



Montague Capital Improvements Committee

STM 10.28.26 Town Meeting Report

Approved by the CIC 9.30.26

Recommendations on Requested Articles

1. Summary Table of Submissions and Recommendations

The table below offers a summary view of special article requests and CIC recommendations for capital project spending. Overall, spending associated with recommended articles equals \$1,750,000. These recommendations are further explained in section II.

Summary of Final Motions/Recommendations

Request	Amount	Recommended	Vote
GMRSD- Consolidated Elementary School Feasibility Study*	\$ 1,750,000	Yes	3-0-1

* The vote to recommend this request was 3 in favor, 1 abstention. One member was absent when this vote was taken.

2. Capital Requests Recommended for Consideration at October 28, 2026 Special Town Meeting

Gill-Montague Regional School District- Consolidated Elementary School Feasibility Study (\$1,750,000): The GMRSD is requesting funds to conduct a Feasibility Study for the Sheffield Elementary School, located at 43 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, including consideration of renovation, addition, new construction, and the potential consolidation of Sheffield Elementary School with Hillcrest Elementary School into a PreK–5 elementary school facility.

The study is the next major step in the Massachusetts School Building Authority process and is intended to evaluate long-term options for addressing the educational, space, accessibility, and building-system needs identified at the municipally owned Sheffield and Hillcrest Elementary Schools. The Town must authorize the full study amount in order for the project to remain eligible to advance in the MSBA process.

The Feasibility Study will not commit the Town to a particular construction project. Rather, it will evaluate alternatives that may include renovation, addition, new construction, and consolidation, and will ultimately support selection of a preferred option for further MSBA review.

The budget includes the hiring of an Owner's Project Manager to oversee the study. The Town anticipates that eligible study costs will be partially reimbursed by the MSBA. Earlier project planning materials used an estimated 76% reimbursement rate for planning purposes, although the final reimbursement rate and eligible costs will be determined by the MSBA. While an exact reimbursement rate for this project cannot be guaranteed, the Town's share for funding the feasibility study is estimated to be in the range of \$400,000 - \$500,000, with the remaining amount to be reimbursed by the MSBA.

Cost avoidance: The Sheffield and Hillcrest Elementary School buildings are aging facilities that struggle to meet the needs of 21st century students. As articulated in the Town's long-range capital plan, both facilities are in need of major capital upgrades in order to provide a safe, comfortable, and effective environment for the education of the community's youth. Participation in the MSBA program is a cost-effective strategy for assessing options and, if eventually advanced by a future Town Meeting vote, to receive a generous share of support from the state for implementing the best option.

Respectfully,

Gregory Garrison, Chairman

Ariel Elan

Jason Burbank

Chris Menegoni

Lynn Reynolds