

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Meeting
1 Avenue A, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA and VIA ZOOM
Monday, February 6, 2023

AGENDA - AMENDED

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88963017931>

Meeting ID: 889 6301 7931 Dial into meeting: +1 646 558 8656

This meeting/hearing of the Selectboard will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.

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

Meeting Being Taped

Votes May Be Taken

1. 6:00 PM Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken
2. 6:00 Approve Selectboard Minutes from January 30, 2023
3. 6:00 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. 6:00 Dog Complaint Hearing, Nicholas Pratt, 20 N Street, Turners Falls
 - Violation of Dangerous Dog as those terms are defined in said statute
5. 6:45 Silas Koyama, Eagle Scout Project
 - Install Kiosk at corner of Montague City Road and Masonic Avenue
6. 6:55 Montague Tree Committee, Walter Korby
 - Alliance for Green Heat Grant Wood Bank Grant Application (\$15,000) for equipment and storage
7. 7:05 Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant
 - Review fee schedule for sealer of weights and measure services
8. 7:15 Special Town Meeting Warrant – To review draft 3/2/23 warrant; attached hereto, and to make recommendations on any or all items in warrant; votes may be taken

Montague Selectboard Meeting

2023

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9. 7:35 Town Administrator Report
- Update on Congressionally Directed Spending Grant for Avenue A Streetscape
 - Request authorization to conduct trash and recycling bid for term beginning July 1, 2024
 - Execute Contracts for Supplemental CSO monitoring/reporting contract with ADS Environmental Services
 - **Update pertaining to FirstLight FERC Negotiation Timelines**
10. 7:45 **Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6), to consider the possible purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property - First Light Power, votes may be taken**

OTHER:

Next Meeting: Selectboard, Monday February 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

I, Animal Control Officer Calin Giurgiu, while patrolling the streets, have been checking Nicholas Pratt's address/location of 20 N Street Turners Falls MA. Since August 2022, I have stopped there several times trying to talk with someone but no one came to the door each and every time although I strongly believe persons were present inside. The residents are seemingly ignoring and not complying with the agreement that had been put into effect at the select board meeting last year. Rather than fixing and fortifying the fence, it appears as though the fence is now more fragile than before and now has missing pieces. A couple of times it was reported that the dog was loose on the street without the muzzle, which is also a violation of the agreement however the dog has been found to be inside every time I've stopped by.





Respectfully,

Calin Giurgiu
Animal Control Officer



Selectboard
Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108
FAX: (413) 863-3231

January 24, 2023

BY CONSTABLE

Mr. Nicholas Pratt
20 N Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

**NOTICE OF HEARING
VIOLATION OF DANGEROUS DOG ORDER**

Dear Mr. Pratt:

On **Monday, February 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM** the Montague Selectboard will hold a public hearing in the Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157, to determine whether you have violated the Board's May 11, 2022 order to restrain a dog deemed both a nuisance and dangerous in accordance with said statute and your failure to comply with your June 2, 2022 agreement with the Montague Police Department. A copy of the Board's order and your agreement with the Police Department are attached hereto for your reference.

This hearing is being convened in response to a report from Calin Giurgiu, Animal Control Officer that to date you have failed to repair the fence on the property, and that your dog has been reported loose on the street without the muzzle.

During the hearing, the Board will examine the evidence, and based on the credible evidence and testimony presented, the Board may make such findings and orders concerning the restraint or disposal of said dog as may be deemed necessary, which may include an order that the dog be surrendered to the Town of Montague for disposition in its discretion, which may include that the dog be humanely euthanized. .

You may attend the hearing and at that time you may produce any documentation and/or witnesses. You may be represented by counsel at your own expense if you so choose.

If you have questions related to the hearing process, please call me at (413) 863-3200 ext. 108.

Very truly yours,

Wendy
Wendy M. Bogusz
Executive Assistant

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Selectboard
Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108
FAX: (413) 863-3231

May 16, 2022

BY HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Nicholas Pratt
20 N Street
Turners Falls, MA

**NOTICE OF DECISION
NUISANCE AND DANGEROUS DOG**

Dear Mr. Pratt:

On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, the Montague Selectboard held a public hearing in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157, to determine whether the dog owned and/or kept by you in the Town of Montague is a Nuisance or Dangerous Dog as those terms are defined in said statute. The Board considered evidence and testimony, including sworn witness testimony and reports from the Town's Police and Animal Control departments demonstrating that your dog attacked a man walking on a public way with a small child, causing injury, it has escaped from its enclosure on numerous occasions, and it is left outdoors unattended for long period of time, during which it barks excessively. There was also testimony that the dog is not licensed in the Town of Montague or vaccinated against rabies.

Based on the facts introduced at the public hearing, the Board voted to declare that said dog is both a Nuisance and Dangerous Dog.

Based on this finding, the Board issued the following order:

1. The dog shall be vaccinated against rabies and licensed with the Montague Town Clerk within seven (7) days of this order;
2. The dog shall not be permitted to run loose outside of the owner or keeper's property at any time;
3. Effective immediately, any time the dog is outdoors on the property, it shall be attached to a secure run, except that the dog shall not be chained, tethered or otherwise tied to an inanimate object including, but not limited to, a tree, post or building; or, the dog may be kept in the backyard at the property, provided that a

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4. sufficiently rugged new fence is installed and approved by the Animal Control Officer;
5. Any time the dog is outdoors, including when on the property or being walked on a leash, the dog must be wearing a basket type muzzle. Upon written request of the owner or keeper and upon a showing of strict compliance with this order and no further incidents, the Board may revisit this requirement after a period of six months;
6. Within seven (7) days of issuance of this order, the owner or keeper of the dog shall provide proof of insurance in an amount not less than \$100,000 insuring the owner or keeper against any claim, loss, damage or injury to persons, domestic animals or property resulting from the acts, whether intentional or unintentional, of the dog;
7. Within twenty-four (24) hours of this order, the owner or keeper shall provide a current photo to Animal Control Officer (ACO) and Animal Inspector; and
8. Effective immediately, the dog shall not be permitted to be outdoors between the hours of 7:00 pm and 7:00 am the following day.

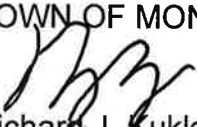
Please be advised that, if you are found in violation of this order, the dog shall be subject to seizure and impoundment by a law enforcement or animal control officer and you will be prohibited from owning a dog in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a period of five years.

Please be further advised that if you fail to comply with this order you may be punished, for a first offense, by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days in a jail or house of correction, or both, and for a second or subsequent offense by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days in a jail or house of correction.

You may appeal this Order within ten days of the date of this correspondence in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157.

Very truly yours,

TOWN OF MONTAGUE


Richard J. Kuklewicz
Charman, Selectboard



Montague Police Department

180 Turnpike Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Business - (413) 863-8911
Fax - (413) 863-3210

Date: 6/2/22 Time: 11:30 AM Place: 20 N Street

I, Nicks Pratt, of 26 N St, being 27 years of age,

state that I have been advised and duly warned prior to any questioning by Lt. Bonnett

who identified himself as Montague Police that:

1. Before we ask you any questions, you must understand your rights.
2. You have the right to remain silent,
3. Anything you say can be used against you in a court of law,
4. You have the right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we ask you any questions and to have him/her present with you during questioning.
5. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any questioning if you wish,
6. If you decide to answer questions now, without a lawyer present, you will still have the right to stop questioning at any time until you talk to a lawyer.
7. Do you understand what I have read to you? yes
8. Having these rights in mind, do you wish to talk to me now? yes

I was not threatened, mistreated or forced to make this statement, or given, offered or promised anything in return. I give this statement voluntarily, intelligently and freely to the best of my knowledge.

I have read each line in this statement and made corrections with my initials and certify that all the facts contained therein are true and correct.

Nicks Pratt
Signature of person giving statement

A C Bonnett
Witness



Montague Police Department

180 Turnpike Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-8911
(413) 863-3210 (fax)

Chief Christopher P. Williams



June 2, 2022

I, Nicholas Pratt, of 20 N Street in Turners Falls, having been fully advised of my right to council and of the criminal, civil, and administrative penalties that may arise from this situation, including fines, forfeiture of animals, and criminal charges by Lieutenant Christopher Bonnett, of the Montague Police Department, hereby stipulate to the following:

1. I am the owner of a male, un-neutered 2 year old brindle pit bull terrier named Jax and am solely responsible for said dog.
2. Jax resides at my home at 20 N Street in Turners Falls.
3. The perimeter fence of my yard is in disrepair and has allowed Jax to escape.
4. Jax escaped and bit an individual on April 26, 2022.
5. Jax does not have a rabies vaccination.
6. I have never licensed Jax with the Town of Montague, and understand that by failing to do so, I am in violation of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, sections 137 and 137A, as well as Montague Town By-Laws.
7. I do not have any insurance coverage related to Jax.

Given the above stated facts, I willingly and freely make the following promises to the Town of Montague:

1. That I will repair the fence to a condition that does not allow Jax to escape by 11:59PM on Friday, June 2, 2022
2. That even with the fence repaired, Jax will only be in the backyard on the installed dog run, which I will ensure is secure enough to prevent his escape (this includes collar and attachment cable).
3. Even when on the run, Jax will be outside alone, with no other dogs out of the house.
4. I will ensure Jax receives his rabies inoculation no later than 11:59PM on Friday, June 6, 2022.
5. Upon Jax's successful rabies inoculation, I will immediately provide a copy of same to the police department.
6. I will secure insurance liability coverage of at least \$100,000.00 for Jax, no later than Monday, June 6, 2022.

7. I will report to the Town Hall and provide proof of rabies inoculation **and** proof of insurance as described herein and will properly license Jax no later than 5:00PM on Monday, June 6, 2022.
8. I will maintain prompt and honest communication with any and all representatives of the Town of Montague Selectboard, Board of Health, Animal Control, Police Department, Town Clerk, or Town Administrator's office in any matter pertaining to a dog issue.

In the event that I fail to fulfill or abide by any of the provisions set forth in this agreement, I will, immediately and without contestation, surrender the dog, Jax, to any member of the Town of Montague Police Department, Animal Control, or Board of Health.

Nicholas Pratt
Print Name

Nicholas Pratt
Signature

6-2-22
Date



Montague Town Clerk

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Tel. (413) 863-3200 ext. 203

2022 DOG LICENSE

THIS LICENSE WILL EXPIRE ON: March 31, 2023

NICHOLAS PRATT
20 N STREET
TURNERS FALLS MA 01376

Issued To: NICHOLAS PRATT
20 N ST
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376
(413) 834-5021

Vet: BROWN, DR. LAURAL

License #:	Animal Name:	Gender:	Breed:	Color:	DOB	Rabies Exp.
2022-0844	JAX	MALE	PIT BULL			6/2/2023

Payment Date	Dog Name	Fee Description	Tag	Fee	Online Fee	AmtPaid	Type	Check #
6/2/2022	JAX	MALE	2022-0844	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	CASH	
				Total Fee:	\$10.00	Total Paid:	\$10.00	\$10.00
						Total Bal:	\$0.00	

LICENSING PERIOD – FEBRUARY 14th to MARCH 31st EACH YEAR

In accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of Chapter 140 of the General Laws, all dogs six months or older must be licensed. The dog listed above is numbered and registered as required by said Laws.

Relocated Dogs (MGL Chapter 140, Section 138)

If a dog is permanently moved to another town, a license must be secured in that town. In addition, to avoid continued notification and potential fees from Montague, please notify the Town Clerk's Office that the dog is no longer residing in Montague .

All dogs six months or older, moving to Montague must be licensed within 60 days of arrival to Montague.


Deceased Dogs

To avoid continued notification and potential fees regarding the dog, please notify the Town Clerk's office so that he/she can be removed from our database.

Signs of Rabies

Signs of rabies vary from animal to animal, so the behavior of an animal is NOT a reliable indicator of whether or not it has rabies. Some of the more common signs include unexplained aggression, impaired locomotion, varying degrees of paralysis, hyper salivation and extreme depression.

RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE

		RABIES TAG # 22-339	
		MICROCHIP #	
Owner's Name & Address Nicholas Pratt		TELEPHONE # (413) 325-3443	
Address: 20 N Street Turners Falls		City, State Turners Falls, MA	Zip: 01376
Animal Name: Jax		Weight: 70	Predominant Breed: Boxer Mix
Species: Canine	Age: 2 Yrs. 8 Mos. Sex: Male	Markings: brindle	
DATE VACCINATED: 6/2/2022	Product Name: Rabies - Imrab (INVENTORY ONLY)	Veterinarian's Name: Lauralyn J. Brown, DVM	
NEXT VACCINATION DUE BY: 6/2/2023	Manufacturer: Boehringer Ingelheim	License Number: 3870	
	18539 Vaccine Serial (Lot) No.	 <hr/> Veterinarian's Signature	
		Address: Lauralyn J. Brown Vet Hospital LLC 196 Millers Falls Road Turners Falls, MA 01376	
		Phone: (413) 863-0025	

My name is Silas Koyama. I am a member of the local Montague 6 Boy Scout troop. I am currently a Life Scout in the process of becoming an Eagle Scout. For a few months now, I have been meeting with Montague Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey to come up with an Eagle Scout Project. This is my proposal.

As my service project to my local community and neighborhood, I propose to build a kiosk on the corner of Montague City Road and Masonic Ave.

My project would be placed on the sidewalks next to Montague City Rd so that it would be visible to pedestrians, cyclists using the bike path, and members of the neighborhood. If the kiosk is located on the grass next to the sidewalk facing the road then we wouldn't need to build a place for people to stand to look at it because they could just look at it from the sidewalk.

My kiosk would include a map that could be replaced if the route of the bike path ever changes. The kiosk would have a bulletin board where members of the Montague City community could post announcements and other items of local interest.

I may also include a small sign with the words "Montague City Neighborhood" above the board to make this kiosk more interesting.

Part of my project would also be restoring and cleaning up any part of the memorial that has fallen into disrepair, like replacing the flag and trimming the bushes.

Before breaking ground we will call dig safe.

Timeline:

I plan to:

- get funding and resources throughout March and April 2023.
- Break ground around the middle of May 2023 and
- Complete the project finished before June 2023





AGH Wood Bank Grant Application Narratives and Questions 1/29/23

What is the organizational structure of your firewood bank? Do you have officers or a Board of Directors?

The bank is overseen by volunteer committee members of the Montague Tree Advisory Committee, which coordinates the volunteer days, and provides much of the labor. The Tree Advisory Committee is a town appointed committee whose role is to advise the Tree Warden and to seek and manage grant opportunities in order to best steward the town's shade tree inventory.

g. Who are your main partners, if any?

We work in close coordination with the town Tree Warden, and the DPW to obtain, process and stack the cordwood for drying. The senior center, another town run entity, provides the administration of the vouchers for the wood. UMASS provides volunteer students to assist in wood processing on an annual basis.

Attach Waiver

Attach Liability Policy

a. How long have you/firewood bank been distributing firewood?

Since 2018.

b. Approximately how many cords (4' x 4' x 8' stacks) of wood do you deliver/provide each winter?

14 Cords

c. Approximately how many households do you serve each winter?

28 - The Gill/Montague Senior Center distributes vouchers for 1/2 cord bins to approximately 28 households of low and moderate income seniors who heat with wood in Montague each year.

d. How many volunteers and/or staff do you have and how do you recruit and manage them? Do you have any paid staff?

There are approximately 12 volunteers throughout a given year. 2-3 of them are volunteer Montague Tree Advisory Committee members that regularly attend, and the rest are community volunteers, and once a season, a student group that comes from UMASS Amherst. Currently there is a liaison we work with at the University that lets us know when they have a group together, and we coordinate having one or more of the committee members present to coordinate the work on the given day. The wood gets processed in work days throughout the year.

e. Does your firewood bank have a social media presence? Please share links if so.

At this time it does not.

f. Do you have a budget from the most recent year showing income and expenses? If so, please attach or describe it.

We do not have any ongoing income or expenses currently.

a. Do you have a way to keep your wood covered to season it? If so, what is the capacity?

The wood is stacked into ½ cord bins that are designed with a rubber membrane for a cap that keeps the snow and rain off of each bin. We have 30 plus bins which could allow for more than 15 cords to dry at once.

b. Which of the following does your group have, if any? (Check all that apply)

Chainsaw(s)

Splitter

Trailer

Tool shed

Firewood drying shed

Axes, sledgehammers, mauls

Logs to cut & split into firewood

List other equipment/tools in your firewood bank's possession:

30 ½ cord Bins

c. Which of the following safety equipment do you use at your firewood bank? (Check all that apply)

Eye protection when splitting wood or using a chain saw

Chaps, eye and ear protection when using a chain saw

Gloves and eye protection when using a splitter

First Aid Kit (Class A or Class B)

d. From where do you source your wood? Do you have to buy any or is it all donated? Do you get any already cut and split?

The wood all comes from the town's and utility company's treework. We do not purchase any, nor is any of it already bucked and split.

e. Are your wood supplies seasoned, unseasoned or a mix?

Most of the wood that comes in is log length green wood. Some of it may have been standing dead wood.

f. How long are you able to season wood?

Depending on when the work days are, we can usually have all the wood stacked, covered, and drying for 9 months. Some of the log lengths will have been sitting for up to 6 months.

g. How is the firewood distributed? Is the wood self-serve? If not, how do you decide which households get wood?

In order to receive a voucher, participants must bring proof that they are eligible for fuel assistance to the senior center where the vouchers are distributed. The Center itself is also a place that can facilitate them getting to the resources in order to get fuel assistance. Each participant is eligible for one bin, which is available for pickup at the town transfer station. There, the attendant checks the voucher and directs them to the bin where they transfer the wood themselves into their vehicle.

h. When do you begin and end firewood deliveries (if applicable)?

We do not provide delivery services for firewood.

i. How do you decide how much firewood each household receives?

First come, first served, one ½ cord per household until all the wood is distributed for the season.

Application requirements:

These items will be required to receive funding, but not to submit the application. We will help groups with acquiring them, as needed.

a. Does your wood bank have a bank account?

X Yes

No

List name of bank account holder

Town of Montague

List name of your bank

—

b. Do you have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)?

X Yes

No

Please write UEI here

JCWRSRYTPL19

Alliance For Green Heat Wood Bank Grant Overview

<https://www.firewoodbanks.org/copy-of-overview>

Of the \$8 million allocated for implementation of the firewood bank grant program, an estimated \$1.287 million will be made available for FY 2022, with more funding released over the following years. Eligible firewood banks can apply by filling out the [online application linked here](#) or using the embedded application at the bottom of this page.

To apply for this federal funding opportunity, you must be a representative from an eligible firewood bank, or any kind of organization which provides free year-round, seasonal, or emergency firewood in order to heat homes. Firewood banks must also have a bank account, insurance, and unique entity identifier (UEI) to receive funding. If your wood bank does not already have any of these, please see the application requirements page for information on how to get them.

A. Guidelines for Firewood Banks Receiving Funding

Accepting funding for your firewood bank involves making some safety and operational commitments that your bank may or may not already have in place. [Click here](#) for a list of the things we need firewood banks to agree to, in order to receive funding.

B. Bank Account

In order to receive federal funds to support your firewood bank, a bank account is required to be set up in the name of the organization. Requirements may vary by state for opening a bank account for an unincorporated organization, but some instructions can be found [here for Chase](#), [here for Bank of America](#), and [here for Wells Fargo](#). Note that monthly banking fees may be waived by meeting a minimum balance or spending a certain amount periodically, though it depends on the bank.

If your bank requires an Employer Identification Number (EIN) to set up a bank account, you can easily apply for one from the IRS in minutes. Instructions can be found [here](#). Note that the online portal is only open from 7am – 10pm Monday to Friday, Eastern Standard Time.

C. Unique Entity Identifier

All businesses or organizations awarded federal grants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). This is a 12-character, alphanumeric value assigned by the federal government that identifies your organization's name and address. This identifier is free to get and can be received after making an account on sam.gov and following the steps to receive your UEI. You'll have the option of registering your entity or getting a unique entity ID.

Select “Get Unique Entity ID” to receive a UEI. For more information see this [Quick Start Guide for getting a UEI](#). A list of valid documents can be found [here](#). The following [video](#) from the General Services Administration has more information and explains in detail how to obtain a UEI.

Almost any items needed to run your firewood bank is an eligible expense except for food & drink, entertainment, lobbying, and items over \$5,000.

Eligible expenses include chain saws (electric or gas), splitters, tarps, moisture meters, conveyor belts, trailers, wheelbarrows, safety equipment, first aid kits, equipment repair, building materials for firewood sheds or tool sheds, educational materials/activities, sales tax, signage, travel, gas money, and miscellaneous supplies like small tools that cost less than \$20. Firewood banks are invited to add other additional items not listed here that they use or think may be helpful. Click [here](#) for a downloadable sample budget.

Required Activities to Receive Funding

Use of safety equipment: Volunteers who use equipment purchased with this grant are required to wear safety gear as appropriate, including: Boots, gloves, eye protection when splitting wood with an axe Boots, gloves, eye and ear protection when splitting wood with a splitter. Boots, gloves, eye and ear protection, and chaps when using a chainsaw

Insurance and Liability waivers: All firewood banks must have their volunteers and/or workers sign a liability waiver. (The liability waiver must also include holding Alliance for Green Heat harmless.) This protects you, your firewood bank, and the Alliance for Green Heat, in the event of an accident and helps to educate and warn about potential dangers. We have a sample liability waiver that we encourage you to use, or you can use your own, and send a copy to us. **First aid kits:** All firewood banks are required to have a Class A or Class B purchased with grant funds.

Age restrictions: Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to operate dangerous power machinery which includes chain saws and splitters.

Testing and reporting moisture content of wood: All firewood banks must have moisture meters and develop a system to regularly test the moisture content (MC) of their wood to deliver seasoned wood. AGH will provide a sample sheet for banks to start with.

Delivering seasoned wood: Firewood banks will do their utmost to deliver seasoned wood (less than 20% MC) during the heating season. Wood that is higher than 20% MC burns poorly, produces less heat and causes damage to air quality (particulate matter) and chimneys (creosote). Homes that put excessive smoke into the air from unseasoned wood, harm the environment and could impact the reputation of your firewood bank. For homes in towns or suburbs, the moisture content requirements are even more important, as the airshed for those homes is shared by more people.

Education and Outreach: We urge firewood banks to provide educational materials (we will share these with you) to wood recipients on clean burning practices, wood storage, home fire safety and opportunities for energy audits and weatherization services in your area.

Impacts of grant: We encourage you to share stories and photos about how this grant has benefitted your firewood bank. We will provide a sample press release you can use to help spread the word about your work, attract more volunteers, get more free wood and achieve your other goals.

Contract and Reporting: Firewood banks must sign a contract that spells out the terms of the grant and basic reporting requirements. The reports are simple and include basic accounting of your expenditures (with receipts for items over \$250), information about how much wood was delivered and other major outcomes of the grant, and your recommendations about how the grant program can be done better next year. Note that 80% of funds must be spent (or equipment ordered) within two weeks of receiving the grant funds.

AGH Woodbank Grant Budget for Montague Wood Bank

Instructions: See Section 5 of the Application for a list of eligible expenses. Products made in the US are preferred, and sufficient safety equipment (chaps, gloves, etc.) must be added to the budget if not already owned. Purchase if available. For all other budget lines, explain the budgeted item with a brief description (e.g., 200 g

<u>Items</u>	<u>Cost/unit</u>	<u># of un</u>
First aid kit (Class A)	\$59.99	1
Moisture meter	\$139.99	1
Safety Glasses	\$3.33	12
Forestry Helmets	\$99.99	2
Chaps	\$129.99	2
Timberjack	\$99.99	1
Earmuffs	\$36.99	4
Box of Foam Ear Inserts	\$46.99	1
Leather Work Gloves	\$15.99	12
Echo Chainsaw 24" Bar	\$689.99	1
Husqvarna Chainsaw 18" Bar	\$709.99	1
Log Tongs	\$67.99	2
Chainsaw File Kits	\$23.49	2
Bucking Wedges	\$6.67	12

50:1 Premix Fuel (1gal)	\$37.50	8
Bar Oil	\$14.99	2
.325 Chain Loops	\$23.99	2
3/8 Chain Loops	\$29.99	2
Justrite 5 gallon Type II Fuel Can	\$119.99	1
12x12 Lamore Post and Beam Shed	\$4,900.00	
Timberwolf Splitter with Table and Manual lift	\$4,140.95	1
Flammables Safety Cabinet (12 gal)	\$678.14	1
Miscellaneous - Batteries, fasteners, lumber for ramp		

red. No single item can cost over \$5,000. First aid kits, moisture
d by the firewood bank. Include a link to the items you plan to
allons of fuel at \$4.25/gallon).

<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Shipping</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Link</u>
\$59.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/north-safe
\$139.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/lignomat-e
\$39.96			https://www.baileysonline.com/husqvarna
\$199.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/oregon-prc
\$259.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/labonville-
\$99.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/timber-tuf
\$147.96			https://www.baileysonline.com/3m-peltor-
\$46.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/3m-e-a-r-c
\$191.88			https://www.baileysonline.com/husqvarna
\$689.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/echo-cs-68
\$709.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/husqvarna
\$135.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/fiskars-13-
\$46.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/husqvarna
\$80.04			https://www.baileysonline.com/woodlandj

\$300.00			https://www.baileysonline.com/husqvarna
\$29.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/petro-card
\$47.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/husqvarna
\$59.98			https://www.baileysonline.com/oregon-72
\$119.99			https://www.baileysonline.com/justrite-5-g
	\$34.99	\$3,442.62	
\$4,900.00			http://post-beam.com/sheds.html
		\$4,900.00	
\$4,140.95			https://www.timberwolfequip.com/produ
	\$600.00	\$4,740.95	
\$678.14			https://www.grainger.com/product/COND
	\$219.47	\$897.61	
		\$250.00	
	Total	\$14,231.18	

[ty-fak25pl-clsa-first-aid-kit-25-person-p-e-class-a-white-314000111.html](#)
[e-d-mini-moisture-meter.html](#)
[-xtreme-duty-work-gloves-hva-531-30-02-72.html](#)
[p-forestry-helmet-system-564101-orf-564101.html](#)
[apron-wrap-chainsaw-chaps-w850kp.html](#)
[f-timberjack-48-fiberglass-handle-tmb-65.html](#)
[-optime-105-series-earmuffs-h10a.html](#)
[classic-foam-ear-plugs-box-of-200-310-1001.html](#)
[-xtreme-duty-work-gloves-hva-531-30-02-72.html](#)
[30p-67cc-chainsaws-cs-680p.html](#)
[-550xp-mark-ii-50cc-chainsaws-hvfp-550xp-ii.html](#)
[log-tongs.html](#)
[-chainsaw-chain-filing-kits-hva-531-30-00p.html](#)
[pro-tree-falling-wedges.html](#)

[-xp-pre-mixed-2-stroke-fuel-oil-50-1-case-of-4-gallons-hva-581-15-88-02.html](#)

[-bar-chain-oil-1-gallon-bottle.html](#)

[-h22-325-x-050-semi-chisel-chainsaw-chain-hva-h22.html](#)

[dpx-3-8-x-050-versacut-chainsaw-chain-orfp-72dpx.html](#)

[gallon-type-ii-accuflow-steel-safety-can-with-1-metal-hose-red.html](#)

[:ts/tw-2?variant=43283357303006](#)

[DR-Flammables-Safety-Cabinet-42X503](#)

SCALES	Billed in 2021	Current	Total	Increase 25%	Increase 50%	Increase 75%	Increase 80%	New 80% Increase	80% Cost Change
Less than 100 lbs.	75	\$20	\$1,500	\$1,875	\$2,250	\$2,625	\$2,700	\$36	\$16
100 lbs. - 999 lbs.	3	\$25	\$75	\$94	\$113	\$131	\$135	\$45	\$20
1,000 lbs - 4,999 lbs.	2	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$90	\$105	\$108	\$54	\$24
5,000 lbs. - 9,999 lbs.	2	\$60	\$120	\$150	\$180	\$210	\$216	\$108	\$48
10,000 and Over	0	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$180	\$80
Weights and other liquid & Linear	24	\$2	\$48	\$60	\$72	\$84	\$86	\$3.60	\$1.60
Gas Tanks	38	\$50	\$1,900	\$2,375	\$2,850	\$3,325	\$3,420	\$90	\$40
Cash Registers (4 - 11)	2	\$150	\$300	\$375	\$450	\$525	\$540	\$270	\$120
TOTALS			\$4,003	\$5,004	\$6,005	\$7,005	\$7,205		

Sealer Service Contract with State 2021 and prior: \$2,750
 Sealer Service Contract with State 2022 (Current): \$7,182

Year	Cost	Revenue	Difference
2016	2750	4770	2020
2017	2750	4820	2070
2018	2750	4750	2000
2019	2750	4965	2215
2020	2750	5323	2573
2021	2750	4003	1253
2022 (at 25%)	7182	5004	-2178
2022 (at 50%)	7182	6005	-1177
2022 (at 80%)	7182	7205	23

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
March 2, 2023

Franklin, ss.

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

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road, Montague on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. and to act on the following articles and any motions which may be presented.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,000 or any other amount for the purpose of preparing a section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials, including any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Cemetery Commission Request)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and further to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and pursuant to such acceptance to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the First Light easement payments to said Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. **Note: actual 100% dedication will be in motion**

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund to the CWF Capital Stabilization Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Clean Water Facility Request)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, and establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB Fund), effective March 3, 2023, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant Request)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Trustee of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, § 20 to employ reputable and knowledgeable investment consultants to
Special Town Meeting Warrant: March 2, 2023

assist in determining appropriate investments and pay for those services from the OPEB Fund, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Town Accountant 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 \$40,000 or any other amount for the purpose of supplementing the FY23 Reserve Fund Budget, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee Request)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend Schedule II to add a Great Falls Farmers Market Manager with an annual stipend of \$4,000, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$2,500 or any other amount for the purpose of funding a budget for the Great Falls Farmers Market budget for FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to ~~accept MGL Section ??? to~~ establish a Hearing Officer, amend Schedule II to add a Hearing Officer with an annual stipend of \$2,500 and appropriate \$625 for the prorated annual amount for the remainder of FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Note: Neither Chapter 148A section 2 or Ch 40U Section 6 mention requiring acceptance to appoint an officer

(Building Inspector Request)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to and/or permanent and/or temporary easements for public purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, landscaping, and other appurtenances and/or facilities, to enable the Town to undertake the South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge Project and for any and all purposes incidental or related thereto, in, on and under certain parcels of land, and land adjacent to and within 200 feet of said parcels, and shown more particularly on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of South Street Over Sawmill River Bridge No. M-28-026 in the Town of Montague, Franklin County," dated November 22, 2022, prepared by WSP USA Inc., said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended and/or incorporated into an easement plan; (b) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money to fund the foregoing and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of any land/easement

Special Town Meeting Warrant: March 2, 2023

acquisitions; and, further (c) authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard 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 \$1,500 or any other amount for the purpose of sealing the concrete surface of the Unity Skatepark, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation 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 \$2,000 or any other amount for the purpose of conducting an architectural evaluation of what is known as “the Blacksmith Shop”, located at 12 Station Street, Map 43, Lot 119 in Montague Center, ~~hire an architect to develop approximate original construction date(s) of the building, and conduct an independent analysis of the buildings' structural, architectural, and materials needs, with an emphasis on to determine the feasibility for retention and restoration or demolition whether partial or total,~~ or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Parks and Recreation 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 \$35,250, or any other amount, for the purpose of supporting consulting and design costs associated with applying for and/or participating in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' 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 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 to pay costs of replacing the screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility and appurtenances thereto, 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, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town upon such terms as the Treasurer and the Selectboard shall determine and that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c.44 section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by like amount.

(CWF 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 \$68,000 or any other amount for the purpose

of purchasing a transit van and charging station, included any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(CWF 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 \$80,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a pickup truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(DPW 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 \$100,000 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a one-ton dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(DPW 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 \$52,500 or any other amount for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a municipal inspection vehicle, including purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental and related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Building, Assessing, and Health Departments 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 \$230,000 or any other amount for the purpose of replacing the roof of the Colle building, located at 85 Avenue A, including any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard and Town Clerk Request)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Treasurer/Tax Collector to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election, or to pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard and Tax Collector/Treasurer Request)

Special Town Meeting Warrant: March 2, 2023

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

Matthew Lord

Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman
Selectmen, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss Montague, MA February ____, 2022

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 fourteen days before said meeting as within directed.

Constable of Montague

Article 1: Green Burial/Highland

The Cemetery Commission is requesting a separate appropriation for \$10,000 to prepare a section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials so that the project can be completed more quickly than doing very small pieces over several years through the operating budget.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Article 2: Canal District Stabilization Fund

As part of an agreement with First Light, they have contributed \$250,000 towards improvements in the Canal District. The Stabilization Fund is the recommended by DOR as the best way to segregate the funds and ensure their use for this purpose. This article both creates the fund and approves automatic deposit of all funds received for this purpose into this fund without further town meeting action. But, since the funds were received in FY23, and this fund had not been established prior to July 1, 2022, those funds will actually flow into Free Cash and will be formally transferred as part of the STM in the Fall of 2023.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Article 3: Name Change for the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund

The official name of a stabilization fund is the name provided when it was created. Since the Water Pollution Control Facility is now officially the Clean Water Facility, consistency requires a formal name change for their Capital Stabilization Fund.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Articles 4 and 5: OPEB Trust Fund

The Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund was established in FY2020. 16 years later, the legislature came up with a statute to cover the topic. So now, in order to avoid annual Management Letter comments in our audit, we need to approve these articles per those later statutes.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Article 6: Increase Reserve Fund

On December 22, 2022, the Finance Committee approved a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$40,000 to replace both Town Hall boilers, one of which had completely failed, and one of which was on its last legs. At the time of this transfer, Town Hall had been without heat on three or four occasions, requiring emergency repairs, and the intention was to replenish the Reserve Fund at the next Special Town Meeting.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Article 7: Great Falls Farmers Market Manager Position

The Montague Agricultural Commission started the Great Falls Farmers Market several years ago. Although the Farmers Market used the town's Tax Identification Number for their bank account, nothing actually ran through the town's books. Since transitioning from a volunteer to a paid manager in 2019, the market has struggled to raise enough funding through receipts and grants to cover the manager's stipend. In light of the benefits the Farmers Market brings to residents, the Selectboard recommends that it become a department in the town budget, and that the annual stipend for the manager be \$4,000 per year. The FY24 budget is also expected to include \$1,000 for expenses.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Article 8: Great Falls Farmers Market Budget for FY2023

If the previous article is approved, this article would fund the market for the second half of the fiscal year, providing 50% of both the manager's stipend and expenses.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Article 9: Hearing Officer

In Massachusetts, Building Departments and Fire Departments have the ability to write tickets for certain building code and fire code violations. In order to take part in the ticketing program, Municipalities must appoint a Hearings Officer for appeals to issued tickets. Implementing a

ticketing program would be useful to gain compliance with building code and fire code violations on problem properties, as an alternative to going to court.

This article would establish an annual stipend of \$2,500 and budget 25% of that amount for the last 3 months of FY2023.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Article 10: South Street Bridge Replacement Easements

This article will allow the town to acquire the easement(s) required for the replacement of the South Street bridge over the Sawmill River. The bridge is structurally deficient and is currently subject to weight restrictions. MassDOT is funding the design and construction of the new bridge, however the Town is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights. Based on the preliminary design, only one temporary construction easement is required on private property, however that is still subject to change. The town is obligated to follow state and federal regulations governing the acquisition of property. The bridge is currently being designed and the construction is planned to take place between Fall 2024 and Fall 2025.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Article 11: Sealing Skatepark

This would provide for the total cleaning of the surface area of the skatepark and applying a waterproof sealing agent concrete surface. Concrete is porous and absorbs moisture. Sealing the surface will mitigate water absorption and degradation due to frost/thaw cycles and help maintain a skateable surface. This is a scheduled maintenance activity.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0
Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 12: Architectural Evaluation of the former Blacksmith Shop

This would allow the town to conduct a formal architectural evaluation of what is known as “the Blacksmith Shop”, located at 12 Station Street in Montague Center. The 3,150 square foot structure is currently used for cold storage by the Parks and Recreation Department. The study is necessary to advance design plans for improvements to the Montague Center Park. The town will procure an architect to determine the approximate original construction date(s) of the

building, conduct an independent analysis of the buildings' structural, architectural, and materials needs. The information will inform the potential for retention or demolition of the structure, which is listed on the Montague Center National Register Historic District.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 13: Main Library Planning

The Montague Public Libraries is requesting to re-appropriate \$35,250 from an unspent 2017 article for the purpose of advancing planning for new construction of the main library in Turners Falls. The appropriation will support consulting and design costs associated with applying for and/or participating in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, which provides 40-50% of construction and design costs for library construction projects. The funds will be used to hire a consultant to develop a library program plan and assist with the application to the MPLC program. Remaining funds will help advance further design work once the project is accepted into the program.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 14: CWF Screw Pump Replacement

This article will allow for the screw pump replacement project at the Clean Water Facility. The Archimedes-style screw pumps are a critical feature of the plant that pumps all wastewater from the lower end of the facility the upper end. Installed in 2002, The current Internalift screw pumps, are at the end of their 20 year expected life. Appurtenant work is required in this rehab cycle including rehabilitation of the wet well, replacement of HVAC components and controls. Delaying the replacement risks catastrophic failure to the plant, requiring emergency response and costly extended bypass pumping.

The Clean Water Facility intends to finance the \$2,500,000 project with support from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Grant and Loan Program. That program is expected to fund between 35% to 70% of project costs as a grant with the balance to be funded by a USDA loan. The Selectboard has allocated \$800,000 of federal ARPA funding to the project which will substantially offset the projected loan cost. The program requires a full appropriation by town meeting prior to applying. Due to the intricacies of the grant program, the town will not know how much grant funding will be obtained prior to applying. If the town receives the 35% grant minimum, the project would have a net cost of \$825,000 after

accounting for the \$800,000 ARPA appropriation. The net cost could potentially be as low as \$0 if the town receives a larger grant.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Finance Committee recommends 5-0-1

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 15: CWF Transit Van

This is to replace the 2008 utility truck with a more environmentally friendly option for conducting pump station rounds, where staff can house critical equipment and spare parts to maintain the 8 stations and 4 grinder pumps. The preference is to purchase a hybrid or electric vehicle, and the appropriation includes the cost of installing a charging station.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 16: Pickup Truck with Plow and Sander

This article will allow the Department of Public Works to purchase a new pickup truck with a plow and sander. The new vehicle will replace a heavily used 2010 Ford F350. This is a planned replacement.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 17: One Ton Dump Truck with Plow and Sander

This article will allow the Department of Public Works to purchase a new one-ton dump truck with a plow and sander. The new vehicle will replace a heavily used 2008 F-350 One Ton Dump Truck. The 2008 dump is at the end of its useful life. This is a planned replacement.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 18: Municipal Inspectional Services Vehicle

This article will allow for the purchase of a vehicle to be shared by the Building, Health, and Assessor's Office for the purpose of conducting municipal inspections and town business. This

will be a new vehicle in the municipal fleet. A rugged All Wheel Drive or 4Wheel Drive vehicle is necessary to allow for performance during all seasons and at construction sites. Per the municipal fuel-efficient vehicle purchasing policy, the vehicle is intended to be a hybrid or electric vehicle. The appropriation includes the cost of installing a charging port. There is an adequate appropriation remaining to cover insurance and fuel costs for FY23.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0
Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 19: Colle Roof Replacement

This article will allow for the planned replacement of the roof on the Colle Building at 85 Avenue A. The Town commissioned a grant-supported assessment of the Colle Building roof in January 2022. The study observed that the synthetic rubber membrane roof, installed circa 2002, was near the end of its useful life, but still functioning. The building has experienced leaks in the past two years and further failures are increasingly likely. The study advised replacement of the roof and the addition of code-compliant insulation. The Colle Building is a Town-owned property that is under lease to the Center for Responsive Schools (60+ employees). Lease revenues exceed expenses and the balance of revenue collected (\$421,600 as of 10/1/22) would be used to fund this project.

Selectboard recommends #-#
Finance Committee recommends 6-0
Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

Article 20: Appointed Town Clerk

This article will allow the change of the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election.

Selectboard recommends #-#

Article 21: Appointed Tax Collector/Treasurer

This article will allow the change of the position of elected Tax Collector/Treasurer to an appointed position; provided, however, that before such a change will take effect, it must be approved by the voters at the 2023 Annual Town Election.

Selectboard recommends #-#

From: [CPF Grants](#)
To: [Steven E. Montague Town Administrator](#)
Subject: Economic Development Initiative- Community Project Funding Recipient Information: B-23-CP-MA-0656 - Town of Montague, Massachusetts
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:01:15 PM

Dear FY2023 Economic Development Initiative/Community Project Funding Constituent:

Congratulations on obtaining EDI Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2023!

The Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus (“omnibus”) contains \$2,982,285,641 in Economic Development Initiative for the purpose of Community Project Funding/Congressionally-directed grants. The FY 2023 grants portfolio will be administered by the Congressional Grants Division of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD refers to these grants as Economic Development Initiative / Community Project Funding (EDI/CPF) grants. More information can be found here: [Division L - THUD Statement FY23.pdf \(senate.gov\)](#) starting on page 165.

To get you started, we have provided information about actions you can take now and additional information on the Federal requirements that govern these grants. Your grant identification number is included in the subject line. Please use that for all future correspondence.

Within approximately 30 days we will send an email to you that provides the Grant Award Letter (GAL) and various grant award materials. The letter outlines the requirements for the award and provides guidance on what forms and documents HUD will need from you to make these funds available to you.

We ask that you be prepared to provide information such as organization’s Authorized Representative and submit the narrative and budget for the entire project. HUD does not receive the application materials that grantees previously sent to Congress; HUD encourages grantees to send this material to HUD as part of the submission of their project narrative and budget for both the grant agreement and environmental review processes.

You will also receive a Grant Agreement and other forms to complete, sign, and submit. Once we receive and verify the information requested in the GAL, we will send you the fully executed Grant Agreement and guidance that you will use to finalize setting up your account in our financial system to access the grant funds. (For a visual of the process, please see Process Flow on page 5.)

EDI/CPF grants are subject to a number of Federal requirements. HUD will provide additional information and further clarification regarding applicable requirements and the grant award process, including in upcoming webinars. The most essential requirements include:

- **Administrative Requirements:** EDI/CPF grants are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR Part 200.
- **Environmental Review Requirements:** EDI/CPF grants, like all projects funded by HUD, are subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD’s NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, and all appropriate federal environmental and historic preservation law, regulation, and Executive Order.
- HUD defines the “Federal Nexus” for a program or project as the event that triggers the requirements for federal environmental review under a host of laws, regulations, and Executive Orders, including the prohibition on choice limiting actions.
- For FY2023 grants, the date of the FY2023 enactment is the date of eligibility for reimbursement for hard and soft costs and the date of the federal nexus for compliance with all environmental laws. Therefore, reimbursable/eligible hard costs can be incurred after enactment, once a full environmental review is completed. (See Process Flow on page 5.)
- Note the following:
 - An environmental review must be completed before HUD funds and new commitments of non-HUD funds can be used on a project.
 - HUD has completed a Part 50 programmatic environmental review covering most soft costs for all FY23 CPF grants. Reimbursable CPF Soft costs covered by HUD’s Part 50 review can be incurred from the date of legislative enactment on December 29, 2022. Taking or entering into new choice-limiting actions are not permitted after enactment of the omnibus until the environmental review process is complete. In addition, HUD will not be able to fund a project where work that occurred after enactment of the appropriations Act has resulted in unmitigable environmental harm.
 - Examples of Choice Limiting Actions include acquisition, leasing, rehabilitation, demolition, new construction, ground disturbance work such as clearing, grading or grubbing, and entering into contracts for these activities. HUD’s prohibition on choice limiting actions can be found at 24 CFR 58.22.
 - Because only “eligible costs” may be reimbursed, the Omnibus does not permit the reimbursement of costs that were not incurred in compliance with Federal environmental law, regulations and Executive Orders.
 - After enactment, grantees **may not** enter into construction contracts or make other choice limiting commitments or actions, including making a commitment of HUD or non-HUD funds to the project, until the environmental review process is complete.
 - The environmental review **must** be performed by a Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58 or by HUD under 24 CFR Part 50 for every project or purpose authorized.
 - Additional information about environmental review compliance will be provided to grantees. In the meantime, basic orientation materials to the HUD environmental review process can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/orientation-to-environmental-reviews/#overview>

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact us at CPFGrants@hud.gov and include your grant identification number and grant year.

HUD looks forward to working with you on this important funding opportunity!

Sincerely,

Robin Keegan
 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
 Community Planning and Development
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



Benchmark		Grantee Action
Actions that you, as the grantee, can take now	Sign up for SAMS	Register at SAM.gov .
	Learn about Crosscutting Requirements	CPF Grants are subject to “cross-cutting” requirements which include, but are not limited to, compliance with environmental review, financial management, fair housing standards, and non-discrimination standards. https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/economic_development_initiative_community_project_funding_grants . More information will be included in the Grant Award Letter.
	Prepare to Initiate Environmental Review	All projects funded by HUD are subject to requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) (24 CFR Part 50 and 24 CFR Part 58.) HUD grantees must not spend ANY project funds, except for soft costs covered by HUD’s Part 50 environmental review, until

Requirements	<p>the project completes a project-specific environmental review, and receives HUD approval, if applicable. Therefore, you are encouraged to commence the environmental review process for your project as soon as possible.</p> <p>The environmental review must be completed by a “Responsible Entity” (RE) as defined at 24 CFR 58.2(7) or by HUD. An RE is the unit of general local government within which the project is located that exercises land use responsibility, or the Indian Tribe or Alaskan Native Village jurisdiction within which the project is located that exercises land use responsibility. In the event that an RE declines to assume responsibility for the environmental review, you must request that HUD complete the environmental review under 24 CFR Part 50.</p> <p>As a clarification, grantees can incur soft costs after enactment, and can reimburse those soft costs after the execution of the grant agreement.</p> <p>Identify your nearest HUD Regional Environmental Officer here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/hud-environmental-staff-contacts/#region-i-regional-and-field-environmental-officers. Further information on the environmental requirements can be found here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/orientation-to-environmental-reviews/#overview.</p> <p>HUD will also be providing trainings on environmental review. HUD has also initiated a technical assistance “Ask A Question” (AAQ) Desk for environmental review to support grantees in navigating the environmental review requirements. You can access the AAQ desk here: https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/</p>
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340 The Bridge Street, Suite 204
 Huntsville, AL 35806
 256-430-3366
www.adsenv.com

ADS Contact
 Matthew Brown | Business Development Manager
 51 Wentworth Ave, Suite 15 | Londonderry, NH 03053
MBrown3@idexcorp.com | 256.656.6385

Montague WPCF
 4 Greenfield Rd,
 Montague, MA 01351

Quote Reference: Montague.AMS.MA23 Date: 1/26/2023 Effective To: 6/30/2023

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Ext. Price
Equipment O&M Visits Each service visit will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Triton+ • 1 ECHO • Rain Alert III 	3	\$3,308.00	\$9,924.00
Monthly CSO Reporting Includes 4 outfalls. Report delivered by 10 th day of each month	12	\$504.00	\$6,048.00
Webhosting and Wireless Communication Telecommunication service and web access for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Triton+ • 1 ECHO • Rain Alert III Covers: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	5	\$480.00	\$2,400.00
CSO Public Notification Yearly Service Fee Lump Sum Invoiced Yearly Assume 0-100 Subscribers	1	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
Total:			\$22,122.00

Items may be taxable in accordance with local tax laws.

Additional Subscribers	
Number of Total Email Subscribers	Total Revised Annual Subscription Fee
101 to 200 email subscribers	\$4,230 per year
201 to 300 email subscribers	\$4,710 per year
301+ email subscribers: Annual subscription fee shall increase by \$480 per 100 users	

NOTES:

- The above prices do not include any special, modified, or custom documentation or manuals that may be required. Standard ADS Environmental Services manuals, appropriate to the flow monitors delivered, are included with the equipment.
- Sale of the above equipment and software is subject to acceptance of ADS Environmental Services Equipment Sale Agreement. Activation of software requires users to execute ADS Environmental Services Software License Agreement.
- These items are controlled by the U.S. Government and authorized for export only to the country of ultimate destination for use by the ultimate consignee or end-user(s) herein identified. They may not be resold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of, to any other country or to any person other than the authorized ultimate consignee or end-user(s), either in their original form or after being incorporated into other items, without first obtaining approval from the U.S. government or as otherwise authorized by U.S. law and regulations.

Client Name:	ADS LLC
_____	_____
Signature	Signature
_____	_____
Printed Name/Title	Printed Name/Title
_____	_____
Date	Date
_____	_____



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ADS Contact
 Matthew Brown | Business Development Manager
 51 Wentworth Ave, Suite 15 | Londonderry, NH 03053
MBrown3@idexcorp.com | 256.656.6385

Steven Ellis
 Montague Town Administrator
 1 Avenue A
 Turners Falls MA 01376
 (413) 863-3200 x110

Quote Reference: Montague.Aqua.MA23
Date: 1.19.2023
Terms: Net 30
Delivery: 30 Days ARO
Effective To: 2.19.2023

Description	Quantity	Unit Retail Price
CSO Public Notification Platform One time Site Setup	1	\$6,250.00
Items may be taxable in accordance with local tax laws.		

Public notification system will be operational within 60 days of signed contract
 The price above provides setup for the public notification system. The subscription will expire on June 30, 2023.

NOTES:

1. **Assumes maximum number of email subscribers less than 100 total subscribers. Additional Subscribers can be accommodated for an additional fee.**
2. The above prices do not include any special, modified, or custom documentation or manuals that may be required. Standard ADS Environmental Services manuals, appropriate to the flow monitors delivered, are included with the equipment.
3. Sale of the above equipment and software is subject to acceptance of ADS Environmental Services Equipment Sale Agreement. Activation of software requires users to execute ADS Environmental Services Software License Agreement.
4. The CSO Public Notification Platform will meet the present requirements of MassDEP CSO notifications in terms of timing and content, as of 1/1/23.
5. These items are controlled by the U.S. Government and authorized for export only to the country of ultimate destination for use by the ultimate consignee or end-user(s) herein identified. They may not be resold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of, to any other country or to any person other than the authorized ultimate consignee or end-user(s), either in their original form or after being incorporated into other items, without first obtaining approval from the U.S. government or as otherwise authorized by U.S. law and regulations.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
January 12, 2023

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1889-085
FirstLight MA Hydro LLC

Project No. 2485-071
Northfield Mountain LLC

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Alan Douglass
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Northfield Mountain LLC and FirstLight MA Hydro LLC
alan.douglass@firstlightpower.com

Reference: Requests to Delay Issuance of Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis

Dear Mr. Douglass,

Northfield Mountain LLC and FirstLight MA Hydro LLC (collectively, the Licensees) filed relicensing applications for the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. 2485 and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889 on April 29, 2016, and amended the applications on December 4, 2020. On December 16, 2020, Commission staff issued procedural schedules that included a target date of May 2021, for the notice that the license applications are ready for environmental analysis (REA notice).

On August 3, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requested that the Commission delay the REA notice until November 12, 2021, to provide time for relicensing participants to negotiate a settlement agreement. On August 5, 2021, the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Licensees filed comments in support of delaying the REA notice. The Licensees stated, in the August 5, 2021 filing, that they were engaging resource agencies and other stakeholders in settlement discussions involving fish passage, streamflow, recreation, and cultural resources. On November 12, 2021, the Licensees filed an update indicating that substantial progress had been made on a settlement. The Licensees stated their intent to file a settlement agreement in June 2022, and requested that the Commission continue to

delay the REA notice. The Licensees subsequently filed updates on January 4 and January 31, 2022, indicating that conceptual agreements had been reached on several issues.

The Licensees filed agreements in principle on whitewater boating releases and recreation improvements on February 28, 2022; and on flow releases, water level management, and fish passage on March 18, 2022. In the March 18 letter, the Licensees stated that they were targeting the summer of 2022 for filing a comprehensive settlement agreement that resolves all relicensing issues.

On July 25, 2022, Commission staff requested an update on the settlement agreement. The Licensees filed the update on August 9, 2022, indicating that substantial progress had been made toward a comprehensive settlement agreement and that an agreement would be filed by December 31, 2022. On October 31, 2022, the Licensees filed an amended agreement in principle on flow releases and fish passage, and reiterated that a settlement agreement would be filed by December 31, 2022.

On January 4, 2023, the Licensees filed an update stating that although a comprehensive settlement agreement has not been reached on all issues, they have finalized a settlement agreement on operations, fish passage, and protected, threatened, and endangered species. The Licensees state that the agreement is being circulated for signature by: Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nature Conservancy. The Licensees commit to filing an update on settlement discussions involving recreation, whitewater boating, cultural resources, and shoreline erosion by March 31, 2023.

To provide time for the licensing participants to finalize the settlement agreement(s), staff will delay the REA notices until May 31, 2023. The Licensees should file any settlement agreement(s) by March 31, 2023, to provide time for the Commission to provide public notice and solicit comments on the agreement(s) prior to issuing the REA notices. We expect the Licensees to file biweekly updates on the settlement discussions until March 31, 2023.

Sincerely,

Vince Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing



Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360
Ph.: (413) 659-4489
Fax: (413) 659-4469
Email: alan.douglass@firstlightpower.com

Alan Douglass
Regulatory Compliance Manager

January 27, 2023

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1889), FirstLight MA Hydro LLC,
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485), Northfield Mountain LLC,
Status Update No. 1 (01/27/23)

Dear Secretary Bose:

On January 4, 2023, FirstLight Power Services LLC (FirstLight), as agent for Northfield Mountain LLC, the current licensee for Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (Northfield Mountain Project, No. 2485-MA) and FirstLight MA Hydro LLC, the current licensee for Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (Turners Falls Project, No. 1889-MA), sent the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) an update on the status of settlement discussions relative to the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects.

On January 12, 2023, the FERC notified FirstLight that a) it will delay issuance of the Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA) notices until May 31, 2023, b) the Licensees should file any settlement agreement(s) by March 31, 2023, to provide FERC time to provide public notice and solicit comments on the agreement(s) prior to issuing the REA notices and c) the Licensees should file with FERC bi-weekly updates on the status of settlement discussions until March 31, 2023.

On January 24, 2023, FirstLight received an emailed letter from a subset of settlement parties, also addressed to Rebecca Tepper, Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts and distributed to a number of Massachusetts political offices, requesting a meeting to discuss the current state of settlement relative to five resource areas including Flows and Fish Passage, Shoreline Erosion, Recreation, Whitewater, and Cultural Resources and the possibility of having a single comprehensive settlement agreement. On January 27, 2023, FirstLight emailed all settlement participants a letter summarizing the state of negotiations relative to the five resource areas. In addition, FirstLight has scheduled a virtual meeting with all settlement participants on February 3, 2023, to discuss the state of settlement and the remaining schedule recognizing FERC's deadline of March 31, 2023, for filing any settlement agreements. If significant progress can be made on February 3rd it may be possible to file a comprehensive settlement agreement by March 31. If significant progress cannot be made, FirstLight will work to file settlement documents on those elements where it has agreement.

Flows and Fish Passage Settlement Agreement

As noted in FirstLight's January 2, 2023, FERC filing, the Flows and Fish Passage Settlement Agreement is being circulated for signature to FirstLight, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and The

Nature Conservancy (TNC). To date, we have received three signature pages while the others work through upper management for signature.

Recreation Settlement Agreement

As noted in FirstLight's February 28, 2022, letter to FERC, an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) was reached relative to recreation improvements at the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects. Following that filing, FirstLight held several meetings with recreation stakeholders to develop a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects. A consensus RMP was circulated to recreation stakeholders in July 2022. FirstLight has drafted, and circulated for review and comment, a Recreation Settlement Agreement with the aim of bringing these issues to final closure.

Turners Falls Impoundment Shoreline Erosion

FirstLight and the stakeholders participating in the Turners Falls Impoundment (TFI) shoreline erosion discussions have held a number of discussions and diligently pursued settlement but have not reached agreement to date.

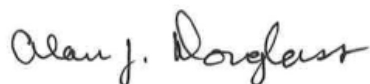
Cultural Resources

On October 31, 2022, FirstLight reported that it and the Nolumbeka Project, Elnu Abenaki and Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians had reached a Memorandum of Understanding in Principle (MOUIP) relative to cultural resources for the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Projects. The parties are continuing to work at obtaining signatures on a final MOUIP.

Whitewater Flows

On February 28, 2022, FirstLight filed an AIP on Whitewater that was signed by FirstLight, Appalachian Mountain Club, American Whitewater, New England FLOW and several commercial whitewater outfitters. There are no further developments to report at this time.

If you have any questions regarding this status update, please feel free to contact me at the telephone number above.



Respectfully,
Alan Douglass
Regulatory Compliance Manager