.00
SUMMER HIGHWAY	8.00-12.00	10.00-13.00	11.00-13.00	11.00-13.00
SNOW PLOW DRIVERS	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00	15.00-25.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	14.50-17.00	14.50-17.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00
PARKS & RECREATION	9.00-25.63	9.00-20.00	11.00-20.00	11.00-20.00

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE

<u>SALARIED</u>	Grade	Range FY2017		Range FY2018	
		<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	86,594	106,570	87,893	108,169
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	56,303	68,954	57,148	69,988
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR	G	56,303	68,954	57,148	69,988
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	78,722	96,881	79,903	98,334

	Grade	Range FY2017		Range FY2018	
		Start	End	Start	End
<u>SALARIED</u>					
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	71,567	88,084	72,641	89,395
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	56,303	68,954	57,148	69,988
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	56,303	68,954	57,148	69,988
WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	H	71,567	88,084	72,641	89,395

<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	20.93	25.76	21.24	26.15
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	35.13	38.03	35.80	38.75
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	14.03	17.26	14.24	17.52

Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2018 budgeted wages with 1.5% COLA

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	106,047	DPW SUPERINTENDENT	87,642
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	69,988	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	69,988
TREAS/TAX COLLECTOR	58,577	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	64,658
CHIEF OF POLICE*	108,482	WPCF SUPERINTENDENT	87,642
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	25.50	POLICE LIEUTENANT	36.51
POLICE CUSTODIAN	15.34		

*includes add'l 20% educational incentive pay

Selectmen recommend Voted 3-0

Finance Committee recommends Voted 6-0

ARTICLE 6. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,993,941 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for any other necessary changes, with \$100,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$8,893,941 to be raised from Taxation, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget

SCHEDULE III BUDGET

DEPT NO.	EXPENDED FY16	BUDGET FY17	REQUESTED FY18	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY18
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
113 TOWN MEETING	1,369	1,700	1,700	1,700
122 SELECTMEN	155,553	197,278	169,212	169,212
131 FINANCE COMMITTEE	615	690	680	680
132 RESERVE FUND	55,840	60,000	60,000	60,000
135 TOWN ACCOUNTANT	76,437	75,104	76,163	76,163
141 ASSESSORS	159,170	160,715	165,705	165,705
141 BOA SOFTWARE/CAPITAL				-
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	218,035	218,050	212,823	212,823
151 TOWN COUNSEL	74,569	70,000	98,000	98,000
155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	31,492	35,055	53,480	53,480
159 SHARED COSTS	43,664	51,109	77,009	77,009
161 TOWN CLERK	135,316	145,490	135,183	135,183
175 PLANNING	78,690	86,131	89,233	89,233
176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	2,204	1,650	2,300	2,300
182 MEDIC	776	800	1,000	1,000
190 PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	93,004	111,435	116,195	116,195
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,126,733	1,215,207	1,258,683	1,258,683

DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY16	BUDGET FY17	REQUESTED FY18	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY18
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
211	POLICE	1,410,263	1,492,516	1,492,914	1,492,914
211	POLICE CRUISER	39,498	39,500	42,000	42,000
212	DISPATCH	261,096	277,953	286,358	286,358
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	123,515	127,106	132,439	132,439
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	5,640	5,490	5,490	5,490
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	16,527	18,396	26,353	26,353
292	ANIMAL CONTROL CAPITAL OUTLAY				
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,631	1,631	1,631	1,631
299	TREE WARDEN	12,826	14,210	17,210	17,210
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	131,182	137,995	139,933	139,933
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,004,928	2,117,547	2,147,078	2,147,078
	PUBLIC WORKS				
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,126,608	1,243,223	1,293,765	1,293,765
423	SNOW & ICE	123,759	219,000	224,000	224,000
433	SOLID WASTE	433,085	447,500	457,326	457,326
491	CEMETERIES	6,360	7,000	10,000	10,000
	CEMETERY FENCING	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,689,812	1,916,723	1,985,091	1,985,091
	HUMAN SERVICES				
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	38,246	44,252	45,489	45,489
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	144,534	164,000	133,500	133,500
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	182,780	208,252	178,989	178,989
	CULTURE & RECREATION				
610	LIBRARIES	351,149	364,970	380,428	380,428
630	PARKS & RECREATION	116,112	120,920	126,258	126,258
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	-	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,190	1,200	1,200	1,200
	TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	468,450	487,590	508,386	508,386
	DEBT SERVICE				
700	DEBT SERVICE	651,031	659,072	639,218	639,218
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL				
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	94,258	92,564	99,253	99,253
	MISCELLANEOUS				
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,789,352	1,963,295	2,083,243	2,083,243
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	84,899	92,946	94,000	94,000
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	1,874,251	2,056,241	2,177,243	2,177,243
	GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	8,092,243	8,753,196	8,993,941	8,993,941

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
 Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 7. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,384,214 for the purpose of operating the Water Pollution Control Facility and associated pumping stations, with \$200,000 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,184,214 to be raised from Sewer User Fees, said sums to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, WPCF Budget.

SCHEDULE IV, WPCF BUDGET

DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY16	BUDGET FY17	REQUESTED FY18	SELECTMEN FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY18
	WATER POLLUTION CONTROL				
440	Wages & Expenses	1,411,128	1,602,016	1,573,712	1,573,712
700	Debt Service	426,046	430,457	495,802	495,802
910	Employee Benefits	194,173	249,260	264,700	264,700
	SUBTOTAL WPCF	2,031,347	2,281,733	2,334,214	2,334,214
449	DPW SUBSIDIARY				
	Wages & Expenses	46,953	42,000	42,000	42,000
	Capital Outlay	6,467	8,000	8,000	8,000
	SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	53,420	50,000	50,000	50,000
	TOTAL WPCF	2,084,768	2,331,733	2,384,214	2,384,214

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
 Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 8. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$97,525 for the purpose of funding the operations, maintenance, and debt service of the Colle Building, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
 Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 9. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$49,925 for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, with \$16,667 to be raised from Taxation and \$33,258 to be raised from Airport User Fees.

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
 Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 10. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$747,340 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.

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
 Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 11. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,356,560 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 \$100,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$9,256,560 to be raised from Taxation.

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 12. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purpose of upgrading the electrical service and panels at Hillcrest Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Free Cash.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 13. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of replacing two water heaters at Sheffield Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 14. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$22,850 for the purpose of increasing amount appropriated under Article 8 of the September 29, 2016 Special Town Meeting, which appropriated \$60,000 for the purpose of restructuring the stage to add classroom space at Hillcrest Elementary School, said sum to be raised by transferring the unexpended balance of \$17,362.79 from Article 23 of the September 13, 2012 Special Town Meeting, which appropriated funds for the Sheffield boiler, and transferring \$5,487.21 from the unexpended balance of Article 22 of the May 3, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated funds for school security improvements.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 15. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for purchasing and installing valve automation, relocation of Variable Frequency Drives, and completing the SCADA Alarm system for the Water Pollution Control Facility, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(WPCF Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 16. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the purpose of conducting a Feasibility Study, to be titled "Final Clarifier Upgrade/Raw Influent Bypass," or

something similar, for the purpose of analyzing options for addressing sewer overflows, including but not limited to determining whether or not running an additional sewer line before the head works to the intake of the wet weather tank would help control flows during rain events, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(WPCF Request)

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 17. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(WPCF Request)

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 18. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping and making major repairs to WPCF vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer User Fees.

(WPCF Request)

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 19. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$48,500 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a utility truck for the WPCF, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer Retained Earnings.

(WPCF Request)

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 20. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of replacing a boiler in the WPCF Operations Building, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer Retained Earnings.

(WPCF Request)

Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 21. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of increasing the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Sewer Retained Earnings.

(WPCF Request)

Selectmen recommend \$50,000 Voted 2-0

Finance Committee recommends \$50,000 Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 22. MOVED: That the Town vote to approve Article 23, relative to a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement with FirstLight Hydro Generating Co., as set forth in the Warrant.

(Board of Assessors Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 23. MOVED: That the Town vote to approve Article 24, relative to a ground lease agreement with Kearsarge Solar LLC, as set forth in the Warrant.

(Planning and Conservation Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 24. MOVED: That the Town vote to approve Article 25, relative to a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement with Kearsarge Solar LLC, as set forth in the Warrant.

(Board of Assessors Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 25. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing an air exchange ventilation system in the Carnegie Library, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Libraries Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 26. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of replacing and/or repairing roofing and trim at the Carnegie Library, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Libraries Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 27. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for a Building Assessment Study of the Carnegie, Millers Falls, and Montague Center Libraries, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Libraries Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 28. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a chain link fence in Highland Park, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Parks & Recreation Commission Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 29. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of re-sealing and re-painting the walkways within the Unity Park Playground, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Parks & Recreation Commission Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 30. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$385,000 for the purpose of lining, cleaning and inspection of sewers and GIS sewer layer development, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sewer Borrowing and as funding therefore, that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefore pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 7, or any other enabling authority; provided that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

(Department of Public Works Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 31. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Department of Public Works Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 32. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$76,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new one ton dump truck with plow, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Department of Public Works Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 33. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the classification plan by adding the position of Transfer Station Attendant at Grade A.

(Selectmen Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 34. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend the classification plan by adding the position of Group Leader of Grounds Maintenance at Grade D.

(Selectmen Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0

ARTICLE 35. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of purchasing 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 Chief Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 36. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of funding information technology equipment, parts, accessories, software and installations, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(IT Administrator Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 37. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of funding the purchase of a new Town Website, including the purchase of software, licenses, parts and equipment, installation training, and any and all incidental and related costs said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(IT Administrator Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 38. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$52,395 for the purpose of increasing the Town General Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Finance Committee Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 39. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$34,930 for the purpose of increasing the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Finance Committee Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 40. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$23,792 for the purpose of increasing the FCTS Stabilization Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Finance Committee Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 41. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of increasing the Town OPEB Trust Fund, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Finance Committee Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 42. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,500 for the purpose of purchasing, installing and training on a new Public Records software and database package for the Town Clerk's office, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Town Clerk Request)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 5-0

ARTICLE 43. MOVED: That the Town vote to amend Article II Section 6 of the By-Laws of the Town of Montague, relating to the Capital Improvements Committee, by changing "five additional members" to "four additional members".

(CIC Request)
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Voted 4-0

ARTICLE 44. MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the purpose of community building activities in Millers Falls, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

(Petitioned article)
Selectmen recommend Voted 2-0
Finance Committee recommends Voted 3-1-1

ARTICLE 45. MOVED: Resolution Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics

WHEREAS, recent changes in funding and disclosure rules for national, state and local political elections have degraded the goals of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) now allows an infusion of previously prohibited out-of-state money to influence local and state elections, new legislation is now required to prohibit such funding from circumventing Massachusetts state law; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to restore voter confidence in our democracy, a grassroots movement known as "Represent.Us" is working for legislative reforms to reduce the opportunity for corruption within the political system in our country by supporting a legislative reform bill known as the "American Anti-Corruption Act" (the Act); and

WHEREAS, the Act targets bribery by preventing lobbyists from donating to politicians and influencing policymaking; ends secret money by mandating full transparency; enables citizens to fund elections; closes the revolving door between Congress and lobbying firms; and enhances the power of the Federal Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, this national organization's local chapter, Represent.US Western Mass, sought and promoted an advisory referendum; specifically in the Hampshire/Franklin State Senate District (currently held by Stan Rosenberg) to build support for this initiative; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, the citizens of the above mentioned district were given the opportunity to be heard on this topic through the above advisory referendum where the question received 84 percent aggregate support across the entire district, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the citizens of the Town of MONTAGUE, Massachusetts that we support tough new anti-corruption laws to close loopholes in Massachusetts' campaign finance regulations that currently allows unregulated out-of-state money to infiltrate state and local elections; and we support the goals outlined in the American Anti-Corruption Act to remove the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The Act prohibits politicians from taking campaign money from special interest groups including private industries and unions; increases transparency for campaign funding; empowers all voters through a tax rebate voucher to contribute to the candidates they support; prohibits representatives and senior staff from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave office; and places limits on superPACs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the Town of Montague implore our elected representatives in Boston, State Senator Rosenberg and Representative Kulik and in Washington, Senator Edward Markey and Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative McGovern (or their successors) to lead this effort to enact these initiatives in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of MONTAGUE is hereby directed to give notice to the above representatives by sending a certified copy of this resolution to each of them.

(Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 46. MOVED: That the Town vote to instruct the Town of Montague counsel to file the necessary documentation with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to complete the Municipal Light Plant process using the Greenfield Community Energy & Technology as its model for Montague's Municipal Light Plant.

(Petitioned article)

ARTICLE 47. MOVED: WHEREAS, The Town of Montague seeks to ensure that all immigrants are able to fully participate in the civic and economic life of their neighborhoods and nurture and grow the spirit of unity in our Town ; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Montague desires to provide opportunity, access, and equality for immigrants, and highlight the essential role immigrants have played and continue to play in moving the Town of Montague forward; and

WHEREAS, The federal government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") Secure Communities program uses local law enforcement data to identify suspected "criminal aliens" in local custody; and

WHEREAS, ICE issues civil immigration detainer requests which allow for prolonged detention during which ICE investigates the immigration status of suspected "criminal aliens" in local custody; and

WHEREAS, In other jurisdictions, honoring civil immigration detainer requests based on less than probable cause has been ruled a violation of the Fourth Amendment, exposing local law enforcement agencies to liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983; and

WHEREAS, When local law enforcement officials indiscriminately honor all ICE civil immigration detainer requests, including those that target non-criminal aliens, immigrant residents are less likely to cooperate and public trust erodes, hindering the ability and effectiveness of Montague's police force; and

WHEREAS, A local Trust Act is necessary to establish the Town of Montague's policy for responding to ICE's civil immigration detainer requests;

NOW THEREFORE,

Be it ordained by the Town of Montague, as follows:

Section 1.

Definitions.

(a) "Civil immigration detainer request" means a non-mandatory request issued by an authorized federal immigration officer under Section 287.7 of Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations to a local law enforcement official to maintain custody of an individual for a period not to exceed forty-eight (48) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and advise the authorized federal immigration officer prior to the release of that individual.

(b) "Convicted" means a state of having been proved guilty in a judicial proceeding, unless the conviction has been expunged or vacated pursuant to applicable law.

(c) "Eligible for release from custody" means that the individual may be released from custody because any of the following conditions has occurred:

- (1) All criminal charges against the individual have been dropped or dismissed;
- (2) The individual has been acquitted of all criminal charges filed against him or her;
- (3) The individual has served all the time required for his or her sentence;
- (4) The individual has posted a bond, or has been released on his or her own recognizance;
- (5) The individual has been referred to pre-trial diversion services;
- (6) The individual is otherwise eligible for release under state or local law.

(d) "Law enforcement official" means any Town of Montague department, or officer or employee of a Town of Montague department, authorized to enforce criminal statutes, regulations, or local ordinances; operate jails or maintain custody of individuals in jails; and operate juvenile detention facilities or maintain custody of individuals in juvenile detention facilities.

Section 2.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a law enforcement official shall not detain an individual on the basis of a civil immigration detainer request after that individual becomes eligible for release from custody.

(b) Law enforcement officials may continue to detain an individual in response to a civil immigration detainer request for up to forty-eight (48) hours after that individual becomes eligible for release from custody, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, if the individual meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) ICE has a criminal warrant for the individual;
- (2) The individual has ever been convicted of a violent crime as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Section 121;
- (3) In the past ten (10) years, the individual has been convicted of a felony as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 274, Section 1;
- (4) The individual is a current registrant on the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry;
- (5) The individual is identified in the federal government's consolidated Terrorist Watchlist.

(c) Law enforcement officials shall make good faith efforts to seek federal reimbursement for all costs incurred in continuing to detain an individual pursuant to this Section.

Section 3.

Reporting.

Beginning no later than December 31, 2017, and no later than December 31 of each subsequent year, the Town of Montague's Police Chief shall submit a report to the Clerk of the Town of Montague, and the Clerk shall forward the report to the Town of Montague Board of Selectmen and shall docket the report and include the docket on the agenda of the next-occurring meeting of the Town of Montague Board of Selectmen.

The report shall include the following information for the preceding twelve (12) month period:

(a) A statistical breakdown of the total number of civil immigration detainer requests lodged with the Town's law enforcement officials, organized by the reason(s) given for the request;

(b) A statistical breakdown of the total number of individuals that Town of Montague's law enforcement officials detained pursuant to Section 2(b), organized by the reason(s) supporting the detention;

(c) The total number of individuals transferred to ICE custody; and

(d) A statistical breakdown of the total cost reimbursements received from the federal government pursuant to Section 2(c), organized by individual case.

Section 4.

The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage.

(Petitioned Article)