

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, April 7, 2025 AGENDA
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87007274699>

Meeting ID: 870 0727 4699 Password: 048426 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 31, 2025, if available
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. 6:35 **Pole Location Hearing, 37 Fosters Road, Montague, MA**
 - Eversource requests permission to erect a new pole to provide service for a new house and grant permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes.
5. 6:40 **Linda Dunlavy, Franklin Regional Council of Governments**
 - Discuss proposed charter changes to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments
 - Consider revote of Selectboard recommendation for warrant article to Town Meeting
6. 6:55 **Personnel Board**
 - Appoint Ellen Lamoureux, Building Department Administrative Assistant, NAGE, Grade B, Step 2, \$20.24/hour, effective April 8, 2025
7. 7:00 **Use of Peskeompskut Park**
 - Montague Community Band. Every Monday starting May 5, 2025, to July 28, 2025 (rain date 8-4-2025). 6:30pm to 9:15pm (includes set up and clean up),
 - Great Falls Farmers Market May 3rd – October 25th, 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, May 7, 2025**
 - Town Meeting Warrant-To Approve and Execute draft May 7, 2025, warrant, as attached hereto

Montague Selectboard Meeting

April 7, 2025

Page 2

9. 7:30

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- Review of FY26 Grant Strategy
- Update from Library Building Steering Committee: Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Selection Process
- Avenue A Construction Update: Status of street trees
- Other project updates

10. 7:40

Town Administrator's Business

- FY25 Community Compact IT Grant Awarded \$30,000 to implement new financial management software. Authorize grant agreement documents
- Topics not anticipated within 48 hour posting requirements

Next Meetings:

- Selectboard, Monday April 14, 2025, at 6:00pm, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via ZOOM

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 7, 2025
Expected Continuation Date May 14, 2025 (if needed)**

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 Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 6:30 PM, with an expected continuation of the meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM (if needed) 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 fix the salaries of all elected officials as required by law for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, 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>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
MODERATOR	500	500	500
SELECTBOARD			
Chairman	2,640	2,640	2,640
Second/Third Members	2,400	2,400	2,400

**SCHEDULE I
Elected Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
BOARD OF ASSESSOR			
Chairman	1,980	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,800	1,800	1,800
BOARD OF HEALTH			
Chairman	1,980	1,980	1,980
Second/Third Members	1,800	1,800	1,800
TREE WARDEN	1,764		

*Changed to appointed STM 2/12/25

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: 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, 2025, 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>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
ANNUAL STIPENDS			
BOARD OF REGISTRARS (3)	625	625	625
BOARD OF REGISTRARS TOWN CLERK	900	900	900
EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR	6,444	6,444	6,444
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,764	1,764	1,764
BARN INSPECTOR	1,400	1,400	1,400
IT COORDINATOR	2,352	2,352	2,352
POLICE IT ADMINISTRATOR	6,000	6,000	6,000
FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882
TREE WARDEN		1,764	1,764
HEARING OFFICER	2,500	2,500	2,500
FARMERS MARKET MANAGER	4,000	3,750	3,750

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>ANNUAL STIPENDS</u>			
FARMERS MARKET ASST MANAGER		750	750
SEXTON/PER BURIAL	100.00		
SEXTON STIPEND		2,000	2,000
<u>RATES PER INSPECTION</u>			
ASST. BUILDING INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
GAS INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	45.00	45.00	45.00
<u>HOURLY RATES</u>			
EXTRA CLERICAL	<u>Ranges/hr.</u> 15.00-18.75	<u>Ranges/hr.</u> 15.00-18.75	<u>Ranges/hr.</u> 15.00-18.75
ELECTION WORKERS	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75	15.00-19.75
SUMMER HIGHWAY	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
SNOWPLOW DRIVERS	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00	15.00-27.00
PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS	29.00-35.00	29.00-37.00	29.00-37.00
PART TIME DISPATCHERS	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00	22.00-27.00
PARKS & RECREATION	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25	15.00-24.25
AIRPORT INTERN	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75	15.00-18.75
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS</u>			
<u>PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
THIRD SHIFT	1.25	1.25	1.25
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 REQUEST</u>	<u>FY26 RECOMMEND</u>
<u>PART TIME DISPATCHERS</u>			
SECOND SHIFT	0.75	0.75	0.75
THIRD SHIFT	1.00	1.00	1.00
<u>PART TIME CLERICAL/LIBRARIES</u>	0.75	0.75	0.75

**SCHEDULE II
Appointed Officials**

NON-UNION EMPLOYEES NOT SHOWN ABOVE (placed on FY25 NAGE Scale)

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Range FY2025</u>		<u>Range FY2026</u>	
		Start	End	Start	End
<u>SALARIED</u>					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	J	103,470	127,339	103,470	127,339
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	I	94,064	115,764	94,064	115,764
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
TOWN CLERK	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE	I	94,064	115,764	94,064	115,764
DPW SUPERINTENDENT	H	85,514	105,239	85,514	105,239
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
LIBRARY DIRECTOR	G	67,277	82,394	67,277	82,394
CWF SUPERINTENDENT	H	85,514	105,239	85,514	105,239
<u>HOURLY</u>					
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	E	25.01	30.77	25.01	30.77
POLICE LIEUTENANT	G+8.5%	40.95	45.44	40.95	45.44
POLICE CUSTODIAN	A	16.76	20.62	16.76	20.62

Informational Only: Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted wages –

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	111,427	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	30.77
ASSISTANT TOWN ADMIN	96,417	DPW SUPERINTENDENT	98,687
TOWN ACCOUNTANT	82,394	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH	75,746
TAX COLLECTOR/TREAS	82,394		
TOWN CLERK	77,260	LIBRARY DIRECTOR	82,394
CHIEF OF POLICE*	138,917	CWF SUPERINTENDENT	105,239
POLICE LIEUTENANT	45.44	POLICE CUSTODIAN	20.62

*includes additional 20% educational incentive pay

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$12,747,055, 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 FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
113	TOWN MEETING	3,180	3,180	3,180
122	SELECTBOARD	326,230	324,662	324,662
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	600	600	600
132	RESERVE FUND	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	93,000	101,374	101,374
141	ASSESSORS	186,059	180,122	180,122
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	206,965	208,335	208,335
151	TOWN COUNSEL	87,475	82,475	82,475
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	92,252	103,352	103,352
159	SHARED COSTS	93,499	104,930	104,930
161	TOWN CLERK	237,224	219,144	219,144
175	PLANNING	140,788	142,394	142,394
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	700	700	700
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	140,050	145,000	145,000
197	FARMERS MARKET	5,200	5,700	5,700
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVT	1,663,222	1,671,968	1,671,968
PUBLIC SAFETY				
211	POLICE	2,067,608	2,069,965	2,069,965
211	POLICE CRUISER	60,000	-	-
212	DISPATCH	410,768	410,868	410,868
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	155,082	149,926	149,926
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	7,182	7,182	7,182
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	6,944	6,944	6,944
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	23,658	24,185	24,185
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,882	1,882	1,882
299	TREE WARDEN	30,474	30,474	30,474
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	2,763,598	2,701,426	2,701,426
PUBLIC WORKS				
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,772,006	1,810,284	1,810,284
423	SNOW & ICE	321,250	324,750	324,750
433	SOLID WASTE	802,776	835,300	835,300

480	CHARGING STATIONS	11,980	3,000	3,000
491	CEMETERIES	32,150	32,150	32,150
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	2,940,162	3,005,484	3,005,484

	HUMAN SERVICES			
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	168,004	172,144	172,144

Schedule III
Town Operating Budget

DEPT NO.		BUDGET FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
	HUMAN SERVICES			
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	59,272	77,207	77,207
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	77,897	101,000	101,000
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	305,173	350,351	350,351

	CULTURE & RECREATION			
610	LIBRARIES	518,233	521,033	521,033
630	PARKS & RECREATION	164,826	169,326	169,326
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	1,600	1,600	1,600
	TOTAL CULTURE/RECREATION	685,159	692,459	692,459

	DEBT SERVICE			
700	DEBT SERVICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL	1,158,857	1,160,025	1,160,025

840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL MISCELLANEOUS	116,874	119,041	119,041
-----	---------------------------------	---------	---------	---------

910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,657,083	2,926,701	2,926,701
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	119,600	119,600	119,600
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	2,776,683	3,046,301	3,046,301

	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	12,409,728	12,747,055	12,747,055
--	-------------------	------------	------------	------------

(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 \$3,221,303 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.

Schedule IV
Clean Water Facility Budget

DEPT NO.	BUDGET FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
CLEAN WATER FACILITY			
440 Wages & Expenses	2,116,590	2,209,442	2,209,442
440 Capital Outlay	58,500	58,500	58,500
700 Debt Service	478,365	485,028	485,028
910 Employee Benefits	380,719	383,183	383,183
SUBTOTAL CWF	<u>3,034,174</u>	<u>3,136,153</u>	<u>3,136,153</u>
449 DPW SUBSIDIARY			
Wages & Expenses	85,150	85,150	85,150
SUBTOTAL DPW SUBSIDIARY	<u>85,150</u>	<u>85,150</u>	<u>85,150</u>
TOTAL CWF	<u><u>3,119,324</u></u>	<u><u>3,221,303</u></u>	<u><u>3,221,303</u></u>

(Sewer Commission 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 \$425,732, 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 FY25	REQUEST FY26	SELECTBOARD FIN COMM RECOMMEND FY26
AIRPORT			

482	Wages & Expenses	255,238	271,625	271,625
482	Capital Outlay/Local Share	-	-	-
700	Debt Service	102,775	99,935	99,935
910	Employee Benefits	61,664	54,172	54,172
TOTAL AIRPORT		419,677	425,732	425,732

(Airport Commission Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to add a new Section 7, Revolving Funds, as shown below, and to establish a spending limit of \$200,000 for the Airport Fuel revolving fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, which spending limit to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to increase the same; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

Section 7: Revolving Funds

(a) There are hereby established in the Town of Montague, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds:

Revolving Fund	Spending Authority	Revenue Source	Allowed Expenses
Airport Fuel	Airport Commission	Fees from sale of Airport fuel	Purchase of Airport fuel to be sold and used at the Airport

(b) Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the spending limits established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with MGL c. 44, § 53E 1/2.

(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 \$841,660, 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 \$12,663,178, 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 \$59,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant 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 \$125,154, or any amount, for the purpose of funding the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 and National Association of Government Employees for Fiscal Year 2026, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$10,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of funding the accessibility repairs and upgrades for the Montague Public Libraries, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Library Request)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$231,800, or any other amount, for the following Clean Water Facility projects, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$60,000 for purchase of used mini-excavator
- B. \$67,800 for purchase of portable generator and Lake Pleasant facility generator
- C. \$104,000 for replacement of two thickened sludge pumps

(Clean Water Facility and CIC Request)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating sewer manholes and sewer pipes to address structural defects and potential sources of inflow and infiltration to the Town’s sewer collection system, including but not limited to engineering, bidding, and construction, as well as all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, or any other lawful enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and further 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 and Selectboard 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 \$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, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works and CIC 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 \$325,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a dump truck, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works and CIC 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 \$135,000, or any other amount, for the following Department of Public Works vehicles, including all equipment and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$70,000 for the purchase of a camera van
- B. \$65,000 for the purchase of a pickup truck

(Department of Public Works and CIC 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 \$90,000, or any other amount, for the following Department of Public Works projects, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$60,000 for Oakman Street slope stabilization
- B. \$30,000 for paving alleys and non-chapter 90 eligible roadways

(Department of Public Works and CIC 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 \$200,000, or any other amount, for the replacement of guardrails on Meadow Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Department of Public Works and CIC 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 \$36,470, 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 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$255,200, or any other amount, for the following Town projects and all incidental and related costs, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

- A. \$39,000 for repairs/renovation to Millers Falls library storefront
- B. \$125,000 for upgrades to Unity Park
- C. \$91,200 for design costs for Montague Center Complete Streets project

(Selectboard and CIC 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 \$60,000, or any other amount, for the purpose of FRTA bus stop improvements at Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard and CIC Request)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$67,900, or any other amount, for the purpose of abating and removing utilities from the Keith footbridge over canal, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 25: 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	\$231,890
GMRSD Stabilization Fund	\$88,718
OPEB Trust Fund	\$100,000
Total:	\$430,608

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Board of Assessors to negotiate, enter into and approve a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement known as a "PILOT" or "Tax Agreement" pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 38H(b), or any other enabling authority, between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Hydro Generating Co., its successors, assignees or affiliates, on such terms and conditions and for such period of time as negotiated by the Select Board and the Board of Assessors, for payment in lieu of taxes related to personal and/or real property associated with an electric generation facility, all as set forth in said PILOT; and further to authorize the Select Board and the Board of Assessors to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard and Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 27: To see if the town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 5, Clause 54, to modify and increase the threshold from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for personal property accounts subject to taxation for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Board of Assessors Request)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General Bylaws to add a new Section 14B to Article III under Treasurer/Collector, as set forth below entitled “Tax Title Payment Plans”, to authorize the Treasurer-Collector to pursue and establish payment agreements for parcels of land in tax title so as to allow delinquent taxpayers to pay off their tax liens over time, as authorized by M.G.L. c. 60 § 62A, as amended by sections 89-91 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Section 14B: Tax Title Payment Plans

- A. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A, the Town Treasurer-Collector shall have the authority to enter into written payment agreements with any person entitled to redeem ownership of parcels of in tax title which have been taken by the Town as a result of nonpayment of real estate taxes. The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with same, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A and this bylaw. The Treasurer-Collector shall not refuse to enter into agreements with eligible taxpayers.
- B. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in the following assessment categories of tax title in the Town:
 - 1. Commercial property;
 - 2. Residential property;
 - 3. Industrial; and
 - 4. Open space.
- C. The following conditions must be met prior to the Town entering into a payment agreement:
 - 1. The Town has not filed a petition to foreclose the rights of redemption with the Land Court, and the recording date of the Instrument of Taking recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds must be no more than ten (10) years from the date of the proposed agreement; and
 - 2. All real estate taxes and water/sewer user fees due for the current fiscal year assessed against the parcel must be paid to date.
- D. All payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:
 - 1. The payment agreement shall be for a term not to exceed ten (10) years provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude the taxpayer from completing payments of the amount owed within a shorter period of time;
 - 2. The payment agreement shall include a waiver of not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the interest that has accrued in the tax title account, but only if the taxpayer fully complies with the terms of the agreement (no taxes or collection costs may be waived); and
 - 3. The payment agreement shall state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which shall be at least ten

percent (10%) of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement. The taxpayer must then agree to pay the remaining balance due to the Town in equal monthly installments.

- E. During the term of the agreement, the Treasurer-Collector may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title unless payments are not made in accordance with the schedule set out in the payment agreement or timely payments are not made on other amounts due to the Town that constitute a lien on the same parcel.
- F. Nothing in this bylaw shall preempt or preclude the authority of the Treasurer-Collector to accept partial payments or to negotiate and enter into payment agreements authorized by M.G.L. c. 60, §§ 22 and § 22A, or any other statutory authority.

(Treasurer Request)

ARTICLE 29: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 200A, §9A, which establishes a procedure for the disposition of abandoned funds, i.e. funds not claimed within one (1) year from the date of delivery, including provisions for notice, claims, appeals and disbursements, the full text of which can be found at <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartII/TitleII/Chapter200a/Section9A>, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Treasurer Request)

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with MGL c. 30B section 12(b), to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a lease not to exceed ten (10) years for the purpose of permitting use of the property known as the Shea Theater, located at 71 Avenue A, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Selectboard deems in the best interests of the Town, or pass any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified; a copy of the proposed amendments is attached in Schedule ---, FRCOG Charter Amendment, or take any action relative thereto.

(Franklin Regional Council of Governments Request)

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, Website, and Town Hall of the Town, at least fourteen days before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this document with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk fourteen days before said meeting.

Given under our hands this ____ day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Matthew Lord

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectboard, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA April ____, 2025

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague by posting attested copies of the same in a conspicuous place in each of the Post Offices, Libraries, and the Town Hall of the Town of Montague at least seven days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague