

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OCTOBER 22, 2025**

MOTIONS

ARTICLE 1. Prior Year Bills

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$19,559.25 for the purpose of paying prior year unpaid bills of the Board of Assessors, War Memorial, Clean Water Facility, and Solid Waste Departments, with \$18,995.85 to be raised from Free Cash and \$563.40 to be raised from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

Background: There are three prior year bills currently. With the primary cause of missing the bills being staff turnover on the Town side or the vendors.

- Board of Assessors has a CAI Technologies bill for 2,300 from 3/19/25.
- War Memorial has a Moretti & Sons Landscaping Inc bill for 767.93 from 5/22/25.
- Solid Waste has a Tighe and Bond bill for 15,927.92 from 6/18/25.
- Clean Water Facility has a Mission Communications bill for 563.40 from 7/1/24.

(Town Accountant Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Finance Committee Recommends 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 2. Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing cable-related equipment for MCTV and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from PEG Access Funds.

Background: This is an annual article to appropriate the PEG access funds provided to the town by Comcast for use by Montague Community Television.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Finance Committee Recommends 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 3. New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Contract

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$95,100 for the purpose of funding the implementation of collective bargaining agreements with the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 183 (Patrol and Detectives) and Local 184 (Sergeants) for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, with \$95,100 to be raised from Free Cash.

Background: This article covers all employees of the NEPBA unions. The Sergeant's union has 5 active employees, composed the Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of the Police Department. The contract agreed up added two steps to the union scale with 2.5% COLA for FY27, and 3% COLA for FY28. In FY26 all employees were also granted two steps. The contract also gives this union longevity that is equal to what all other employees in the Town of Montague qualify for. The amount of this contract was \$44,600 for FY26.

The Patrol union has 9 active employees, composed of Patrol and Detectives. The contract agreed upon added two steps to the union scale with 2.5% COLA for FY27, and 3% COLA for FY28. In FY26 all employees were granted two steps and 0.5% hazard pay. The contract also gives this union longevity that is equal to what other employees in the Town of Montague qualify for. The amount of this contract was \$50,500 for FY26.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Finance Committee Recommends 5 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstained

ARTICLE 4. Unrepresented Employees Wage and Class

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,990 for the purpose of implementing the wage and class plan for unrepresented employees for Fiscal Year 2026, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2025, with \$24,505 to be raised from Free Cash and \$2,485 from Clean Water Facility Retained Earnings.

Background: This article covers 15 employees, primarily composed of department heads and administrative staff who are not represented by a union. Approving this article transitions these employees onto the new 10 step wage scale retroactive to July 1. The new scale is based on the 2024 wage and classification study conducted by the Selectboard to ensure that Montague remains competitive in the labor market and a destination for high quality employees. The expenditure also accounts for granting a new employment contract to the Director of Public Health.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Finance Committee Recommends 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 5. Town Health Insurance

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$274,600 for the purpose of providing additional funding to the Town Health Insurance appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026, with \$250,600 to be raised from Taxation and \$24,000 to be raised from Sewer Revenue.

Background: The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust voted to increase employee healthcare premiums by an additional 20% on July 30, 2025. This increase was effective October 1, 2025 (a mid-year increase).

The Trust stated that medical claims have spiked significantly in 2025 with \$8.5 million in claims in May and \$7.1M in June as well as pharmaceutical claims having increased over 80% in the last 18 months with \$2.9 million in pharmaceutical claims in July. The Trusts reserves dropped from \$20 million in January 2024 to less than \$5 million. Paying these claims has led to the Trust draining its reserves quicker than they anticipated and facing bankruptcy. The Town is currently evaluating options for other insurance providers while also working as a member of the Trust to mitigate cost escalation through policy and plan changes. Effective October 1, 2025, the Trust voted to stop covering GLP1 drugs used only for weight loss. With the combined premium increases and discontinuation of that drug coverage the Trust hopes to increase their monthly revenue by approximately \$2M- a major step toward financial sustainability.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Finance Committee Recommends 5 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstained

ARTICLE 6. South Street Culvert Rehabilitation

MOVED: That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating culverts on South Street and any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

Background: This article asks Town Meeting to approve funding to repair two deteriorating culverts beneath South Street in Montague Center. Culverts are the structures that carry streams, stormwater, and seasonal runoff under the road. If these culverts fail, the road could crack or collapse, leading to costly repairs and potential road closures. Failure could also cause flooding, debris, and environmental damage to nearby properties and the local watershed.

The Town's Department of Public Works (DPW) will work with a specialized contractor to re-line the metal pipes with durable high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liners, secured with concrete and grout. DPW staff will handle tree and vegetation removal, excavation, installation, and final clean-up and landscape restoration.

Repairing these culverts now is time-sensitive to prevent structural failure, protect the roadway, and maintain safe and reliable infrastructure for the community. The work will complement the State's recent investment into a new bridge on South Street over the Sawmill River.

(Department of Public Works Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Finance Committee Recommends 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Capital Improvements Committee Recommends 4 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 7. Airport Fuel Revolving

MOVED: That the Town vote to amend Article II of the Town of Montague General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to increase spending limit to \$350,000 for the Airport Fuel revolving fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, as authorized by votes of the Select Board and Finance Committee in accordance with the fourth paragraph of said Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, 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.

Background: This article will increase the fund limit for the Airport Fuel Revolving Fund from \$200,000 to \$350,000. The airport is on track to exceed the current limit of \$200,000 in March 2026. An increase in the revolving fund limit will allow for continued successful operation of the aviation fueling system.

The Airport has seen a significant increase in fuel sales over the last 8 months. In FY25 fuel sales totaled \$196,902.09 with expenditures totaling \$171,805.6. July and August fuel sales in FY26 have already exceeded FY25 first quarter totals by 18% and projections indicate exceeding \$250,000 in total sales in FY26.

The airport has the lowest fuel price in New England, which has driven an air traffic increase of 41.8% (FY24 to FY25), allowing the airport to capture additional revenue beyond fuel sales. In addition, some new federal grant awards will be based upon airport traffic, based aircraft, and fuel sales, in a competitive setting, where in the past grants were entitlement based. Despite a lower profit per gallon, a much higher volume will continue to support the overall goals of the airport. In FY26 the airport will be working to capture additional tourism revenue from the high volume of transient fuel customers.

(Airport Commission Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

Finance Committee Recommends 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 8. Kearsarge Solar Tax Agreement

MOVED: That the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, clause forty-fifth, or any other enabling authority, between the Town of Montague and Kearsarge Turners Falls RE LLC, Kearsarge Millers Falls RE LLC, its successor, assignee or affiliate, on such terms and conditions and for such term as negotiated by the Board of Assessors, for payment in lieu of taxes related to personal and/or real property associated with a solar renewable energy generation facility owned and operated by such entity located 131 Turnpike Road and identified as Assessor's Parcel ID 14-0-214 and 248 Millers Falls Road and identified as Assessors Parcel ID 23-0-67; and further to authorize the Board of Assessors to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder.

Background: This article would allow the Assessors to enter into a single Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement (PILOT) with Kearsarge Solar for both personal and real property related to two large scale ground mounted solar facilities 131 Turnpike Road (1.4 MW) and 248 Millers Falls Road (1.2 MW). These agreements are enabled by state law and are common for large solar projects in Massachusetts. They allow for a stable, predictable revenue stream that doesn't decrease as equipment depreciates.

In 2019 Town Meeting Authorized tax agreements for these two solar arrays. They were under separate ownership at the time and are both now owned by Kearsarge Solar. The proposed agreement would improve and supersede the existing agreement with Kearsarge at 131 Turnpike Road and incorporate 248 Millers Falls Road. Currently, Kearsarge has open appeals filed for the 248 Millers Falls Rd Site for FY 22-25. (This array was acquired by Kearsarge in 2022 and was not subject to a PILOT). Upon adoption of the agreement, Kearsarge Energy has agreed to withdraw their appeals filed with the Appellate Tax Board.

A new agreement would be for a 16-year term at \$17,946.15/ MW with a 1% escalator. The agreement represents \$38,423 of revenue to the Town in FY26 and a total of \$656,545 by 2040. The Turners Falls Fire District would also receive \$148,705 in that time period.

(Board of Assessors Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
Assessors Recommends 3 in favor— 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 9. HERO Act Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I Provision

MOVED: That the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, as created by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 (the "HERO Act"), thereby authorizing an annual cost-of-living adjustment in the amount of the property tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, §5, Clauses 22a-f, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

Background: The Town is being asked to consider accepting a new property tax exemption option for veterans, Clauses 22I (Article 9) and clause 22J (Article 10), created under the HERO Act (Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024). These provisions are designed to enhance property tax relief for qualifying disabled veterans. Veterans' property tax exemptions have not changed in decades and thus have not kept up with inflation. These changes would modernize and enhance the Town's support for disabled veterans, many of whom live on fixed incomes, while allowing Montague to retain local control over implementation. Currently 72 veterans' exemptions are granted per year and this number is fairly stable year to year. The State

provides reimbursement to the town for baseline veteran exemptions, but these extra benefits will not be reimbursed and would be absorbed into the town budget. If approved, these exemptions would begin in Fiscal Year 2027 (starting July 1, 2026).

Clause 22I automatically increases the amount of the property tax exemption for eligible disabled veterans each year by a **cost-of-living adjustment** (COLA). The adjustment is tied to inflation and determined by the Department of Revenue. The estimated cost of adopting clause 22I would be \$1,272 in the first year and is subject to change in future years.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 10. HERO Act Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J Provision

MOVED: That the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, as created by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 (the “HERO Act”), thereby authorizing an additional property tax exemption for veterans on their domiciles under G.L. c. 59, §5, Clauses 22a-f, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F, of 50% of the existing veteran exemption amount, subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

Background: Clause 22J allows the Town to grant an additional exemption of up to 100% of baseline exemption. The majority of statutory exemptions for eligible veterans are \$400. The Town is proposing a 50% increase. There is no additional state reimbursement for the increased exemption amounts under Clauses 22J. The Town budget would absorb the full cost of the additional tax exemptions for veterans.

The estimated total cost increase to the Town is \$21,200.00 if Clause 22J is adopted at 50%. The estimated total cost for both clauses is \$22,470. If both clauses are accepted, the COLA increase is applied first (22I), and the additional percentage (22J) is applied on top of the adjusted exemption.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 11. Local Option 6% Room Occupancy Tax

MOVED: That the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of six (6) percent, said excise tax to take effect on the first day

of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting.

Background: This article asks whether the Town of Montague should adopt the state's local option room occupancy tax on short-term rentals (STRs), such as Airbnb and Vrbo. The proposed rate is 6% (the maximum allowed by law). 2/3 of MA towns have adopted the tax. The vast majority tax at the 6% rate. Sixteen of Franklin County's 26 municipalities already collect this tax, nearly all at the 6% rate.

Short-term rental activity has been steadily growing in Franklin County. A March 2025 report by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) found a 10% increase in STR listings over the past three years. In 2024, roughly 200 active STRs in the county generated \$954,000 in room tax revenue.

Montague does not have any hotels but does host approximately two dozen active STRs. Based on conservative estimates, the Town could raise more than **\$20,000 annually** by the tax. For comparison, in 2024 Ashfield received \$20,000, Bernardston \$37,000, and Orange \$58,000 in revenue from STRs.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue administers the tax and distributes funds to municipalities on a quarterly basis. At 6%, a \$100-per-night rental would include an additional \$6 in tax, paid by the renter (not the property owner). A short-term rental does not include any property that is rented out through tenancies at will or month-to-month leases.

If Montague does not adopt this local option tax, the Town will continue to forgo this potential source of revenue.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 12. Montague City Village Center (AKA Farren) Rezoning

MOVED: That the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Map to add a new Village Center Mixed Use District (MU-VC) and Design Overlay District (DOD) consisting of parcels of land located at 0, 330-340 and 356 Montague City Road, identified as parcel numbers 12-0-044, 12-0-051, 12-0-044A and 12-0-050 and to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending:

- a. Section 2, Definitions, to add new terms and definitions;
- b. Section 4, Establishment of Districts, 4.1 – Types of Districts, to add the new Village Center Mixed Use District (MU-VC) and Design Overlay District (DOD);
- c. Section 5, District Regulation, to add a new section 5.2.10 – Village Center Mixed Use District identifying permitted uses, uses allowed by special permit, special regulations and standards pertaining to the MU-VC District;
- d. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.3 – Multiple Principal Uses to exempt the MU-VC District from the provisions of said section;

- e. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.5 – Dimensional Requirements to add a row to the table for dimensional requirements applicable to the MU-VC District;
- f. Section 5, District Regulation, to amend section 5.5.3 – Dimensional Relief by amending subparagraph (c) to establish the Planning Board as the Special Permit Granting Authority in the MU-VC District;
- g. Section 7, Sign Requirements, to amend 7.2.3 – District Parking Requirements to add subparagraph (c) relative to parking requirements in the MU-VC District;
- h. Section 7, Sign Requirements, to amend 7.4.2 – Access over front lot line, to exempt the MU-VC from the separate Special Permit requirement;
- i. Section 9, Site Plan Review, section 9.1.2 – Applicability, subparagraph (e) Specific Uses identified elsewhere in this bylaw to add uses requiring Site Plan Review in the MU-VC District;
- j. Section 9, Site Plan Review, section 9.1.3 – Authority, to add text designating the Planning Board as the Site Plan review Authority for the MU-VC District; and
- k. Section 6, Overlay Districts, to add a new section 6.4 – Design Overlay District,

with the full text of the above amendments and a copy of the proposed, revised Zoning Map as shown in the Town Meeting packet.

Background: Since January 2025, the Town has been working with residents through meetings, workshops, and public hearings to plan for the future of the former Farren Care Center area (about 9 acres). The community's vision is for a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood with a variety of housing options, local retail, and strong community character, supported by features like open space, green infrastructure, and bike trails.

The current zoning does not fully support this vision. This article proposes creating a new **Village Center Mixed-Use District** and a **Design Overlay District** to encourage walkable, pedestrian-friendly development. The new zoning would allow a wider range of housing types (such as two- and three-family homes, rowhouses, townhouses, and apartments), as well as mixed-use and non-residential uses including restaurants, cafés, retail shops, offices, gyms, and small hotels.

The proposal includes clear standards for building height, setbacks, open space, parking, and design. Flexibility is built in, with waivers available when projects meet overall design principles. At a public hearing on September 23, 2025, the Planning Board voted unanimously (5–0) to recommend adoption of these zoning changes.

In summary: The proposed rezoning would help create a lively village center that reflects community input, supports diverse housing, enhances local businesses, and improves neighborhood design and infrastructure.

(Planning Board Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained
 Planning Board Recommends 5 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 13. Authority to convey Farren Parcels

MOVED: That the Town vote to transfer care, custody and control of three (3) parcels of land located at 340-350, and 356 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, and shown as Parcels 12-0-044, 12-0-044A, and 12-0-051, and being Lots B and C on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Montague Massachusetts Surveyed for The Farren Memorial Hospital” dated September 11, 1989, recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 79, Page 4 to the Selectboard for general municipal purposes and for commercial and/or development of housing purposes and to authorize the Selectboard to sell or lease, transfer or convey all or any portion of such property for such sum and upon such terms and conditions determined by the Selectboard to be in the best interests of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any and all instruments, including deeds, leases or other agreements and take all other actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the vote taken hereunder.

Background: This article asks voters to authorize the Selectboard to transfer of three parcels of the former Farren Care Center (totaling about 9 acres). Trinity Health donated the site to the Town in 2023 after the hospital closed in 2021. The properties are located along Montague City Road and are considered key for potential redevelopment.

Approval of this transfer will allow the Town to begin to pursue redevelopment opportunities, such as affordable or market-rate housing, mixed-use development, or other uses that benefit the community.

This vote **does not approve any specific development**. It simply gives the Selectboard the legal authority to act on behalf of the Town in negotiations, agreements, and redevelopment planning, while ensuring compliance with state laws for municipal property sales or leases. The Selectboard plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to attract developers in Fiscal Year 2026.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 14. Burek Drive

MOVED: That the Town vote to Discontinue and Abandon 1969 Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive; Accept Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive; Accept proposed 15-foot-wide sewer easement under Accepted Revised Public Roadway Layout of Burek Drive in favor of 4 Burek Drive (Parcel #41-0-17) as shown on “Revised Street Acceptance Plan” Plan of Land in Montague, Massachusetts,” August 7, 2025, and 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 Burek Drive for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Montague and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

Background: This article asks the Town to approve a correction to the layout of a short public dead-end road off North Taylor Hill Road. The

current recorded layout, approved in 1969, does not match the road as it was actually built.

The proposed action would adjust the right-of-way to reflect the existing roadway and officially recognize a sewer easement for 4 Burek Drive, which allows a septic leach field across the road. This matches existing conditions and is necessary to allow required repairs to the septic system at 4 Burek Drive.

The legal research and survey were completed by the property owners (Leh Family Trust and Burek Family Trust) and reviewed by the Planning Board under state law. Approval will clear the property titles, allow septic repairs, and will **not** have any financial or operational impact on the Town.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 15. Acquire Ownership of 38 Avenue A from EDIC

MOVED: That the town will vote to acquire and accept, by donation, from the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, or the current owner, the real property located at 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Montague, and shown as Assessor's Map 04-0-0041, and being Lot 2 on a plan entitled "Turners Falls Heritage Park in Montague, Massachusetts Surveyed for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Management," dated July 14, 1989, recorded with the Franklin Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 75, Page 48, described in an Order of Taking recorded with said Registry in Book 2474, Page 334, for library purposes, on such terms and conditions as the Selectboard shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary for said acquisition.

Background: The property at 38 Avenue A is currently owned by the Montague Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC), a quasi-public Town entity established to hold land for economic development purposes. The site, formerly home to a Cumberland Farms convenience store and gas station, has been owned by the EDIC since the 1990s. Despite several efforts to attract private development—including in 2016 and 2019—no projects have materialized due to changing economic conditions.

In recent years, the Montague Public Libraries identified the site as a strong candidate for a new main library branch. As part of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Public Library Construction Program, this site was studied alongside one other option. In August 2025, both the Library Building Steering Committee and the Library Trustees voted unanimously to move forward with 38 Avenue A as the preferred site, contingent upon securing state construction grant funding and approval by Montague voters through a debt exclusion anticipated in Spring 2026. On September 18, 2025, the EDIC voted in favor of donating the property to the Town for this purpose.

Approving this article will authorize the transfer of 38 Avenue A from the EDIC to the Town of Montague. This is a necessary step to remain eligible for state library construction funding. Approval of this transfer does not commit the Town to building the project; final decisions will depend on state grant awards in January 2026 and subsequent approval by both Town Meeting and Montague voters in 2026.

(Selectboard Request)

Selectboard Recommends 3 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained

ARTICLE 16. RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE TO BE AN APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY.

MOVED: That the town will vote to adopt the following resolution.

WHEREAS All people are equal and should be treated with dignity and respect;

WHEREAS The Palestinian people experience discriminatory legal regimes, forced displacement, movement restrictions, and systematic human rights abuses;

WHEREAS According to legal scholars and the international human rights community, this situation constitutes the crime of Apartheid;

WHEREAS This non-binding measure represents the will of the residents of Montague, who wish to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine, and build an apartheid-free world, starting with our own town;

THEREFORE:

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and All people;

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression;

WE DECLARE ourselves an Apartheid-Free Community, and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

WE RECOMMEND that the Select Board send this resolution to the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor.

(Citizen Petition)

Selectboard Recommends 2 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstained