

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

**AGENDA**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124938145>**

**Meeting ID: 821 2493 8145    Passcode: 182694    Dial into meeting: [+1 646 558 8656](tel:+16465588656)**

Topics may start earlier than specified, unless there is a hearing scheduled

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Votes May Be Taken**

1. 6:30PM      Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken
2. 6:30            Approve Selectboard Minutes from February 12, 2024
3. 6:31            Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment
4. 6:33            **Chris Williams, Police Chief**
  - Request to execute MOA to be a part of the Franklin County Regional Special Response Team
5. 6:38            **Personnel Board**
  - Personnel Status Change Form: James Ruddock, Incentive pay increase to 10% (\$121.93/week) effective 02/05/2024
  - Execute side letter of agreement between Town of Montague and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 183 regarding vacation time for Officer Smerz
  - Appoint Jen Viencek to Montague Historical Committee, 3 year term, until 6/30/27
  - Assistant Town Administrator Position: Review Job Description and Establish Hiring Committee
6. 6:45            **Public Hearing**
  - FY24 Community Development Block Grant Application
7. 7:15            **Special Town Meeting Warrant** – To make recommendations, approve and execute draft March 14, 2024 Special Town Meeting warrant, attached hereto
8. 7:30            **Executive Assistant Business**
  - Execute TMGC LLC Licensing Authority Certification for Reconsideration
  - Execute March 5, 2024 Warrant for Presidential Primary
  - Turners Falls Power Canal Service outage will take place September 22, 2024 through September 28, 2024

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9. 7:40

**Assistant Town Administrator's Business**

- Acceptance of the American Library Association's *Libraries Transforming Communities(LTC)*, *Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant in the amount of \$20,000
- South Street Bridge Replacement: Project update and authorize waiver of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations during and after construction.
- Montague City Road Flooding Relief Project: Request grant agreement extension from 3/1/2024 to 5/30/2024.
- Authorize Change orders #1 and #2 for the Old Town Hall Slate Roof Repair Project. #1 is replace side entrance canopy roof- \$3,300 and #2 will replace up to 97 additional damaged slates identified during construction- \$8,245
- Discuss Old Town Hall Window Replacement Bid Results
- Discuss options for Clean Water Facility temporary workshop space
- Declaration of Surplus Equipment from DPW per attached list

10. 8:00

**Town Administrator's Business**

- Consider Any Updates to Cannabis Control Commission Guidance Relative to a Model Host Community Agreement or Social Equity Provisions
- Authorize Steve Ellis to sign FY24 Safety Grant from the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
- Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

**Next Meeting:**

- Selectboard, Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM, In Person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and via ZOOM

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
March 14, 2024**

Franklin, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Montague on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

**ARTICLE 1.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Classification Plan to add the position of DPW Truck Driver Laborer in Training at Grade B, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 6 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, by adding the position of Cemetery Sexton, with a rate per burial of \$100, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Cemetery Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 6 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, by increasing the pay range for Part Time Police Officers from \$25-\$28 per hour to \$29-\$35 per hour, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Police Department Request)

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to revoke its acceptance of the provisions of the former Section 48 of Chapter 31 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, voted under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 1932 Annual Town Meeting, and any amendments thereto insofar as such chapter and section relate to the Civil Service status of regular or permanent members of the Police Department of the Town of Montague, so that the permanent members of the Police Department shall no longer be subject to the provisions of Chapter 31 and the rules and regulations relating thereto, except that such revocation shall not affect any civil service rights, which have come into existence between the Town and employees of the Police Department as a result of the Town's original acceptance of the statute, or pass any vote or votes in relations thereto.

(Police Department Request)

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,974, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing retroactive out-of-grade compensation owed to a union employee within the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office for the prior year, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Treasurer/Tax Collector Request)

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$300, or any other amount, for the purpose of making a prior year's longevity payment to a union employee in the Library Department, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Director Request)

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 7 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Building Inspector Budget, Line 241 by \$8,481 from \$148,621 to \$157,102, or any other amount, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide said sum, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding said increase, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Building Inspector Request)

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 7 at the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Selectboard budget, Line 122 by \$23,000 from \$329,781 to \$352,781, or any other amount, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide said sum, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding said increase, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$152,261, 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 said amount to be used to fund the expected Fiscal Year 2024 revenue shortfall in the Airport Enterprise Fund, and to adjust any or all airport enterprise fund budget line items, as voted pursuant to Article 9 of the May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Airport Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$152,315, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing all failed pavement, utility connections, parking lots, and loading docks on the Pioneer Aviation property, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Airport Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$125,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding a Wastewater Asset Vulnerability Inventory, including all related or incidental costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Sewer Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$90,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a skid steer, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$222,880, or any other amount, for the purpose of replacing a culvert on South Ferry Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, to rescind the vote taken under Article #16 of the October 13, 2022 Special Town Meeting, which established an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicated all opioid settlement revenues to this fund, such funds henceforth to be placed in a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid settlement documents, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)