

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.

(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 the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of 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 for FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Hearing Officer with an annual stipend of \$2,500, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$625 for the prorated annual amount for the remainder of FY23, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(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 way 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; and, further (b) 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 and anything incidental or related thereto, 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 to determine the feasibility for retention and restoration or demolition of the building located thereon, whether partial or total, and anything incidental or related thereto, 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 therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote; or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(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 and equipping a transit van, including the purchase and installation of a charging station and any and all incidental or related costs, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(CWF Request)

Special Town Meeting Warrant: March 2, 2023

**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 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 Request)

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

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Matthew Lord

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Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

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Richard Kuklewicz, Chairman  
Selectmen, Town of Montague

Franklin, ss    Montague, MA    February \_\_\_\_, 2023

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.

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Constable of Montague

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

## MOTIONS

**ARTICLE 1: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of preparing a section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Cemetery Commission Request)

**ARTICLE 2: MOVED:** That the Town vote to establish a special purpose Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and further to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B and pursuant to such acceptance to allocate 100 percent of the First Light easement payments to said Canal District Utility Improvements Stabilization Fund, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 3: MOVED:** That the Town vote to change the name of the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund to the CWF Capital Stabilization Fund.

(Clean Water Facility Request)

**ARTICLE 4: MOVED:** That the Town 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.

(Town Accountant Request)

**ARTICLE 5: MOVED:** That the Town vote to authorize the Trustee of the OPEB Fund established under G.L. c. 32B, § 20 to employ reputable and knowledgeable investment consultants to assist in determining appropriate investments and pay for those services from the OPEB Fund.

(Town Accountant Request)

**ARTICLE 6: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of supplementing the FY23 Reserve Fund Budget, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Finance Committee Request)

**ARTICLE 7: MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of Great Falls Farmers Market Manager with an annual stipend of \$4,000.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 8: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of funding a budget for the Great Falls Farmers Market for FY23, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 9: MOVED:** That the Town vote to amend the vote taken pursuant to Article 8 at the May 7, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Schedule II Appointed Officials, to add the position of establish a Hearing Officer, with an annual stipend of \$2,500, and appropriate \$625 for the prorated annual amount for the remainder of FY23, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Building Inspector Request)

**ARTICLE 10: MOVED:** That the Town 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 way 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; and, further (b) 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.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 11: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the purpose of sealing the concrete surface of the Unity Skatepark and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Parks and Recreation Request)

**ARTICLE 12: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of conducting a formal evaluation of what is known as "the Blacksmith Shop", located at 12 Station Street, Map 43, Lot 119 in Montague Center, to determine the feasibility for retention

and restoration or demolition of the building located thereon, whether partial or total, and anything incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raise from Free Cash.

(Parks and Recreation Request)

**ARTICLE 13: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,250, 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, said sum to be raised from the remaining balance of Article #27 of the May 6, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated funds for a Libraries Building Study.

(Library Request)

**ARTICLE 14: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 for the purpose of replacing the Clean Water Facility Screw Pumps, including any and all incidental or related costs, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute any such documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

(CWF Request)

**ARTICLE 15: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$68,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a transit van, including the purchase and installation of a charging station, and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from CWF Retained Earnings.

(CWF Request)

**ARTICLE 16: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a pickup truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(DPW Request)

**ARTICLE 17: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a one-ton dump truck with plow and sander, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(DPW Request)

**ARTICLE 18: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$52,500 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, said sum to be raised from Free Cash.

(Building, Assessing, and Health Departments Request)

Special Town Meeting Motions: March 2, 2023



**ARTICLE 19: MOVED:** That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$230,000 for the purpose of replacing the roof of the Colle building, located at 85 Avenue A, including any and all incidental or related costs, said sum to be raised from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 20:** That the Town 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.

(Selectboard Request)

**ARTICLE 21:** That the Town 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.

(Selectboard Request)

**Town of Montague**  
**March 3, 2023 Special Town Meeting**  
**Background Information**

**Article 1: Green Burial Area at Highland Cemetery**

The Cemetery Commission is requesting an appropriation for \$10,000 to prepare the wooded section of the Highland Cemetery for green burials. Creation of this space is consistent with the intent of the Commission when they recommended that the Town assume control of the formerly private cemetery last year. This will include dead tree removal and chipping, area cleanup, debris removal and the creation of walking trails. This appropriation will enable the project to be completed more efficiently and cost effectively than stretching the work out over several years through the operating budget.

Selectboard recommends 3-0  
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

**Article 2: Canal District Stabilization Fund**

FirstLight recently paid the Town \$250,000 to support utility improvements in the Canal District. This may include but is not limited to water, sewer, gas or electricity lines, or related work. This was required by an agreement related to an exchange of easements in that area related to the Strathmore Footbridge. Establishing a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund is a DOR-recommended approach to segregating these funds and ensuring they are used for the intended purpose.

This article will create the Canal District Stabilization Fund. While no further payments are anticipated, if any were provided they would be automatically deposited into this fund without further Town Meeting action. In this instance, because the funds were received in FY23 and this fund was not established prior to July 1, 2022, the \$250,000 will actually flow into Free Cash and will need to be formally transferred through a vote of the STM in Fall 2023.

Selectboard recommends 3-0  
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

**Article 3: Change Name of 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 3-0

**Articles 4 and 5: OPEB Trust Fund**

Montague’s Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund was established in 2015, a year before the Legislature adopted a statute governing such funds. So now, in order to avoid annual Management Letter comments in our audit, we need to approve these articles per those later statutes. This action will not materially change the nature or management of our OPEB Trust Fund. Note that the trustee of this fund is the Montague Treasurer.

Selectboard recommends 3-0

**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 the two boilers had completely failed, with the other on its last legs. At the time of this transfer, Town Hall had recently lost heat on three or four occasions. The boilers were professionally evaluated and found to require emergency replacement. The intention at the time was to replenish the Reserve Fund at the next Special Town Meeting and that is the purpose of this motion.

Selectboard recommends 3-0

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 Market used the town’s Tax Identification Number for its bank account, it was never under the Town’s management and accounting. The market struggled to raise enough funding through receipts and grants to cover a stipend for its volunteer Manager. Acknowledging the benefits the Market provides to residents and farmers, the Selectboard recommends that it be institutionalized as a department in the town budget, with annual stipend for the Manager of \$4,000 per year. The FY24 budget is currently proposed to include this stipend amount and to include \$1,000 for advertising and other direct expenses.

Selectboard recommends 3-0

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 current fiscal year, providing 50% of both the Manager’s stipend and expenses. This acknowledges that the Market will begin activity in the coming months in preparation for the Market’s operating season from May through October.

Selectboard recommends 3-0  
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

**Article 9: Building and Fire Code Hearing Officer**

In Massachusetts, Building Departments and Fire Departments have the need and ability to write tickets for certain building code and fire code violations. This is well known to improve compliance and thereby address public safety concerns. In order to make use of ticketing, a municipality must appoint a Hearings Officer to handle any appeals to issued tickets. Implementing this position will help municipal and fire district officials gain compliance with building and fire code violations at problem properties, as an alternative to going to court.

This article would establish an annual stipend of \$2,500 for the Hearing Officer and budget 25% of that amount for the last 3 months of FY2023. This minimum stipend amount is established in the statute.

Selectboard recommends 3-0  
Finance Committee recommends 6-0

**Article 10: South Street Bridge Replacement - Easements**

This article would 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 3-0

### **Article 11: Sealing of the Unity Park Skatepark**

The Unity Park Skatepark was constructed in 2016 and needs to be cleaned and re-sealed to mitigate water absorption and degradation due to frost/thaw cycles and help maintain a skateable surface. This article would provide funds to support a thorough cleaning of its surface and application of a waterproof sealing agent to the concrete surface. This is recommended practice as concrete is porous and absorbs moisture. Applying a waterproof sealing agent will help maintain surface integrity. This is a scheduled maintenance activity.

Selectboard recommends 3-0

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 Parks & Recreation Department is spearheading a comprehensive park refurbishment project that includes improvements to the playground, ballfield, and access points throughout the park area. The Department and project planning committee feel that formalized parking is essential to the park, and the area where the blacksmith shop is situated seems to be an ideal location. However, both the committee and the Montague Historical Commission wish to execute a formal evaluation of the building that will help determine the proper course of action relative to this plan. 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 3-0

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

**Article 13: Main Branch Library Building Planning**

The Montague Public Libraries is requesting to redirect \$35,250 from an unspent 2017 building assessment article for the purpose of advancing planning for construction of a new main branch 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 would potentially provide 40-50% of construction and design costs a library construction project. The funds will be used to hire a consultant to develop a Library Program Plan and to assist with application to the MPLC Program. Any remaining funds will help advance additional design work once the project is accepted into the Program.

Selectboard recommends 3-0

Finance Committee recommends 6-0

Capital Improvement Committee recommends 3-0

**Article 14: CWF Screw Pump Replacement**

This article will support the Screw Pump Replacement Project at the Clean Water Facility. The Archimedes-style screw pumps are a critical feature of the plant, as they pump wastewater entering at the lower end of the facility to the upper end for treatment. Installed in 2002, The current Internalift screw pumps, are at the end of their 20-year expected life. Related work is required in this rehab cycle including rehabilitation of the wet well, and replacement of HVAC components and controls. Delaying replacement risks catastrophic failure to the plant, requiring emergency response and very 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 with the intention of offsetting the projected loan cost. The grant 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 3-0

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 at the CWF.

Selectboard recommends 3-0  
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 3-0  
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 3-0  
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. Presently, inspectors must use personal vehicles, which has been a point of concern for some years. 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 at Town Hall. There is an adequate appropriation remaining to cover insurance and fuel costs for FY23, so no other budget adjustments are requested.

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

**Article 19: Colle Building Roof Replacement**

This article would fund the planned replacement of the roof on the Colle Building at 85 Avenue A. The Town obtained 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 in the center of Turners Falls that is under lease to the Center for Responsive Schools (60+ employees). Building lease revenue exceeds expenses and is used to support ongoing capital and other costs. Excess revenue is saved in the Colle Building Reserve Fund, which is the source of funding for this project. The balance in that account was \$451,600 as of 2/1/23.

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

**Article 20: Appointed Town Clerk**

This article would change the Montague Town Clerk from an elected position 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.

Town Clerk Recommends  
Selectboard - Vote Pending

**Article 21: Appointed Tax Collector/Treasurer**

This article would change the Montague Tax Collector/Treasurer from an elected position 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.

Treasurer/Collector Recommends  
Selectboard - Vote Pending