

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, March 25, 2024

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83558664536>

Meeting ID: 835 5866 4536 Passcode: 568897 Dial into meeting: +1 646 558 8656

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 Minutes:**
 - Selectboard Meeting March 18, 2024
 - Finance Committee, Selectboard, and Capital Improvements Committee March 6, 2024
 - Finance Committee and Selectboard, March 20, 2024
3. 6:32 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. 6:34 **Liquor License Hearing**
 - Dreamhouse Foods, Inc dba Dreamhouse, Jillian Fishman as manager has applied for an All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant). The premises is located at 37 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA
5. 6:40 **Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent**
 - Findings from 3/19/24 lateral sewer camera inspections on Federal Street and Veterans Way in Millers Falls
 - Execute Agreement with Tighe & Bond, Inc. for Semi-Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring and Semi-Annual Landfill Gas Monitoring, \$24,400.00
6. 6:50 **Personnel Board:**
 - Appoint Cameron Velez, DPW Truck Driver/Labor in Training, UE Grade B, Step 1, effective 3/26/2024
 - Appoint Tom Bergeron to Assistant Town Administrator Selection Committee, effective 3/25/2024
 - Status Change Notice: Angela Amidon, Administrative Assistant, Grade B, Step 4
 - Appoint Jacob Goldman, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr. effective 3/26/24
 - Appoint Marcel LaFlamme, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr. effective 3/26/24
 - Appoint Steven McGuirl, Substitute Library Assistant, \$15.00/hr. effective 3/26/24

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7. 7:00 **Annie Levine, Great Falls Farmers Market Manager**
- Use of public property: Peskeompskut Park for Great Falls Farmers Market May 4th – October 26th, every Saturday, 9:00AM – 1:00PM. Set-up starts @ 8:00AM and Clean-Up is 1:00 – 2:00PM.
8. 7:05 **Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Recommendation**
May 4, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Recommendation
- To review draft warrant, attached hereto;
 - To review votes and recommendations made on March 20, 2024;
 - To review non-financial articles and make any additional recommendations;
 - To vote to place proposed articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant
9. 7:15 **Town Administrator's Business**
- Authorize Signing and Submission of Montague's Motion to Intervene and Comment Relative to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Final License Application for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889-085) and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485-071)
 - Authorize the Town Administrator to Sign and Submit a Declaration of Standing Relative to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Final License Application for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889-085) and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485-071)
 - Update on Collection System Annual Reporting Progress
 - Update Regarding White Bridge Repair Project
 - Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

Next Meeting:

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

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 4, 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, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 9:00 A.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 receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, or other Town departments with the approval of the Selectboard, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>FY24 BUDGET</u> | <u>FY25 REQUEST</u> | <u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MODERATOR | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| SELECTBOARD | | | |
| Chairman | 2,355 | 2,640 | 2,640 |
| Second/Third Members | 2,140 | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| BOARD OF ASSESSOR | | | |
| Chairman | 1,765 | 1,980 | 1,980 |
| Second/Third Members | 1,605 | 1,800 | 1,800 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER | 78,423* | 82,394** | 82,394 |
| *Step 9 | | | |
| **Step 10 | | | |
| TREE WARDEN | 1,575 | 1,764 | 1,764 |
| BOARD OF HEALTH | | | |
| Chairman | 1,765 | 1,980 | 1,980 |
| Second/Third Members | 1,605 | 1,800 | 1,800 |

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>FY24 BUDGET</u> | <u>FY25 REQUEST</u> | <u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u> | | | |
| BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3) | 625 | 625 | 625 |
| BOARD OF REGISTRARS Town Clerk | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR | 5,765 | 6,444 | 6,444 |
| ANIMAL INSPECTOR | 1,575 | 1,764 | 1,764 |
| BARN INSPECTOR | 1,050 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| IT COORDINATOR | 2,100 | 2,352 | 2,352 |
| POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR | 3,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| FOREST WARDEN | 1,710 | 1,882 | 1,882 |
| HEARING OFFICER | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| FARMERS MARKET MANAGER | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| <u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u> | | | |
| ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| GAS INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| PLUMBING INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| SEXTON/PER BURIAL | | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| <u>HOURLY RATES</u> | <u>Ranges/hr.</u> | <u>Ranges/hr.</u> | <u>Ranges/hr.</u> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| EXTRA CLERICAL | 15.00-16.75 | 15.00-18.75 | 15.00-18.75 |
| ELECTION WORKERS | 15.00-17.75 | 15.00-19.75 | 15.00-19.75 |
| SUMMER HIGHWAY | 15.00-16.75 | 15.00-18.75 | 15.00-18.75 |
| SNOW PLOW DRIVERS | 15.00-25.00 | 15.00-27.00 | 15.00-27.00 |
| PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS | 25.00-28.00 | 29.00-35.00 | 29.00-35.00 |
| PART TIME DISPATCHERS | 22.00-25.00 | 22.00-27.00 | 22.00-27.00 |
| PARKS & RECREATION | 15.00-21.50 | 15.00-24.25 | 15.00-24.25 |
| AIRPORT INTERN | 15.00-16.00 | 15.00-18.75 | 15.00-18.75 |

SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS

PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

| | | |
|---------------------|------|------|
| SECOND SHIFT | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| THIRD SHIFT | 1.25 | 1.25 |

SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS

PART TIME DISPATCHERS

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| SECOND SHIFT | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| THIRD SHIFT | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| <u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u> | 0.75 | 0.75 |

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE (placed on NAGE Scale)

| | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Range FY2024</u> | | <u>Range FY2025</u> | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | | Start | End | Start | End |
| <u>SALARIED</u> | | | | | |
| TOWN ADMINISTRATOR | J | 100,946 | 124,233 | 103,470 | 127,339 |
| ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN | I | 91,770 | 112,940 | 94,064 | 115,764 |
| TOWN ACCOUNTANT | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| TOWN CLERK | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| CHIEF OF POLICE | I | 91,770 | 112,940 | 94,064 | 115,764 |
| DPW SUPERINTENDENT | H | 83,428 | 102,672 | 85,514 | 105,239 |
| DIRECTOR OF HEALTH | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| LIBRARY DIRECTOR | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| CWF SUPERINTENDENT | H | 83,428 | 102,672 | 85,514 | 105,239 |
| <u>HOURLY</u> | | | | | |
| EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | E | 24.40 | 30.02 | 25.01 | 30.77 |
| POLICE LIEUTENANT | G+8.5% | 40.11 | 44.50 | 40.95 | 45.44 |
| POLICE CUSTODIAN | A | 16.35 | 20.12 | 16.76 | 20.62 |

(Selectboard 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 \$12,409,728, or any other amount, for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary charges, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Town Operating Budget

| DEPT NO. | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | SELECTBOARD | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 | |
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT | | | | |
| 113 | TOWN MEETING | 2,980 | 3,180 | 3,180 |
| 122 | SELECTBOARD | 330,581 | 326,230 | 326,230 |
| 131 | FINANCE COMMITTEE | 2,000 | 600 | 600 |
| 132 | RESERVE FUND | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| 135 | TOWN ACCOUNTANT | 90,500 | 93,000 | 93,000 |
| 141 | ASSESSORS | 189,801 | 186,059 | 186,059 |
| 145 | TREASURER/COLLECTOR | 231,048 | 206,965 | 206,965 |
| 151 | TOWN COUNSEL | 80,000 | 87,475 | 87,475 |
| 155 | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | 80,500 | 92,252 | 92,252 |
| 159 | SHARED COSTS | 85,907 | 93,499 | 93,499 |
| 161 | TOWN CLERK | 243,041 | 237,224 | 237,224 |
| 175 | PLANNING | 134,429 | 140,788 | 140,788 |
| 176 | ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| 190 | PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES | 155,932 | 140,050 | 140,050 |
| 197 | FARMERS MARKET | 5,000 | 5,200 | 5,200 |
| | TOTAL GENERAL GOVT | 1,682,419 | 1,663,222 | 1,663,222 |
| PUBLIC SAFETY | | | | |
| 211 | POLICE | 1,970,054 | 2,067,608 | 2,067,608 |
| 211 | POLICE CRUISER | 68,100 | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| 212 | DISPATCH | 395,588 | 410,768 | 410,768 |
| 241 | BUILDING INSPECTOR | 148,621 | 155,082 | 155,082 |
| 244 | SEALER OF WEIGHTS | 7,182 | 7,182 | 7,182 |
| 291 | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | 6,265 | 6,944 | 6,944 |
| 292 | ANIMAL CONTROL | 23,112 | 23,658 | 23,658 |
| 294 | FOREST WARDEN | 1,710 | 1,882 | 1,882 |
| 299 | TREE WARDEN | 30,285 | 30,474 | 30,474 |
| | TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY | 2,650,917 | 2,763,598 | 2,763,598 |
| PUBLIC WORKS | | | | |
| 420 | DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS | 1,747,506 | 1,772,006 | 1,772,006 |
| 423 | SNOW & ICE | 311,250 | 321,250 | 321,250 |
| 433 | SOLID WASTE | 679,221 | 802,776 | 802,776 |
| 480 | CHARGING STATIONS | 7,380 | 11,980 | 11,980 |
| 491 | CEMETERIES | 30,150 | 32,150 | 32,150 |
| | TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS | 2,815,507 | 2,940,162 | 2,940,162 |
| HUMAN SERVICES | | | | |
| 511 | BOARD OF HEALTH | 175,444 | 168,004 | 168,004 |

Schedule III

Town Operating Budget

SELECTBOARD

| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| | HUMAN SERVICES | | | |
| 541 | COUNCIL ON AGING | 58,593 | 59,272 | 59,272 |
| 543 | VETERANS' SERVICES | 76,500 | 77,897 | 77,897 |
| | TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES | 310,537 | 305,173 | 305,173 |
| | CULTURE & RECREATION | | | |
| 610 | LIBRARIES | 503,336 | 518,233 | 518,233 |
| 630 | PARKS & RECREATION | 160,703 | 164,826 | 164,826 |
| 691 | HISTORICAL COMMISSION | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 693 | WAR MEMORIALS | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| | TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION | 666,139 | 685,159 | 685,159 |
| | DEBT SERVICE | | | |
| 700 | DEBT SERVICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL | 1,154,319 | 1,158,857 | 1,158,857 |
| 840 | INTERGOVERNMENTAL MISCELLANEOUS | 113,924 | 116,874 | 116,874 |
| 910 | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 2,490,334 | 2,657,083 | 2,657,083 |
| 946 | GENERAL INSURANCE | 120,600 | 119,600 | 119,600 |
| | TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS | 2,610,934 | 2,776,683 | 2,776,683 |
| | TOTAL TOWN BUDGET | 12,004,696 | 12,409,728 | 12,409,728 |

(Selectboard 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 \$3,119,324, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, CWF Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget

| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 |
|----------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | CLEAN WATER FACILITY | | | |
| 440 | Wages & Expenses | 2,015,729 | 2,116,590 | 2,116,590 |
| 440 | Capital Outlay | 58,500 | 58,500 | 58,500 |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 700 | Debt Service | 483,614 | 478,365 | 478,365 |
| 910 | Employee Benefits | 363,631 | 380,719 | 380,719 |
| | SUBTOTAL CWF | 2,921,474 | 3,034,174 | 3,034,174 |
| 449 | DPW SUBSIDIARY | | | |
| | Wages & Expenses | 84,650 | 85,150 | 85,150 |
| | SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY | 84,650 | 85,150 | 85,150 |
| | TOTAL CWF | 3,006,124 | 3,119,324 | 3,119,324 |

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$419,677, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Schedule V
Airport Budget

| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| | AIRPORT | | | |
| 482 | Wages & Expenses | 274,915 | 255,238 | 255,238 |
| 482 | Capital Outlay/Local Share | 10,000 | - | - |
| 700 | Debt Service | 101,535 | 102,775 | 102,775 |
| 910 | Employee Benefits | 40,515 | 61,664 | 61,664 |
| | TOTAL AIRPORT | 426,965 | 419,677 | 419,677 |

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$52,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, 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 \$837,356, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Franklin County Technical School 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 \$12,143,442, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$24,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of reconfiguring the Sheffield School main office, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$175,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$36,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 57C, for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal year 2026), or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Tax Collector Request)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$260,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying for legal fees and valuation expert testimony before the Appellate Tax Board, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$283,800, or any other amount, for the purpose of upgrading the Montague Center Pump Station, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Clean Water Facility Request)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$150,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the planning and design phase of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Request)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$64,218, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$40,402, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing a 20-ton trailer for the DPW, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$365,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$78,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of lining

sewer manholes and relining sewer pipes, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$30,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of paving the First Street alley, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$296,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of rehabilitating the public parking lot at One Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the following sums, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

| Fund | Amount (\$) |
|--|--------------------|
| Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund | 10,000 |
| Town Capital Stabilization Fund | 119,653 |
| GMRSD Stabilization Fund | 34,323 |
| FCTS Stabilization Fund | 0 |
| OPEB Trust Fund | 50,000 |
| Total: | 213,976 |

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as Sandy Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Selectboard and shown on a plan of land entitled "Proposed

Street Acceptance Plan 'Sandy Lane' Plan of Land in Montague, Massachusetts," dated January 18, 2024, prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Sandy Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Montague and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement for a printer/copier, with costs to be funded through the Shared Services departmental budget, and to take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

Montague Reporter:

Please publish the following as a legal notice on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that Dreamhouse Foods, Inc. d/b/a Dreamhouse, Jillian Fishman as manager, has applied for an All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant). The premises is located at 37 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA consisting of a first floor storefront on the north side of 3rd St., with a south facing entrance. ADA approved ramp to the front door, ADA approved bathroom on first floor. Premises will be used as a full service brunch restaurant. 15 seats at the bar, bench and chair seating along right wall of first floor. 10 foot deep enclosed, raised and fenced patio with seating for 15. Front entrance is sole entry and exit. Storage in basement to have locked cage for alcohol.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:34 P.M. via ZOOM see agenda link: <https://montague-ma.gov/d/12333/Selectboard-Meeting>

Montague License Commissioners



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission

For Reconsideration

LICENSING AUTHORITY CERTIFICATION

MONTAGUE

City /Town

ABCC License Number

TRANSACTION TYPE (Please check all relevant transactions):

The license applicant petitions the Licensing Authorities to approve the following transactions:

- New License
- Change of Location
- Change of Class (i.e. Annual / Seasonal)
- Change Corporate Structure (i.e. Corp / LLC)
- Transfer of License
- Alteration of Licensed Premises
- Change of License Type (i.e. club / restaurant)
- Pledge of Collateral (i.e. License/Stock)
- Change of Manager
- Change Corporate Name
- Change of Category (i.e. All Alcohol/Wine, Malt)
- Management/Operating Agreement
- Change of Officers/
Directors/LLC Managers
- Change of Ownership Interest
(LLC Members/ LLP Partners,
Trustees)
- Issuance/Transfer of Stock/New Stockholder
- Change of Hours
- Other
- Change of DBA

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Licensee DBA

Street Address Zip Code

Manager

Granted under Special Legislation? Yes No

If Yes, Chapter
of the Acts of (year)

Type (i.e. restaurant, package store) Class (Annual or Seasonal) Category (i.e. Wines and Malts / All Alcohol)

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES Complete description of the licensed premises

First floor storefront on the north side of 3rd St., with a south facing entrance. ADA approved ramp to the front door, ADA approved bathroom on first floor. Premises will be used as a full service brunch restaurant. 15 seats at the bar, bench and chair seating along right wall of first floor. 10 foot deep enclosed, raised and fenced patio with seating for 15. Front entrance is sole entry and exit. Storage in base

LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY INFORMATION

Application filed with the LLA: Date Time

Advertised Yes No Date Published Publication

Abutters Notified: Yes No Date of Notice

Date APPROVED by LLA Decision of the LLA

Additional remarks or conditions (E.g. Days and hours)

For Transfers ONLY:
Seller License Number: Seller Name:

The Local Licensing Authorities By:

Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
Ralph Sacramone
Executive Director

Summary of the findings on March 19, 2023, from the lateral camera inspections on Federal Street at Veterans way:

12/14 Federal Street – headed east toward RR tracks

- @ 9 ft, the pipe changes from PVC to Clay
- @ 20-30 feet there was a lot of roots and small particle sand
- @ 55 feet there was a pile of larger rocks that the camera could not pass by
- The water was perfectly clear, no signs of waste or surfactants (soap suds)

20 Federal Street/end of Veterans Way – headed west

- @ 7 feet the pipe took a 45-degree left turn and turned to clay
- @ 9 feet and the entirety of the pipe, there was lots of sand and grit, enough to bury the camera head while pushing forward
- @ 56 feet there is a joint offset and a crack taking on lots of water. The camera could not get past this joint offset.
- As we pulled the camera back, we were able to see much more (pushing through the sand on the way up totally obstructed our view) of the debris in the pipe. There was lots of sand but also tons of small pieces of clay pipe.
- The water was perfectly clear, no signs of waste or surfactants (soap suds)

There were no definitive findings, which is why there is no mention on the plan moving forward at this time. We will share the report and CCTV footage with everyone when we get it.



**AGREEMENT
FOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES
FOR
SANITARY LANDFILL
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
FISCAL YEAR 2024

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF MONTAGUE, MASSACHUSETTS**

THIS AGREEMENT made this ____ day of _____ 2024 by and between the Town of Montague, Massachusetts, hereinafter designated as the "TOWN", a municipal corporation duly established by law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as represented by its Board of Selectmen, hereinafter designated and referred to as the "BOARD" and Tighe & Bond, Inc., a corporation incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts, and having its principal office in the City of Westfield, said Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereinafter designated as the "ENGINEER".

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) requires groundwater and surface water monitoring of the Montague Sanitary Landfill along with the installation of three gas monitoring wells at the Montague Sanitary Landfill in accordance with the MassDEP Solar Field Permit Approval dated April 15, 2019 attached for reference hereto as Attachment B (hereinafter "Project"), and

WHEREAS, the BOARD requires professional engineering services relative to conducting the monitoring activities.

NOW THEREFORE, the BOARD and the ENGINEER, for the consideration hereinafter named, agree as follows:

SECTION 1 - SCOPE OF THE WORK

The professional engineering services, which are specifically included in this AGREEMENT, are as follows:

- A. Groundwater, Surface Water and Landfill Gas Monitoring (Tasks 1 & 2)

The ENGINEER shall monitor landfill gas and collect and analyze groundwater and surface water samples in accordance with the program outlined in Attachment A. The ENGINEER shall summarize the data and forward the laboratory reports and data summary to the BOARD after each sampling event.

B. Gas Monitoring Wells (optional) (Task 3)

If requested, the ENGINEER shall install three gas monitoring wells along the northern property boundary of the Montague Sanitary Landfill site at the locations identified in Attachment A. The ENGINEER will subcontract with an environmental drilling company to install the wells using truck-mounted drilling equipment equipped with 4.25-inch inside diameter hollow stem augers. Prior to well installation, the proposed drilling locations will be pre-marked and cleared for underground utilities via DigSafe and the Town DPW (water, sewer and street drainage).

At each drilling location, a boring will be advanced with standard penetration testing (SPT) performed at 5-foot intervals beginning at the ground surface, with soil stratigraphy and depth to the groundwater table (if encountered) logged in the field by the drilling crew and ENGINEER’s staff environmental scientist. The gas monitoring wells will be installed to a depth of 25 feet using standard monitoring well construction techniques and screened from 5-25 feet below grade. The wells will be constructed using 2-inch diameter Schedule 40 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) well pipe, 0.010-inch slotted Schedule 40 PVC well screens, with a solid PVC riser to grade and finished with a 5-foot protective iron casing in place at the ground surface. Boring and well construction logs will be prepared by the drilling contractor and provided to the MassDEP and the TOWN once installed.

Gas monitoring will be conducted on a semi-annual basis in the Spring and Fall during routine post-closure environmental monitoring. MassDEP requires gas monitoring for percent methane, percent carbon dioxide gas, percent oxygen and percent balance gas (nitrogen by subtraction).

SECTION 2 COMPENSATION

The BOARD agrees to pay, and the ENGINEER agrees to accept as full compensation for all work called for and completed under the terms of this AGREEMENT, fees and charges as follows:

A. All services performed under Section 1 shall be furnished on an “hourly plus expense” basis. For the purposes of determining a contract value, it is mutually agreed that the services under this AGREEMENT shall be limited to a maximum fee of \$35,600 for Fiscal Year 2024, invoiced in accordance with ENGINEER’s standard billing rates. The breakdown of this limiting fee is as follows:

Task 1: Semi-Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring (2 events)

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Labor | \$7,100 |
| Laboratory Analysis, Sampling & Transportation | <u>\$15,800</u> |
| Total Estimated Cost | \$22,900 |

Task 2: Semi-Annual Landfill Gas Monitoring

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Labor | \$950 |
| Equipment Rental & Transportation | <u>\$550</u> |
| Total Estimated Cost | \$1,500 |

~~**Task 3: Landfill Gas Monitoring Well Installation (optional)**~~

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Engineering (Coordination and Field Observation) | \$4,600 |
| Drilling Contractor | <u>\$6,600</u> |
| Total Estimated Cost | \$11,200 |

- B. For outside services, which are rendered for the ENGINEER by others than its direct employees, the fee shall be the ENGINEER's direct cost-plus ten percent.
- C. Automobile transportation for employees of the ENGINEER traveling in direct reference to the project shall be paid for at the standard Federal rate per vehicle mile at the time of travel.
- D. The ENGINEER shall not be required to provide any engineering services under this AGREEMENT that will result in the limiting fee being exceeded, without first amending this AGREEMENT. In the event that this limiting fee has to be exceeded for reasonable cause, the BOARD and the ENGINEER shall mutually revise it by written amendment to this AGREEMENT. In the event that the BOARD and the ENGINEER cannot reach agreement, the work shall thereupon cease.
- E. Interim payments shall be made monthly to the ENGINEER as the project proceeds. It is understood and agreed that the ENGINEER will be paid only for services rendered by its employees and expenses under this AGREEMENT. All services rendered by TOWN employees will be at no cost to the ENGINEER and it will receive no payment therefore.

SECTION 3 - MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The BOARD and the ENGINEER each binds itself, its partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives to the other party to this AGREEMENT and to the partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives of such other parties with respect to all covenants of this AGREEMENT. The ENGINEER shall not assign, sublet or transfer its interest in this AGREEMENT without the written consent of the BOARD.
- B. This AGREEMENT represents the entire and integrated Agreement between the BOARD and the ENGINEER and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or Agreements, either written or oral. This AGREEMENT may be amended only by written instrument signed by both BOARD and ENGINEER.


- C. Nothing contained in this AGREEMENT shall create a contractual relationship with or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either the BOARD or the ENGINEER.
- D. Damage to Underground Structures - Reasonable care will be exercised in locating underground structures in the vicinity of proposed subsurface explorations. This may include contact with the local agency coordinating subsurface utility information and/or a review of plans provided by TOWN or TOWN representatives for the site to be investigated. ENGINEER shall be entitled to rely upon any information or plans prepared or made available by others. In the absence of confirmed underground structure locations, TOWN agrees to accept the risk of damage and costs associated with repair and restoration of damage resulting from the exploration work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the BOARD and ENGINEER have caused these presents to be signed by their respective duly authorized representatives for the purpose on the day and year first written above.


**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
BY IT'S BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

In the Presence of:

In the Presence of:



TIGHE & BOND, INC.



Peter Valinski, PE
Vice President

Certified as to Appropriation

Town Accountant

J:\M\5003 MONTAGUE\AGREEMENT\FY2024 LF ENG AGREE\FY2024 AGREEMENT.DOCX

ATTACHMENT A

GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND LANDFILL GAS MONITORING

**TABLE 1
Environmental Monitoring Program Parameters**

| General Chemistry | Metals |
|---|----------------|
| Field pH | Iron (Fe) |
| Field Temperature | Manganese (Mn) |
| Field Specific Conductance | Arsenic (As) |
| Field Dissolved Oxygen | Barium (Ba) |
| Alkalinity | Cadmium (Cd) |
| Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) | Chromium (Cr) |
| Chloride | Copper (Cu) |
| Cyanide | Lead (Pb) |
| Nitrate (As Nitrogen) | Mercury (Hg) |
| Sulfate | Selenium (Se) |
| Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) | Silver (Ag) |
| | Zinc (Zn) |
| | Calcium (Ca) |
| | Sodium (Na) |
| Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) | |
| EPA Method 8260 Including: | |
| Acetone | |
| Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) | |
| Methyl Isobutyl Ketone (MIBK) | |
| Xylenes | |
| + ID Unknown Peaks @ 2x Base | |
| Separate Low-Level Analysis for 1,4-Dioxane | |
| Landfill Gas Monitoring – Field Parameters | |
| Methane – total percent | |
| Carbon Dioxide – total percent | |
| Oxygen – total percent | |
| Balance Gas – total percent | |

**TABLE 2
Environmental Monitoring Program Locations**

| Location | Description |
|--|---|
| Groundwater Monitoring Wells | |
| DW-1 | Downgradient Shallow Well - North of Landfill |
| DW-2S | Downgradient Shallow Well - Northwest of Landfill |
| DW-3 | Downgradient Shallow Well - West of Landfill (no longer exists) |
| DW-4 | Downgradient Shallow Well - Southwest of Landfill |
| MW-6S | Upgradient Shallow Well - East of Landfill |
| MW-7S | Downgradient Shallow Well - Southeast of Landfill |
| MW-8S | Downgradient Shallow Well - Southwest of DW-4 |
| Surface Water & Seepage Area Stations | |
| Stream S-2 | Downstream Station @ Greenfield Road - Randall Brook |
| Stream S-4 | Downstream Confluence - North and South Branches of Randall Brook |
| SA-1 | Downgradient Seepage Area - South Branch Randall Brook |
| MH-DP | Discharge Pipe for Internal Drainage from the Old Burn Dump Area - North Branch Randall Brook |
| SA-XX | New Seepage Area at the Old Burn Dump Area |
| Landfill Gas Monitoring Locations | |
| GW-1 | Between the Landfill and the Transfer Station area |
| GW-2 | Between the Landfill and the Dog Shelter |
| GW-3 | Between the Landfill and the Judd Wire, Inc. facility |

ATTACHMENT B

MassDEP Solar Field Permit Approval dated April 15, 2019



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Western Regional Office • 436 Dwight Street, Springfield MA 01103 • 413-784-1100

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

April 5, 2019

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner
Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

See Condition 5 for LFG MW
Requirement

Re. Montague - SWM - Landfill
Former Burn Dump
BWP SW 25 - Corrective Action Design
File No. 19-192-001
Transmittal No. X272789

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

On October 2, 2018, the Department of Environmental Protection, Western Regional Office ("MassDEP"), received a BWP SW 25 permit application for a Corrective Action Design for the final closure of the former burn dump off Sandy Lane in Montague, MA. The application is contained in the following Report:

Montague Burn Dump
Montague, Massachusetts
BWP SW 25 Corrective
Action Design (CAD)
Permit Application
Prepared For:
Town of Montague
Montague, Massachusetts
June 2018

(one volume bound text and 11 plan sheets)

The application and Report were prepared on behalf of the Town of Montague ("Town") by Tighe & Bond of Westfield, MA. The plans are signed and stamped by Brian S. Huntley, Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer (Civil) No. 46273 and Francis J. Hoey, III, Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer (Civil) No. 40111

Tighe & Bond submitted additional information on January 31, 2019 and April 3, 2019 in response to MassDEP questions and comments.

Project Description

The Town proposes to construct final cover over the former burn dump. The burn dump site is about 7.6 acres in size (however, the area within the limit of work is approximately 11.2 acres, as some of the construction will occur outside the limits of waste). The final cover is proposed to consist of 1.5 feet of low permeability soil (hydraulic conductivity $\leq 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ cm/sec) overlain by 8 inches of vegetative support soil. The cover design is described in more detail below.

1. Site History

The Town reportedly began operating a burn dump at the site in the 1930s, which continued into the early 1970s. The Town reportedly began transitioning to sanitary landfill in 1970, after being cited for open burning. Sanitary landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste at the site ended in 1974, when the Town began operating a sanitary landfill at a nearby site. The burn dump was later used for disposal of wood waste and construction and demolition waste. MassDEP ordered the dump to close on June 2, 1982 after observing operational problems. Soil cover was subsequently placed on the dump.

In about 1973, the Town began to study ways to reduce leachate impacts to nearby Randall Brook. The landfill began in the top of a ravine, and filling inside the ravine reportedly accelerated beginning around 1970 after the Town switched to sanitary landfill methods. Two pipes had been installed in the ravine around 1970 or 1971, including: an 8-inch perforated interceptor installed across the top of the ravine, connected to a 6-inch drain pipe running down the ravine, and an 8-inch perforated pipe running down the eastern side of the ravine. Both pipes discharged near a stream, known as Randall Brook, below the limit of fill. These pipes were intended to intercept groundwater and reduce the generation of leachate, but actually acted to collect leachate and discharge it to the brook. The pipes were later buried in waste.

Based on a 1973 engineering analysis, in 1974 the Town installed an additional 10-inch concrete interceptor pipe (at a lower elevation than the original 8-inch pipe) with a 10-inch drain pipe running down the ravine. The older 6-inch and 8-inch pipes were cut back by 200 to 300 feet and plugged. Following this work, leachate apparently followed the paths of the abandoned pipes and continued to impact the brook. Water from the new 10-inch pipe was reportedly cleaner than the water from the two older pipes, but still contained substantial levels of iron, leading to iron oxide staining in the brook sediments. Water from this pipe continues to contain elevated levels of iron, manganese, and zinc. Reportedly, flow from this pipe is on the order of 100,000 gallons per day.

A 1979 engineering analysis made on behalf of the Town by Curran Associates recommended installing a pump station at the base of the ravine, installing a collection pipe to capture the leachate before it reached the brook, and then pumping it to a recharge area at the landfill and/or to the municipal sewer system. These recommendations were never implemented.

A Corrective Action Alternatives Analysis was submitted to address final closure of the burn dump and elimination of the leachate discharge on March 3, 1998, but MassDEP determined that the Town's preferred alternative (abandoning the subdrain system by backfilling it with concrete) was insufficient to address the environmental impacts of the site. In more recent years, Tighe & Bond conducted a limited assessment of the site on behalf of the Town to determine the extent of waste deposition and design a final cover system.

2. Final Cover Design

The site is currently heavily overgrown by trees and brush, which will need to be removed in the initial stages of construction. The design plans indicate that the existing grading will be substantially altered prior to installation of the final cover. The existing cover soil (generally six inches to 2.5 feet in thickness) will be stripped and stockpiled prior to waste regrading, and then used for shaping and grading material. The northern part of the landfill will generally be graded to a 5% minimum slope. The existing very steep slopes in the ravine area will be reduced to a maximum of about 4 horizontal to 1 vertical (4:1). The plans indicate that there are small areas where existing waste will need to be moved under the future cap because it is currently outside of the proposed limit of capping.

The northern part of the landfill will contain approximately 645 feet of landfill gas venting trench, with five passive landfill gas vents. The trench will be 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep, lined with nonwoven geotextile, and filled with crushed stone. A 6-inch diameter slotted corrugated high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe will be installed in the center of the trench. The five vertical passive vents will be constructed of 4-inch solid wall schedule 80 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, which will be connected to the horizontal pipe via Fernco connectors. No gas venting layer (e.g. sand) is proposed for the cover system. However, given that this is an alternative cover design, the barrier layer has a higher permeability than a standard cap would have, and a substantial part of the landfill contains burn debris, MassDEP has determined that it is acceptable to omit the gas venting layer.

Stormwater on the upper (5% slope) portion of the cap will travel generally south via sheet flow towards the ravine. The diversion berms will be lined with 60-mil HDPE channel liner with welded seams. On the steeper ravine slopes, three levels of rock-lined diversion berms will direct the stormwater either to the east or west to two rock-lined down chutes

The design includes a biofilter system at the toe of the landfill to treat potentially contaminated groundwater expected to leach out from under the cap. Groundwater seeping out under the lower edge of the cap will discharge into a collection swale. A toe drain as well as a system of drainage pipes (including a perforated 8-inch running under, and parallel to the toe connected to 8-inch solid wall daylighting pipes every 100 feet) are provided to relieve pore pressure under the cap. The collection swale will be filled with an "engineered planting mix" consisting of 40% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 30-40% compost. The engineered planting mix will be covered with a surface layer of 0.75-inch crushed stone. The surface will be vegetated. The collection swale will have a buried 6-inch perforated HDPE pipe installed longitudinally, which will be set in a trench filled with 0.75-inch crushed stone wrapped in geotextile. Water collecting in the perforated pipe will discharge through solid-wall 6-inch HDPE pipes installed every 100 feet along the length of the collection swale. These solid-wall pipes will penetrate through the downslope wall of the swale and daylight into a stormwater basin installed at a lower elevation. The pipe outlets will be provided with rock fill splash pads for erosion control. The collection swale will have a rock-lined spillway into the stormwater basin.

The stormwater basin will be lined with vegetative support soil and vegetated. The basin will outlet via two 24-inch HDPE pipes that will discharge to a gently-sloping area below the construction limits. There will also be a rock-lined emergency spillway discharging to the same location. Both the pipes and emergency spillway will have rock-lined outlet splash pads to prevent erosion.

3. Stormwater Drainage Pipe

As noted above, the burn dump has a 10-inch outlet pipe that discharges water with elevated levels of metals near Randall Brook. The CAD proposes to plug this drainage system to reduce impacts to the brook. It is intended that the water currently carried by the pipe will instead be discharged from below the cap into the biofilter collection swale described above, where it will undergo natural attenuation of contaminants. The toe drain design is also intended to relieve pore pressure under the cap to help maintain stability.

It is possible that plugging the drainage system will result in the water table within the Landfill to rise, which could positively or negatively affect the strength of leachate-impacted groundwater, and may affect the location(s) and elevations at which the impacted groundwater seeps out of the slope below the Landfill. Since these changes are not entirely predictable, MassDEP requested in comments that the system be plugged in a reversible manner so that the Landfill can be monitored for negative changes before a permanent plug is installed (the proposed permanent decommissioning would be accomplished by injected flowable fill into the drainage system, which would not be reversible). The Town proposes to temporarily plug the pipe at its outlet during the evaluation period, due to the inlet being difficult to access. This permit requires monitoring of changes in groundwater level and groundwater seepage to determine if and when a permanent decommissioning of the drainage system is appropriate.

4. Potential Wetlands Impacts

The project plans indicate that some of the work will take place within 100-foot wetlands buffer zones, though not within the wetlands themselves. At a minimum, a Request for Determination of Applicability should be submitted to the Montague Conservation Commission to determine if a Notice of Intent and Order of Conditions will be required for the project.

The plans indicate that standard sedimentation controls, such as hay bales/silt fence or silt socks, will be installed around the work area to prevent sediment impacts to nearby wetlands and other adjacent areas.

5. Solar Photovoltaic System

MassDEP is simultaneously reviewing a post-closure use application to construct a solar photovoltaic ("PV") system on the northern part of the final cover system, where the final grades will be about 5%. Solar panels, fenceposts, and conduits installed on the cap will be anchored by concrete ballasts (which will be placed on crushed stone or crushed asphalt, brick, and concrete as necessary to level the ballasts). No excavations below the surface will be made except for a limited number of shallow excavations into the vegetative support soil for electrical grounding purposes. The PV system, as proposed, does not appear to have any potential negative impacts on the cap. It should be noted that, under an agreement with the Town, PV system operator will be responsible for cap maintenance within the fenced area of the cap that will contain the PV system.

Determination

This Approval is issued pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 150A and 310 CMR 19.000, subject to the conditions set forth below and the standard conditions at 310 CMR 19.043(5) and any amendments thereto. In the event this Approval conflicts with all or parts of prior plan approvals or permits issued pursuant to c. 111, s. 150A or solid waste regulations in effect prior to July 1, 1990 the terms and conditions of this Approval shall supersede the conflicting provisions of the prior permits or approvals. This Approval does not convey property rights of any sort or any exclusive privilege.

Conditions

1. The final cover system shall be constructed in compliance with the plans and specifications referenced above except as may be modified by the conditions herein.
2. The final cover system shall be completed by December 31, 2019.
3. Drainage System Evaluation and Decommissioning
 - A. Prior to installing a temporary plug into the landfill drainage system, the existing monitoring wells (MW-B and TW-6A) and the drainage system manhole within the landfill limits, and nearby wells outside the landfill limits (TW-3A and MW-H) shall be gauged a minimum of three times at two-month intervals to determine the groundwater elevations. During the same monitoring events, the slope below the landfill shall be inspected to determine the elevation(s) at which groundwater may be seeping out of the slope. The top of well casings and slope benchmarks shall be surveyed as necessary to ensure that accurate elevations can be determined. Groundwater contour maps shall be prepared based on the elevation data.
 - B. The temporary plug shall be installed as proposed at the pipe outlet.
 - C. Following installation of the temporary plug, groundwater levels and leachate seepage elevation shall be monitored on a quarterly basis for a period of two years. The monitoring shall be reported on a semi-annual basis along with the other groundwater and surface water monitoring for the site. Such report shall also include any observations regarding any positive or negative impacts potentially attributable to the temporary plug, such drainage along the path of the drainage pipe, increases in the volume of leachate seeps or appearance of new seeps, signs of instability, erosion, etc.
 - D. If the Town wishes to permanently decommission the drainage system, it shall submit its written intent to do so a minimum of 60 days in advance. This request shall be accompanied by any relevant monitoring data or observations not previously submitted. MassDEP shall make a written determination as to whether or not the permanent decommissioning may proceed.
4. The Town shall comply with the Wetlands Protection Act and wetlands regulations at 310 CMR 10.00. At a minimum, a Request for Determination of Applicability shall be submitted to the Montague Conservation Commission to determine if a Notice of Intent and Order of Conditions will be required for the project.

5. A minimum of three landfill gas monitoring wells shall be installed to the north of the edge of the final cover system, including one between the landfill and transfer station area, one between the landfill and dog shelter, and one between the landfill and Judd Wire, Inc. These wells shall be monitored, at a minimum, for methane (%), carbon dioxide (%), oxygen (%), and balance gas (%). Monitoring shall commence in Fall 2019 and shall continue on a semi-annual basis corresponding to the existing groundwater and surface water monitoring program.
6. If any active leachate seeps are present on the slope below the Landfill, a minimum of one leachate seep sampling location shall be established and sampled at least once before the temporary drainage system plug is installed. This location shall be added to the semiannual groundwater and surface water sampling network and analyzed for the same parameters as the existing surface water sampling locations. If the location of the leachate seep(s) changes in the future, the location of the seep sampling shall be changed as necessary to be able to collect a sufficient valid sample. Any changes in sampling location shall be documented in the narrative and mapping of the monitoring report(s).
7. The Town shall not cause or allow any activity approved in this Permit to create any nuisance conditions, including but not limited to odors, wind-blown litter, or attraction of birds, rodents, or insects. Further, these operations shall not cause any threat or actual harm to public health, safety, or the environment.
8. The Town shall maintain hay bales, siltation fencing, and/or other effective measures to protect wetlands and other offsite resources from runoff and siltation damage. Such measures shall be maintained as long as unstabilized slopes exist at the site, construction activities are occurring, or other conditions exist that could result in contaminated and/or sediment-laden runoff leaving the site.
9. Effective fugitive dust controls shall be used during the final cover construction project, including but not limited to, water spray, calcium chloride application, establishing vegetation, and street sweeping on paved access roads. However, water spray on uncapped landfill areas shall be kept to the minimum effective quantity to minimize leachate generation.
10. The Town shall construct and maintain temporary diversion berms and/or phase the work in such a way as to strictly prevent stormwater that has contacted waste, beneficially reused shaping and grading materials, and/or alternative daily or intermediate cover materials ("contact stormwater") from leaving the work area in any manner or impacting areas that have previously received final cover.
11. Construction Oversight:
 - A. A third-party independent engineer shall supervise the construction of the final cover system. The engineer's duties shall include, but not be limited to, determining final grades of the landfill; oversee installation and construction of all components of the final cover system; oversee QA/QC testing and verify all data generated through the testing program; and document all construction and QA/QC activities. The engineer shall provide construction certification to the owner and operator upon completion of landfill closure activities. The third-party engineer, or his/her designee, must be on-site at all times during the construction of the final cover system and associated appurtenances (e.g., final cover system components, landfill gas collection wells and piping, stormwater

- swales and berms, etc.). The engineer shall retain, at the site, a sufficient number of resident technical staff to ensure that all of construction activities are conducted in accordance with the approved specifications and sound engineering practice. The engineer shall be considered an operator with respect to the oversight of construction and compliance with plans and specifications. As such, MassDEP may take enforcement action against the engineer, consistent with its authority under applicable Massachusetts laws and regulations, for any failure to construct the Landfill in accordance with approved plans and specifications of which the engineer was, or should have been, aware.
- B. The responsibilities described in the Landfill Technical Guidance Manual - Revised May 1997 ("LTGM"), pp. 2-1 to 2-3 are hereby incorporated by reference into this Permit. The third-party engineer and/or a qualified QA/QC officer shall be present at the site at all times during construction and shall fulfill all of the responsibilities described in Condition 11.A., as well as those described in that part of the LTGM that were not specifically mentioned in Condition 11.A.
12. The third-party independent engineer shall be knowledgeable in landfill closure design and construction. The engineer shall be a Massachusetts Registered PE.
 13. A construction completion report shall be submitted within 90 days after the completion of final cover. The report shall demonstrate that the project was completed in accordance with the approved plans, specifications, and narrative descriptions (except as may be modified by this approval or otherwise approved by MassDEP in writing). It shall be signed and stamped by a Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer.
 14. The Town shall maintain and repair the final cover system during the closure period and the post-closure period. The post-closure requirements set forth at 310 CMR 19.142 (1) - (8) are hereby included by reference, subject to regulatory amendment.
 15. The landfill gas venting system shall prevent subsurface gas migration. The venting system shall control such gas levels in the subsurface to below 25% of the Lower Explosive Limit ("LEL") at the property line and below 10% LEL in any buildings, structures, utilities, or any other confined spaces (excluding landfill gas collection systems, and leachate collection/transfer systems). If exceedances of LEL restrictions occur, MassDEP may take appropriate enforcement action and may require the Town to make any modifications or additions to the landfill gas collection and treatment system that MassDEP deems necessary.
 16. If offsite materials other than uncontaminated soils are to be brought to the site for shaping and grading purposes, the Town shall notify MassDEP in writing prior to accepting such materials. Such notification shall include the origin, quantity, and type of materials to be accepted. MassDEP reserves the right to require a Beneficial Use Determination or other appropriate written approval for any shaping and grading materials that may be solid wastes as defined in 310 CMR 19.000.

17. Unless otherwise directed herein, all submissions required pursuant to this Permit shall be sent to:

Section Chief, Solid Waste Management
Department of Environmental Protection
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103

18. MassDEP and its agents and employees shall have the right to enter upon the site at all reasonable times, to inspect the project area and any equipment, structure or land located thereon, take samples, recover materials or discharges, have access to and photocopy records, to perform tests and to otherwise monitor compliance with this Permit and all environmental laws and regulations. This right of entry and inspection shall be in addition to MassDEP's access authorities and rights under applicable federal and states laws and regulations, as well as any permits or other agreements between the Permittees and MassDEP.

19. This Permit is being issued as a Final Permit. Any appeal of this Permit is subject to 310 CMR 19.033(5) Legal Challenges, which states:

(a) Appeal. Any person aggrieved by the final permit decision, except as provided for under 310 CMR 19.033(4)(b), may file an appeal for judicial review of said permit decision in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 111, § 150A and M.G.L. c. 30A no later than 30 days following the date of issuance of the final permit decision to the applicant. The standing of a person to file an appeal and the procedures for filing such appeal shall be governed by the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A. Unless the person requesting an appeal requests and is granted a stay of the terms and conditions of the final permit decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the final permit decision shall be effective in accordance with 310 CMR 19.033(3).

(b) Notice of Action. Any aggrieved person intending to appeal a final permit decision to the Superior Court shall first provide notice of intention to commence such action. Said notices of intention shall include the Department file number and shall identify with particularity the issues and reason why it is believed the final permit decision was not proper. Such notice shall be provided to the Office of General Counsel of the Department and the Regional Director for the regional office which processed the permit application, if applicable, at least five days prior to the filing of an appeal.

(c) No allegation shall be made in any judicial appeal of a final permit decision unless the matter complained of was raised at the appropriate point in the administrative review procedures established in 310 CMR 19.000, provided that a matter may be raised upon a showing that it is material and that it was not reasonably possible with due diligence to have been raised during such procedures or that matter sought to be raised is of critical importance to the environmental impact of the permitted activity.

The MassDEP File Number for this Permit is 19-192-001. The appropriate addresses to which to send such notices are:

General Counsel
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street-Third floor
Boston, MA 02108

Regional Director
Department of Environmental Protection
436 Dwight Street - Fifth Floor
Springfield, MA 01103

20. Compliance with any submission deadlines pursuant to this approval shall be determined by the date of receipt or the postmarked date, whichever is earlier.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the matters stated above in this Approval, please contact Jim Scheffler of my office at (413) 755-2127.

Sincerely,



Daniel Hall
Solid Waste Chief
Bureau of Air and Waste
Western Region

JPS/jps

cc: Montague Health Department

Electronic cc:

Brian Huntley - Tighe & Bond
Peter Czapienski - DEP WERO

Town of Montague Personnel Status Change Notice New Hires

Employee # _____

Board Authorizing Appointment: Selectboard Meeting Date: 03/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

Board Authorizing Wages: Selectboard Meeting Date: 03/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

General Information:

| | |
|--|---|
| Full name of employee: <u>Cameron Velez</u> | Department: <u>DPW</u> |
| Title: <u>Truck Driver/Laborer in Training</u> | Effective date of hire: <u>03/26/2024</u> |

New Hire:

| | |
|---|--|
| Permanent: <u>X</u> <u>Y</u> <u> </u> <u>N</u> | If temporary, estimated length of service: _____ |
| Hours per Week: <u>40</u> | Union: <u> </u> <u>UE</u> <u> </u> |

Wages:

| |
|---|
| Union: <u> </u> <u>UE</u> <u> </u> |
| Wages: Grade <u>B</u> Step <u> </u> <u>1</u> Wage Rate: <u>\$ 19.36 (annual/ hourly)</u> |
| Notes: |

Copies to:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ Employee | _____ Department | _____ Board of Selectmen |
| _____ Treasurer | _____ Accountant | _____ Retirement Board |
| _____ Town Clerk | | |

Name: Bergeron, Tom

MONTAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL

NAME: Tom Bergeron

DATE: 3/25/2024

COMMITTEE: Assistant Town Administrator Selection Committee

TERM: Until Position is Filled

TERM EXPIRATION: 8/1/2024

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF MONTAGUE TERM STARTS: 03/25/24

Bergeron, Tom personally appeared and made oath that he/she would faithfully and impartially perform his/her duty as a member of the Assistant Town Administrator Selection Committee according to the foregoing appointment.

Received _____ and entered in the records of the Town of Montague.

MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

This is to acknowledge that I have received a copy of Chapter 30A, Sections 18 - 25, of the General Laws, the Open Meeting law.

APPOINTED OFFICIAL

***If you choose to resign from your appointed position during your term, you must notify the Town Clerk in writing before such action takes effect.

Town of Montague Personnel Status Change Notice

Authorized Signature: _____ Employee # 2092

General Information:

| | |
|---|--|
| Full name of employee: <u>Angela Amidon</u> | Department: <u>Selectboard</u> |
| Title: <u>Administrative Assistant</u> | Effective date of change: <u>3/25/2024</u> |

New Hire:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Permanent: <u> </u> Y <u> </u> N | If temporary, estimated length of service: _____ |
| Hours per Week: _____ | Union: _____ |
| Pay: Grade _____ Step _____ | Wage Rate: _____ (annual / hourly) |
| Board Authorizing: _____ | Date of Meeting: _____ |

Grade/Step/COLA Change:

| | |
|---|---|
| Union: _____ | |
| Old Pay: Grade <u> </u> B <u> </u> Step <u> </u> 1 <u> </u> | Wage Rate: <u> </u> \$19.28 <u> </u> (annual/hourly) |
| New Pay: Grade <u> </u> B <u> </u> Step <u> </u> 4 <u> </u> | Wage Rate: <u> </u> \$20.76 <u> </u> (annual/ hourly) |
| Notes: _____ | |

Termination of Employment:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Resignation: _____ | Retirement: _____ | Involuntary Termination: _____ |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|

Other:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ____ Unpaid Leave of Absence | Termination Date: _____ |
| ____ Unpaid Sick Leave | Termination Date: _____ |
| ____ Other/Specify: _____ | Termination Date: _____ |

Copies to:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ____ Employee | ____ Department | ____ Board of Selectmen |
| ____ Treasurer | ____ Accountant | ____ Retirement Board |
| ____ Town Clerk | | |

Town of Montague Personnel Status Change Notice New Hires

Employee # _____

Board Authorizing **Appointment**: Selectboard Meeting Date: 3/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

Board Authorizing **Wages**: Selectboard Meeting Date: 03/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

General Information:

Full name of employee: Jacob Goldman Department: Libraries
Title: Substitute Library Assistant Effective date of hire: 03/26/2024

New Hire:

Permanent: X Y N If temporary, estimated length of service: _____
Hours per Week: N/A Union: N/A

Wages:

Union: N/A

Wages: Grade _____ Step _____ Wage Rate: \$15.00 (annual / hourly)

Notes: Substitutes fill in as needed and do not have regular hours.

Copies to:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ Employee | _____ Department | _____ Board of Selectmen |
| _____ Treasurer | _____ Accountant | _____ Retirement Board |
| _____ Town Clerk | | |

Town of Montague Personnel Status Change Notice New Hires

Employee # _____

Board Authorizing **Appointment:** Selectboard Meeting Date: 3/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

Board Authorizing **Wages:** Selectboard Meeting Date: 03/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

General Information:

Full name of employee: Steven McGuirl Department: Libraries
Title: Substitute Library Assistant Effective date of hire: 03/26/2024

New Hire:

Permanent: X Y N If temporary, estimated length of service:
Hours per Week: N/A Union: N/A

Wages:

Union: N/A

Wages: Grade Step Wage Rate: \$15.00 (annual/ hourly)

Notes: Substitutes fill in as needed and do not have regular hours.

Copies to:

_____ Employee _____ Department _____ Board of Selectmen
_____ Treasurer _____ Accountant _____ Retirement Board
_____ Town Clerk

**Town of Montague
Personnel Status Change Notice
New Hires**

Employee # _____

Board Authorizing **Appointment:** Selectboard Meeting Date: 3/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

Board Authorizing **Wages:** Selectboard Meeting Date: 03/25/2024

Authorized Signature: _____

General Information:

| | |
|---|---|
| Full name of employee: <u>Marcel LaFlamme</u> | Department: <u>Libraries</u> |
| Title: <u>Substitute Library Assistant</u> | Effective date of hire: <u>03/26/2024</u> |

New Hire:Permanent: X Y N If temporary, estimated length of service: _____Hours per Week: N/A Union: N/A**Wages:**Union: N/AWages: Grade Step Wage Rate: \$15.00 (~~annual~~/ hourly)

Notes: Substitutes fill in as needed and do not have regular hours.

Copies to:

_____ Employee

_____ Treasurer

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Department

_____ Accountant

_____ Board of Selectmen

_____ Retirement Board

Background information for Substitute Library Assistants:

Jacob Goldman grew up going to the Montague Center Branch and is intent on pursuing a career in library science. He has customer service experience from working at the Montague Village Store and an MS in Aquaculture and Fisheries from Universidade do Algarve, Portugal.

Marcel LaFlamme has over a decade of experience working in libraries. He recently relocated to the area and works remotely for an overseas science publisher. He is looking forward to connecting with his local community by substituting for the libraries in the afternoons. He has an MS in Library and Information Science from Simmons University and a PhD in anthropology from Rice University.

Steven McGuirl has worked for libraries for over 25 years, most recently as the Head of Acquisitions for the New York Society Library. He recently relocated to the Pioneer Valley and co-owns a paper collections consulting firm. He has a MS in Library Science from the Pratt Institute School of Information & Library Science.



Board of Selectmen Town of Montague

1 Avenue A (413) 863-3200 xt. 108
Turners Falls, MA 01376 FAX: (413) 863-3231

Event Application for use of PESKEOMPSKUT PARK and MONTAGUE CENTER TOWN COMMON

Name of applicant Great Falls Farmers Market

Name of business/group sponsoring proposed event if applicable: _____

If applicable, number of years your organization has been running this event in Montague? 29

Address 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Contact phone 781-492-7663 Contact email greatfallsfarmersmarket
turners@gmail.com

FID _____

Dates of proposed event May 4th - Oct 26th, every Saturday Location: Peskeomskut Park

Hours 9AM-1PM Set Up: 8AM-9AM Clean Up: 1PM-2PM

Approximate number of people expected to attend 150

What provisions will be made regarding clean up of site? Vendors are responsible for cleaning
up their own spaces.

Will the proposed event be:

- Musical
- Theatrical
- Exhibitions
- Amusements
- Wedding
- Other _____

Fully & specifically describe content of the proposed exhibition, show and/or amusements:

The market hosts various programming throughout the season, including musical performances
and workshops.

Fully & specifically describe the premises upon which the proposed event is to take place.

The market takes place at Peskeomskut Park along the path parallel to Avenue A.

Use back of form or attach a map of the premises indicating parking area(s), entertainment area(s), vendor area(s), location & number of toilets, location & number of garbage receptacles, garbage storage area, camping area(s), and location of first aid/medical stations.

Will vendors be selling:

- merchandise
- food/beverage
- alcohol
- other services _____

Fully & specifically describe the extent to which the event and/or premises would affect public safety, health, or order. If serving alcohol, indicate separate serving area, approved server i.e. TIPS trained. (separate license required to serve alcohol)

n/a

Describe the appropriate level and nature of security and/or traffic control that would be needed and what provisions have been made.

n/a

What provisions will be made regarding first aid and emergency medical care?

n/a

Are you also applying to place signs within Montague to advertise or give directions to your event? (See the Montague Building Inspector)

If so, at which locations? _____

Not at this time.

Attach a copy of your insurance policy or liability binder indicating a minimum policy of \$1Million Individual/\$3Million Group.

I attest that to my knowledge the information provided in this application is accurate and not misleading.

Signature of applicant Arnold J. Lee

Date 3/14/24

License fees:
Monday – Saturday = \$25.00 per day
Sunday = \$50.00

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Approval

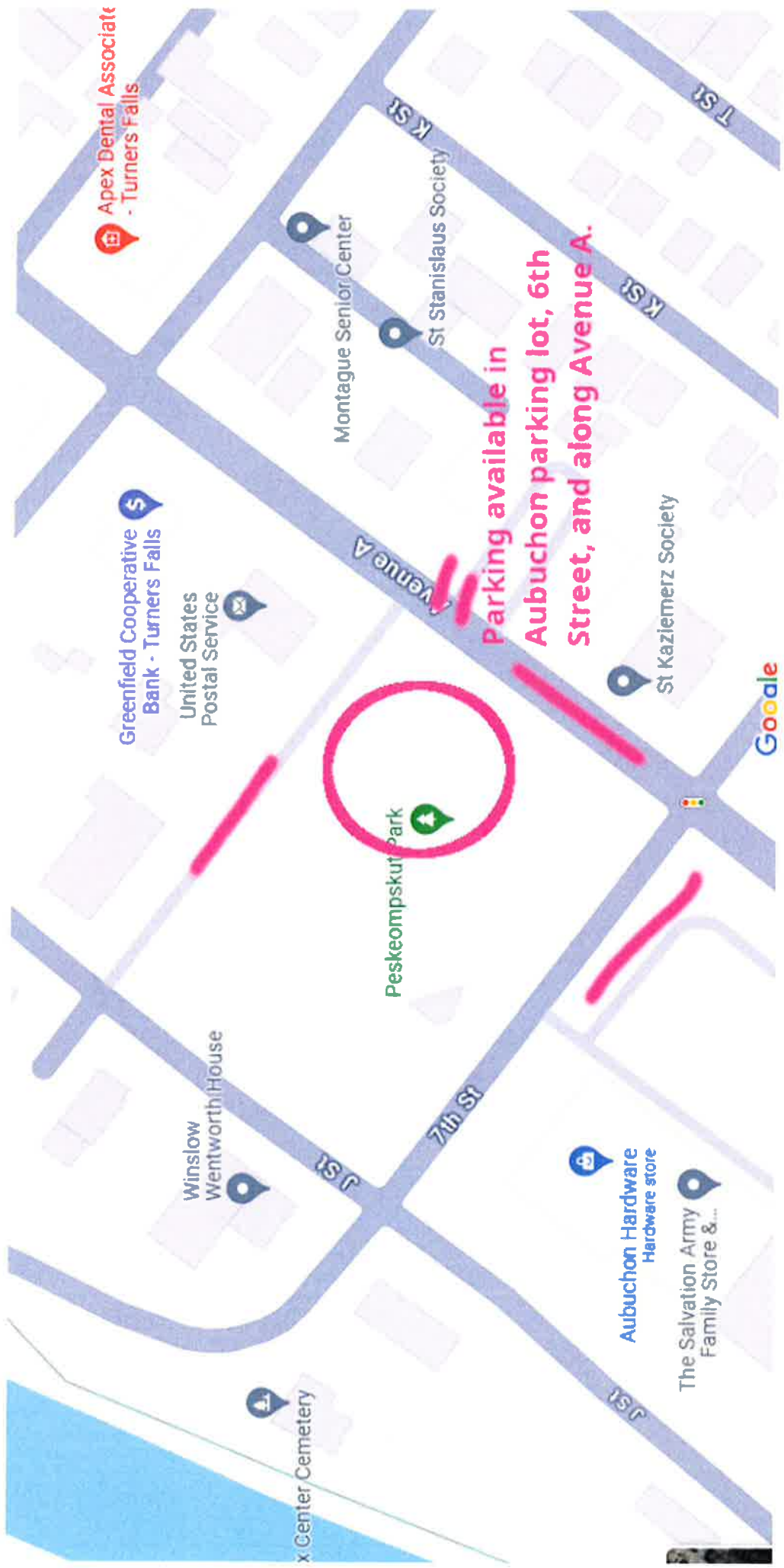
Date: _____

POLICE CHIEF - Approval / Comments

Date: _____

BOARD OF HEALTH – Approval / Comments

Date: _____



Apex Dental Associate
- Turners Falls

Greenfield Cooperative
Bank - Turners Falls

United States
Postal Service

Winslow
Wentworth House

x Center Cemetery

Montague Senior Center

Peskeompskut Park

St Stanislaus Society

Parking available in
Aubuchon parking lot, 6th
Street, and along Avenue A.

Aubuchon Hardware
Hardware store

The Salvation Army
Family Store &...

St Kaziemierz Society

Google

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 4, 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, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 9:00 A.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 receive the reports of the Officers of the Town and any committees, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, or other Town departments with the approval of the Selectboard, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule I, Elected Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>FY24 BUDGET</u> | <u>FY25 REQUEST</u> | <u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MODERATOR | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| SELECTBOARD | | | |
| Chairman | 2,355 | 2,640 | 2,640 |
| Second/Third Members | 2,140 | 2,400 | 2,400 |

BOARD OF ASSESSOR

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Chairman | 1,765 | 1,980 | 1,980 |
| Second/Third Members | 1,605 | 1,800 | 1,800 |

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER 78,423* 82,394** 82,394

*Step 9

**Step 10

TREE WARDEN 1,575 1,764 1,764

BOARD OF HEALTH

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Chairman | 1,765 | 1,980 | 1,980 |
| Second/Third Members | 1,605 | 1,800 | 1,800 |

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of all appointed officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as set forth in Schedule II, Appointed Officials, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>FY24 BUDGET</u> | <u>FY25 REQUEST</u> | <u>FY25 RECOMMEND</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u> | | | |
| BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3) | 625 | 625 | 625 |
| BOARD OF REGISTRARS Town Clerk | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR | 5,765 | 6,444 | 6,444 |
| ANIMAL INSPECTOR | 1,575 | 1,764 | 1,764 |
| BARN INSPECTOR | 1,050 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| IT COORDINATOR | 2,100 | 2,352 | 2,352 |
| POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR | 3,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| FOREST WARDEN | 1,710 | 1,882 | 1,882 |
| HEARING OFFICER | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| FARMERS MARKET MANAGER | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| <u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u> | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| GAS INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| PLUMBING INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR | 35.00 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| SEXTON/PER BURIAL | | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| <u>HOURLY RATES</u> | <u>Ranges/hr.</u> | <u>Ranges/hr.</u> | <u>Ranges/hr.</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| EXTRA CLERICAL | 15.00-16.75 | 15.00-18.75 | 15.00-18.75 |
| ELECTION WORKERS | 15.00-17.75 | 15.00-19.75 | 15.00-19.75 |
| SUMMER HIGHWAY | 15.00-16.75 | 15.00-18.75 | 15.00-18.75 |
| SNOW PLOW DRIVERS | 15.00-25.00 | 15.00-27.00 | 15.00-27.00 |
| PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS | 25.00-28.00 | 29.00-35.00 | 29.00-35.00 |
| PART TIME DISPATCHERS | 22.00-25.00 | 22.00-27.00 | 22.00-27.00 |
| PARKS & RECREATION | 15.00-21.50 | 15.00-24.25 | 15.00-24.25 |
| AIRPORT INTERN | 15.00-16.00 | 15.00-18.75 | 15.00-18.75 |

SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS

PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------------|------|------|
| SECOND SHIFT | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| THIRD SHIFT | 1.25 | 1.25 |

SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS

PART TIME DISPATCHERS

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| SECOND SHIFT | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| THIRD SHIFT | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| <u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u> | 0.75 | 0.75 |

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE (placed on NAGE Scale)

| | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Range FY2024</u> | | <u>Range FY2025</u> | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | | Start | End | Start | End |
| <u>SALARIED</u> | | | | | |
| TOWN ADMINISTRATOR | J | 100,946 | 124,233 | 103,470 | 127,339 |
| ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN | I | 91,770 | 112,940 | 94,064 | 115,764 |
| TOWN ACCOUNTANT | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| TOWN CLERK | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| CHIEF OF POLICE | I | 91,770 | 112,940 | 94,064 | 115,764 |
| DPW SUPERINTENDENT | H | 83,428 | 102,672 | 85,514 | 105,239 |
| DIRECTOR OF HEALTH | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |
| LIBRARY DIRECTOR | G | 65,636 | 80,384 | 67,277 | 82,394 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| CWF SUPERINTENDENT | H | 83,428 | 102,672 | 85,514 | 105,239 |
| <u>HOURLY</u> | | | | | |
| EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | E | 24.40 | 30.02 | 25.01 | 30.77 |
| POLICE LIEUTENANT | G+8.5% | 40.11 | 44.50 | 40.95 | 45.44 |
| POLICE CUSTODIAN | A | 16.35 | 20.12 | 16.76 | 20.62 |
| (Selectboard 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 \$12,409,728, or any other amount, for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule III, Budget, and for any other necessary charges, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

| DEPT NO. | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT | | | |
| 113 TOWN MEETING | 2,980 | 3,180 | 3,180 |
| 122 SELECTBOARD | 330,581 | 326,230 | 326,230 |
| 131 FINANCE COMMITTEE | 2,000 | 600 | 600 |
| 132 RESERVE FUND | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| 135 TOWN ACCOUNTANT | 90,500 | 93,000 | 93,000 |
| 141 ASSESSORS | 189,801 | 186,059 | 186,059 |
| 145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR | 231,048 | 206,965 | 206,965 |
| 151 TOWN COUNSEL | 80,000 | 87,475 | 87,475 |
| 155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | 80,500 | 92,252 | 92,252 |
| 159 SHARED COSTS | 85,907 | 93,499 | 93,499 |
| 161 TOWN CLERK | 243,041 | 237,224 | 237,224 |
| 175 PLANNING | 134,429 | 140,788 | 140,788 |
| 176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| 190 PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES | 155,932 | 140,050 | 140,050 |
| 197 FARMERS MARKET | 5,000 | 5,200 | 5,200 |
| TOTAL GENERAL GOVT | 1,682,419 | 1,663,222 | 1,663,222 |
| PUBLIC SAFETY | | | |
| 211 POLICE | 1,970,054 | 2,067,608 | 2,067,608 |
| 211 POLICE CRUISER | 68,100 | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| 212 DISPATCH | 395,588 | 410,768 | 410,768 |
| 241 BUILDING INSPECTOR | 148,621 | 155,082 | 155,082 |
| 244 SEALER OF WEIGHTS | 7,182 | 7,182 | 7,182 |
| 291 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | 6,265 | 6,944 | 6,944 |

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 292 | ANIMAL CONTROL | 23,112 | 23,658 | 23,658 |
| 294 | FOREST WARDEN | 1,710 | 1,882 | 1,882 |
| 299 | TREE WARDEN | 30,285 | 30,474 | 30,474 |
| | TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY | 2,650,917 | 2,763,598 | 2,763,598 |

PUBLIC WORKS

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 420 | DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS | 1,747,506 | 1,772,006 | 1,772,006 |
| 423 | SNOW & ICE | 311,250 | 321,250 | 321,250 |
| 433 | SOLID WASTE | 679,221 | 802,776 | 802,776 |
| 480 | CHARGING STATIONS | 7,380 | 11,980 | 11,980 |
| 491 | CEMETERIES | 30,150 | 32,150 | 32,150 |
| | TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS | 2,815,507 | 2,940,162 | 2,940,162 |

HUMAN SERVICES

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 511 | BOARD OF HEALTH | 175,444 | 168,004 | 168,004 |
|-----|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | HUMAN SERVICES | | | |
| 541 | COUNCIL ON AGING | 58,593 | 59,272 | 59,272 |
| 543 | VETERANS' SERVICES | 76,500 | 77,897 | 77,897 |
| | TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES | 310,537 | 305,173 | 305,173 |
| | CULTURE & RECREATION | | | |
| 610 | LIBRARIES | 503,336 | 518,233 | 518,233 |
| 630 | PARKS & RECREATION | 160,703 | 164,826 | 164,826 |
| 691 | HISTORICAL COMMISSION | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 693 | WAR MEMORIALS | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| | TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION | 666,139 | 685,159 | 685,159 |
| | DEBT SERVICE | | | |
| 700 | DEBT SERVICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL | 1,154,319 | 1,158,857 | 1,158,857 |
| 840 | INTERGOVERNMENTAL MISCELLANEOUS | 113,924 | 116,874 | 116,874 |
| 910 | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 2,490,334 | 2,657,083 | 2,657,083 |
| 946 | GENERAL INSURANCE | 120,600 | 119,600 | 119,600 |
| | TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS | 2,610,934 | 2,776,683 | 2,776,683 |

TOTAL TOWN BUDGET

12,004,696

12,409,728

12,409,728

(Selectboard 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 \$3,119,324, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Clean Water Facility and associated pumping stations, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule IV, CWF Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget

| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY25 |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| | CLEAN WATER FACILITY | | | |
| 440 | Wages & Expenses | 2,015,729 | 2,116,590 | 2,116,590 |
| 440 | Capital Outlay | 58,500 | 58,500 | 58,500 |
| 700 | Debt Service | 483,614 | 478,365 | 478,365 |
| 910 | Employee Benefits | 363,631 | 380,719 | 380,719 |
| | SUBTOTAL CWF | 2,921,474 | 3,034,174 | 3,034,174 |
| | | | | |
| 449 | DPW SUBSIDIARY | | | |
| | Wages & Expenses | 84,650 | 85,150 | 85,150 |
| | SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY | 84,650 | 85,150 | 85,150 |
| | | | | |
| | TOTAL CWF | 3,006,124 | 3,119,324 | 3,119,324 |

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$419,677, or any other amount, for the purpose of operating the Turners Falls Airport, said sum to be allocated in accordance with Schedule V, Airport Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Schedule V
Airport Budget

SELECTBOARD
FIN COMM

| DEPT NO. | | BUDGET FY24 | REQUEST FY25 | RECOMMEND FY25 |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | AIRPORT | | | |
| 482 | Wages & Expenses | 274,915 | 255,238 | 255,238 |
| 482 | Capital Outlay/Local Share | 10,000 | - | - |
| 700 | Debt Service | 101,535 | 102,775 | 102,775 |
| 910 | Employee Benefits | 40,515 | 61,664 | 61,664 |
| | TOTAL AIRPORT | 426,965 | 419,677 | 419,677 |

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$52,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the operations and maintenance of the Colle Building, 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 \$837,356, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Franklin County Technical School 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 \$12,143,442, or any other amount, 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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$24,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of reconfiguring the Sheffield School main office, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$175,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of repairing and upgrading the Hillcrest pavement and sidewalks, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Gill-Montague Regional School District 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 \$36,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 57C, for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal year 2026), or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Tax Collector Request)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$260,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of paying for legal fees and valuation expert testimony before the Appellate Tax Board, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$283,800, or any other amount, for the purpose of upgrading the Montague Center Pump Station, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Clean Water Facility Request)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$150,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the planning and design phase of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Request)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$64,218, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, and making major repairs to DPW vehicles and equipment, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$40,402, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing a 20-ton trailer for the DPW, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$365,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a ten-wheel dump truck, including plow, sander, and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$78,500, or any other amount, for the purpose of lining sewer manholes and relining sewer pipes, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$30,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of paving the First Street alley, including all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$296,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of rehabilitating the public parking lot at One Avenue A, including any and all incidental and related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works Request)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the following sums, or any other amount, for the purpose of increasing the special purpose funds set forth below, or pass any vote or votes in relating thereto.

| Fund | Amount (\$) |
|--|--------------------|
| Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund | 10,000 |
| Town Capital Stabilization Fund | 119,653 |
| GMRSD Stabilization Fund | 34,323 |
| FCTS Stabilization Fund | 0 |
| OPEB Trust Fund | 50,000 |
| Total: | 213,976 |

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as Sandy Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Selectboard and shown on a plan of land entitled “Proposed Street Acceptance Plan ‘Sandy Lane’ Plan of Land in Montague, Massachusetts,” dated January 18, 2024, prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc., on file with the Town

Clerk, and authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Sandy Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Montague and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement for a printer/copier, with costs to be funded through the Shared Services departmental budget, and to take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

**SUMMARY OF MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD VOTES OF MARCH 20, 2024
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY25 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

FY25 OPERATING BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Town Operating Budget Request of \$12,409,728

Move to recommend a Town operating budget of \$12,409,728, with \$487.42 to be raised from Fund Balance Reserved for Excluded Debt and \$12,409,240.58 to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 4-0-1. Selectboard 3-0.

Clean Water Facility Operating Budget Request of \$3,119,324

The Taxation share of the FY25 CWF budget is \$359,499.

Move to recommend a CWF operating budget of \$3,119,324, with \$359,499 to be raised from Taxation and \$2,759,825 to be raised from Sewer Revenues.

Approved by Finance Committee 4-0-1. Selectboard 3-0.

Airport Operating Budget Request of \$419,677

Move to recommend an Airport operating budget of \$419,677, with \$26,041 to be raised from Town Sale of Real Estate, \$107,593 to be raised from Taxation, and \$286,043 to be raised from Airport Revenues.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

Colle Operating Budget Request of \$52,250

Move to recommend a Colle operating budget of \$52,250, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

GMRSD Assessment of \$12,143,442

Move to recommend a GMRSD assessment of \$12,143,442, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 4-1, with Ms. Bell-Upp opposed. Selectboard 3-0.

FCTS Assessment of \$837,356

Move to recommend a FCTS assessment of \$837,356, said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

**SUMMARY OF MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD VOTES OF MARCH 20, 2024
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY25 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

NON-CAPITAL SPECIAL ARTICLES

Assessors Appellate Tax Board (ATB) Case

Move to recommend appropriating \$260,000 for legal fees and expert testimony at the ATB, to be raised from Free Cash.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0, Selectboard 3-0.

Quarterly Tax Bills:

Move to recommend going to quarterly tax bills for FY26.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0, Selectboard 3-0.

Smith Vocational - \$36,000

Move to recommend appropriating \$36,000 for tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending the Smith Vocational Technical High School, to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0, Selectboard 3-0.

Transfers to Reserves - \$213,976

Move to recommend appropriating \$50,000 to the OPEB Trust Fund, \$34,323 to the GMRSD Stabilization Fund, \$119,653 to the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$10,000 to the Henry Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund said sum to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 4-1, Selectboard 3-0.

CAPITAL ARTICLES

DPW Discretionary Account for \$64,218

Move to recommend \$64,218 for the DPW Discretionary Account, to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

DPW 10-Ton Trailer for \$40,402

Move to recommend \$40,402 for the DPW 20-Ton Trailer, to be raised from Taxation.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

Pave 1st Street Alley for \$30,000

Move to recommend \$30,000 to repave the 1st Street alley, to be raised from Free Cash.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

Re-line Manholes and Sewer Pipes for \$78,500

Move to recommend \$78,500 to reline manholes and sewer pipes, to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

**SUMMARY OF MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD VOTES OF MARCH 20, 2024
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY25 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Library Main Branch Feasibility Study for \$150,000

Move to recommend \$150,000 for a main library branch feasibility study, to be raised from Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

Sheffield Main Office Reconfiguration for \$24,000

Move to recommend \$24,000 to reconfigure the main office at the Sheffield School, to be raised from Free Cash.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 3-0.

Montague Center Pump Station Rehabilitation for \$283,800

Move to recommend \$283,800 for the Montague Center Pump Station Rehabilitation, moved to be raised from CWF long-term debt.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 2-1.

Town Hall Parking Lot for \$296,000

Move to recommend \$296,000 to rehabilitate the Town Hall parking lot, to be raised from long-term debt.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 2-1.

10-Wheel Dump Truck for \$365,000

Move to recommend \$365,000 to purchase and equip a 10-wheel dump truck, to be raised from long-term debt.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 2-1.

Hillcrest Paving and Sidewalks for \$175,500

Move to recommend \$175,500 to repair and update paving and sidewalks at the Hillcrest School, to be raised from long-term debt.

Approved by Finance Committee 5-0. Selectboard 2-1.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

In re:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| FirstLight MA Hydro LLC |) Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889-085 |
| Northfield Mountain LLC |) Northfield Mountain Project No. 2485-071 |

**MOTION TO INTERVENE
OF
TOWN OF MONTAGUE, MASSACHUSETTS**

Pursuant to Rules 210, 212, and 214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.210, 385.212, and 385.214, the Town of Montague, Massachusetts (“Movant”) hereby moves to intervene and request party status in this proceeding.

On April 29, 2016, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company filed a Final License Application for the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project while several relicensing studies were still underway. On December 4, 2020, FirstLight MA Hydro LLC, owner of the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and Northfield Mountain LLC, owner of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, collectively “FirstLight,” filed an Amended Final License Application (“AFLA”). FERC issued a letter of deficiency and additional information request on January 14, 2021 and an additional information request on April 19, 2021.

FirstLight then re-engaged interested parties in separate settlement negotiations starting in late 2021. On March 31, 2023, FirstLight filed a Flows and Fish Passage Settlement Agreement, which also included whitewater releases for recreation. On June 12, 2023, FirstLight filed a Recreation Settlement Agreement.

On February 22, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice of Application Accepted for Filing, Soliciting Motions to Intervene and Protests, Ready for Environmental Analysis, and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Preliminary Terms and Conditions, and Fishway Prescriptions, requiring motions to intervene to be filed on or before April 22, 2024.

I. Communications and Service of Process

All communications, pleadings and orders with respect to this proceeding should be sent to the following individuals. In the event of personnel or board member changes, the person in the positions listed below will serve the same role. Note that Walter Ramsey is slated to become Town Administrator effective July 1, 2024, with a new Assistant Town Administrator still to be hired.

| | |
|----------|---|
| Name: | Steve Ellis, Town Administrator |
| Address: | Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 |
| Phone: | 413-863-3200 x. 110 |
| Email: | townadmin@montague-ma.gov |
| Name: | Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator |
| Address: | Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 |
| Phone: | 413-863-3200 x. 126 |
| Email: | assistant.townadmin@montague-ma.gov |
| Name: | Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant to the Selectboard |
| Address: | Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 |
| Phone: | 413-863-3200 x.108 |
| Email: | selectscty@montague-ma.gov |
| Name: | Janel Nockleby, Montague Historical Commission Chair |
| Address: | c/o Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 |
| Phone: | 413-204-0889 |
| Email: | janel.nockleby@gmail.com |

II. Position of the Town of Montague

Pursuant to the Commission’s rules, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(b)(1), requiring a statement of the Town’s position, the Town seeks to have any license issued by FERC conditioned to assure that the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project does not cause erosion. The Town of Montague is interested in project impacts on erosion upstream of the Turners Falls Dam, as eroded sediment tends to be deposited within Barton Cove, and this impacts Montague. Erosion caused by the Pumped Storage Project degrades water quality in violation of state and federal clean water laws, harms fish and wildlife habitat, causes the loss of land along the river including prime agricultural land, threatens important transportation and municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, increases flood risks, impedes boat access in Barton Cove for recreation and emergency rescues, and damages important historical and cultural resources. The FERC license for this facility should include conditions that will prevent these harms by erosion from occurring.

As a party to the recreation settlement agreement filed with FERC on June 12, 2023, the Town of Montague supports the recreation provisions in the settlement agreement and requests FERC to accept the Recreation Management Plan. The recreation settlement agreement satisfies the Town's recreational interests with regard to the operation of both projects.

In accordance with Section 2.2 of the Recreation Settlement Agreement, though we were not a party to the flows and fish passage settlement agreement, the Town of Montague has agreed not to oppose any of the terms of the flows and fish passage settlement agreement. The Town has an interest in the Connecticut River being a healthy river ecosystem.

III. Interests of Movant

The Town has ample interest in participating in this matter to justify intervention as required by the Commission's rules, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(b)2).

A. Direct Interests

The Town of Montague is a duly incorporated municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with the responsibility to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the community. The Connecticut River forms the northern and western boundary of Montague and is a vital part of the culture, history, and economy of the Town. The River serves as a central recreational, tourism and natural resource for the Town's 8,580 residents¹ and visitors. The mills on the river once formed the economic basis for the village of Turners Falls, which is located within the Town and corresponds to an Environmental Justice Census Tract. The Turners Falls Canal is an integral part of the village's layout, with many former mill buildings and housing located in the section of land between the canal and River. A bike path runs parallel to the Turners Falls canal before crossing across the Connecticut River to East Deerfield, near the confluence with the Deerfield River. The lower end of the Turners Falls Canal is a local draw for anglers and birders, especially in the winter when waterfowl congregate on the water.

Visitors and residents use the river upstream and downstream of the Turners Falls Dam for paddling, fishing, boating, birding, and swimming (although FirstLight does not allow swimming on its properties due to safety concerns). Downstream of the confluence with the Deerfield River, the Connecticut River floodplain is used largely for agriculture. Town residents regularly use and deeply care about the area of the Connecticut River affected by the presence and

¹¹ U.S. 2020 Census population

operation of the Turners Falls Dam and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, owned and operated by FirstLight.

The Connecticut River is so closely woven into the town's identity that Montague named its partnership to promote the local arts and business communities [RiverCulture](#). This public-private partnership is committed to enhancing the creative economy of Montague.

Town context and financial interest

The Town of Montague is directly impacted by the operations of both projects and will be directly impacted by the proposed relicensing. The Turners Falls Dam structure lies partially in Montague, and the entire canal system, Station Number 1, and Cabot Station all lie within Montague. Additionally, the impoundment formed by the dam and used as the lower reservoir for Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project affects the riverbanks in Montague. Town of Montague interests include but may not be limited to recreational amenities, local and regional economies, wetlands, wildlife habitat including aquatic habitat, undeveloped riparian land, and the many significant archaeological, cultural, and historical sites within our town and the entire project boundary.

FirstLight is one of the largest landowners in the Town of Montague and is the largest taxpayer, accounting for 11.9% of the total assessed real and personal property taxes for Fiscal Year 2024. In addition to the actual infrastructure of the Turners Falls Dam and the power canal, the power company owns most of the land along the Connecticut River upstream of the dam. FirstLight MA Hydro LLC owns 68 parcels encompassing 552 acres of land in Montague, which is a total of 2.7% of the land area of the Town.² FirstLight properties in Montague have a total assessed value of \$141 million, according to the Montague Director of Assessors.³

Recreation interests

Recreational amenities associated with the Projects are located within our town and are important to the regional and local economies, and the quality of life of our residents. Existing recreation facilities owned by FirstLight in Montague include the Unity Park riverfront, the Gatehouse Fishway Viewing Area, the Turners Falls Branch Canal overlook and benches, Cabot Woods, and the Poplar Street River Access location downstream of the facilities. The Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club is a private men's club located on land owned by FirstLight. Relicensing

² Land area owned by FirstLight and total acreage of Montague is 20,109 acres according to Montague's [2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan](#).

³ Personal communication dated March 18, 2024.

Study 3.6.1, Recreation Use/User Contact Survey Study Report, found that of 945 survey responses, 69% were from 10 or fewer miles away. Residents regularly visit and recreate on the Connecticut River.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation maintains the [Canalside Rail Trail](#), and owns and operates the [Great Falls Discovery Center](#) in downtown Turners Falls, where visitors can learn about the natural, cultural, and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed within a renovated former mill building. Behind the Great Falls Discovery Center, the public can cross the Canalside Rail Trail, walk across the bridge over the canal, and see the Turners Falls dam and parts of the fish ladder, and walk down to the river downstream of the dam on FirstLight property.

The town-owned portion of Unity Park offers residents a place to recreate, with ball fields, basketball courts, play structures, and a skate park, all with a gorgeous view of the Connecticut River at Barton Cove.

Cabot Camp is located at the end of East Mineral Road at the confluence of the Millers and Connecticut Rivers. The property is owned by FirstLight Power, which allows river access at the site. The site also includes historic buildings and foundations that are not accessible to the public. The Town is interested in protecting this site for its scenic, historic value, and responsibly enhancing its recreational accessibility and value.

Montague's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan included the following river-related items in its 7-year action plan:

- Develop public boating, fishing, and viewing access to the Connecticut River below Turners Falls Dam.
- Improve public access to the Connecticut River at the Rock Dam and Poplar Street for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing.
- Promote preservation and public access at Cabot Camp.
- Plan and prepare for recreational opportunities in the Connecticut River Bypass.
- Improve fish passage at the Turners Falls Dam and Canal.
- Support implementation of FirstLight's Erosion Control Plan on the Connecticut River.
- Develop a public park/ Native American Culture interpretive trail below the Turners Falls Dam.

Land uses along the Connecticut River

The Town's largest village is the planned industrial community of Turners Falls, which hosts substantial elements of the project. Hydropower generation has been a part of the village identity for hundreds of years, but as the community diversifies from a manufacturing-based economy, the Town looks to capture the river and its natural features as the community's greatest asset. The village of Turners Falls is about half the population of Montague, and is a state and federally designated environmental justice community. The Town seeks to create equitable access to the River's beauty and resources for people who live adjacent to this formerly industrialized area. Public access points managed by FirstLight Hydro are an essential element of its equity strategy.

Upstream of the Dam and Barton Cove, there are 13 seasonal or year-round private "camps" plus the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club in Montague located on land owned by FirstLight. These are held under revocable 5-year licenses with FirstLight, with the exception of three remaining "life licenses" (as of 2008) that will become 5-year licenses after the life licenses are transferred to a new owner.⁴ Many of these camps have private boat docks licensed through Massachusetts Chapter 91 regulations with FirstLight as landowner.⁵

Infrastructure interests

As stated earlier, the Canal District is a major component of the identity of the Turners Falls village. The Canal District is a narrow man-made island between the Connecticut River and the power canal. Since the 19th century, the island has been home to various mill buildings such as a cutlery company, a paper company, and a coal-fired, co-generation power plant. For decades, Montague's economy has been shifting away from heavy industry, leaving many of the buildings and surrounding sites underutilized, vacant, or deteriorating.⁶ Montague has received funding for master planning of the Canal District, and the transformation of this area will be ongoing for many years.

Montague has three bridges over the Connecticut River in the project area – the Gill-Montague Bridge, the "White" Bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield that also crosses the canal, and the General Pierce Bridge between Montague City and Greenfield. These are in addition to

⁴ See FirstLight Hydro Generating Company Request for Authorization of Non-Project Use and Occupancy of Project Lands dated October 10, 2008. Accession Number 20081010-5144.

⁵ The camps are managed by FirstLight as non project use of project lands. See FERC Order Modifying and Approving Non-Project Use of Project Lands and Waters issued October 28, 2009, Accession Number 20091028-3034. The number of life licenses as of 2008 was project-wide, not necessarily in Montague.

⁶ [Visioning Phase Report for the Canal District Master Plan](#), Dietz & Company Architects, Inc. March 14, 2023.

the long-condemned former Strathmore Mill Footbridge over the power canal, which FirstLight Hydro has agreed to remove within the next three years, and a utility bridge over the canal in the vicinity of the Discovery Center, which serves as an access point to the river for emergency response, utility maintenance, and public recreation.

Montague receives wastewater from 115 homes and businesses in the Town of Gill's Riverside neighborhood. A pump station sends wastewater under the Connecticut River to the Town of Montague's system for treatment at the Montague Clean Water Facility (CWF). Additionally, town has easements from Firstlight for sewer pump stations on First Street and G Street serving the village of Turners Falls. The CWF is located outside of the project area, immediately downstream of FirstLight's Poplar Street river access location.

Montague is vulnerable to FirstLight infrastructure failure. A dam or dike failure at Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility could trigger cascading failures on multiple other dams downstream, resulting in catastrophic flooding in Montague, potentially including critical infrastructure, several hazardous facilities, and hazardous materials routes and rails. The Cabot Spillway, Turners Falls #1 Dam, Turners Falls Dam, and the Turners Falls Canal Headgates are all High Hazard Potential dams in Montague. Failure of any of these dams, as well as the canal itself, was identified as an area of concern during the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) community workshop in 2018](#). The Patch neighborhood located between the canal and the Connecticut River, as well as the village of Montague City, located further downstream, are vulnerable to failure of these structures. FirstLight maintains a reverse call system for residents in these areas, however, participants at the 2018 MVP workshop noted that new residents may be unaware of the system and may not have signed up for the calls to alert them of a dam or canal failure. According to the 2022 Emergency Action Plan for the canal, failure of the left bank of the canal impoundment would flood Montague City Road in a matter of minutes. There would be little to no warning time.⁷

Indigenous, archaeological, and historical interests

According to FirstLight's Response to FERC letter of Deficiency and Additional Information Requests filed with FERC on March 15, 2021, there are 15 archaeological resources identified in the area of potential effect in Montague. Given the excellent fishing opportunities offered by the Connecticut and Millers Rivers as well as the hunting resources of the Montague Plains and surrounding woodlands, the area that is now the Town of Montague was the site of extensive indigenous settlements. For many generations until the late 17th century, large numbers of Native American people congregated at the falls on the Connecticut River, at the place then

⁷ [Town of Montague Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2020](#).

known as Peskeomskut (now the site of the Turners Falls Dam), and at Millers Falls during the annual spring spawning runs of salmon and shad.

Turners Falls and Gill are the site of an important King Phillip's War massacre that occurred in 1676 where hundreds of lives were lost and for which the village is named. The Town of Montague has been working in partnership with area indigenous tribal groups with support from the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program to study and analyze the native village and events that occurred. The majority of the battlefield is inundated within FirstLight's project area.

The village of Turners Falls has a designated Historic District listed on the National Register. The Town of Montague submitted comments to FirstLight on March 31, 2016 concerning the Historic Properties Management Plan filed with the Draft License Application.⁸ These comments compiled a list of priorities and concerns regarding several bridges and access to properties in the Turners Falls Historic District, which also overlaps with a designated Massachusetts Cultural District.

For the above reasons, the Town of Montague has a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of the relicensing process for the Northfield Pumped Storage Project and the Turners Falls Project.

B. Public Interest

The Town's responsibility to protect the interests of its residents and respond to any potential adverse impacts to its residents associated with the relicensing of the referenced projects is, by its very nature, in the public interest. The Town of Montague is not just responsible for protecting its direct interests but also those of its residents and the public throughout the course of this relicensing.

The operations of the Turners Falls Dam and Northfield Pumped Storage Project affect the public interest by operating recreation facilities in Montague along the Connecticut River, diminishment of fish passage and aquatic and riparian habitat for rare and endangered species, and decline in water quality. Such impacts would significantly affect the quality of life, economic well-being, and access to a clean and natural environment for the Town's residents.

The Town has long demonstrated its interest in both matters through several years of active participation in proceedings before the Commission and negotiations with the Applicant involving both Turners Falls Dam and the Northfield Pumped Storage Project. Most recently, in

⁸ FERC Accession Number 20160401-5044. An updated Historic Properties Management Plan was filed with the Amended Final License Application in 2020. There was no comment period for that filing.

June of 2023, the Town of Montague signed on as a party to a recreation settlement agreement to both licenses. In 2019, the Town filed a Protest and Motion to Intervene regarding the transfer of both licenses to separate limited liability companies (LLCs). The Town of Montague also filed comments on February 29, 2016 on the Draft License Application, bringing up the following major issues:

- 1) restricted access to the Turners Falls Historic Industrial Canal District which prevents implementation of the community's riverfront redevelopment vision,
- 2) minimum flows in the bypass reach are unacceptably low for recreation and aquatic habitat,
- 3) inadequate access to the Connecticut River for recreation, and
- 4) the draft license application fails to meet the need for an interpretive framework for a 1676 King Phillips War Battle that occurred in the project area.

For all these reasons, the Town has a strong interest in the effective management and stewardship of lands within the Connecticut River watershed affected by the referenced projects.

IV. Conclusion

Granting intervenor status to the Town of Montague will allow the Town to present an important perspective and relevant information for the Commission's consideration. The Town is coordinating with other municipalities in Franklin County with the support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and will, except where interests diverge, endeavor to coordinate the Town's participation with FRCOG and other similarly situated communities to minimize duplication and ensure the efficient presentation of relevant information to the Commission.

For these reasons, the Town respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Motion to Intervene as a party with full rights to participate in all further proceedings.

Rachard Kuklewicz
Chair, Montague Selectboard
Montague Town Hall
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Date

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

In re:) Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889-085
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company) Northfield Mountain Project No. 2485-071

DECLARATION OF STEVEN ELLIS

I, Steven Ellis, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby state that I am over the age of 18 and am in all respects competent and qualified to make this Declaration.

1. I am the Town Administrator for the Town of Montague (“Town”) and in that role supervise and collaborate with a Town and Special District staff, in excess of 75 people, with responsibility for managing the public resources of the Town, including roads, water and wastewater, recreation, public safety and other infrastructure, and associated Town property. As Town Administrator, I am also directly involved in the Town’s exercise of responsibilities for the general health, safety and well-being of the Town’s residents, including regulating local land use, preventing and responding to natural disasters, protecting local natural resources, and developing and implementing a vision for the economic development of the Town and its five Villages.
2. In fulfilling my responsibilities, I have become familiar with the Town’s history, culture, natural resources, infrastructure, and real property ownership, both through personal observation and also through information obtained from Town staff, expert consultants, other public officials at the local, regional, state, tribal and federal levels, and reviewing public documents or reports and publications prepared by experts.
3. As stated in more detail in the Town’s Motion to Intervene in the above-referenced matter relating to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) licensing of the Turners Fall Hydroelectric Project and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (“Projects”), the Town has a direct interest in and acts on behalf of its residents for the following:
 - a. The economic well-being of the Town, including managing the Town budget and income derived from real and personal property taxes.
 - b. The Town’s recreation facilities, which are important to the Town’s economic vitality and the quality of life for Montague residents.
 - c. Land uses along the Connecticut River, including industrial and commercial buildings and residents that live along the canal and River.

- d. Continued use and upkeep of the Town's infrastructure, including wastewater and bridges over the Turners Falls canal and Connecticut River.
 - e. Hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness in the event of operational or infrastructure failure of high hazard dams.
 - f. Preserving the environment, including water quality, fish habitat, and riparian habitat and health.
 - g. Preserving and honoring the town's indigenous and recent history.
4. As stated in more detail in the Town's Motion to Intervene in the above-referenced matter, the Town acts on behalf of its residents and members of the public who visit the Town in furtherance of the public interest in access to a clean and healthy environment, access to recreation facilities, public safety, economic well-being, and protection of a clean and healthy Connecticut River for people and aquatic life. The Town has long demonstrated its interest in protecting the public interest through several years of active participation in proceedings before FERC and negotiations with the applicant involving both Projects.
 5. As Town Administrator, I represented the Town of Montague in negotiations, including that which led to the recreation settlement agreement with FirstLight, as the appointed representative of the Montague Selectboard. I actively consult with the Montague Selectboard, who serve as the Chief Executive Officers of the Town relative to the settlement agreement and the Selectboard consider and sign all documents and agreements on behalf of the Town.
 6. I participated in the development of the Town's Motion to Intervene in the above-referenced matter, have reviewed the facts stated in Section III titled "Interests of the Movant" and, based on my personal knowledge as Town Administrator, attest that these facts are true and correct.

I state, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date

Steven Ellis
Montague Town Administrator