

Fiscal Year 2017 Narrative

Department: 491

1. What do you want the Selectmen, Finance Committee and public know about what you've done in Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 (to date)?

Six of Montague's seven cemeteries are inactive. Old South Cemetery has some space for cremated remains but otherwise we are without a town cemetery. I've approached the Board of Health about this issue and the suggestion for opening a new cemetery. While the private Montague cemeteries do have space, my understanding from the Mass General Law is that the town should have its own cemetery for burying residents.

I am also reviewing the rules and regulations of the Montague Cemetery Commission to update information, as it hasn't been revised since it was adopted in 2001.

2. Please explain any significant changes in your budget for Fiscal Year 2017, including any staff changes (if that impacts your budget).

Mike Fleming is our caretaker and handles all of the mowing and spring and fall clean up for six cemeteries. He hasn't had an increase in four years and is raising his rates. I am requesting an additional \$1,000 to cover his costs.

3. Is there anything specific or new that you plan to accomplish in Fiscal Year 2017 with the level-services budget you've requested?

4. Is there anything you'd like to ADD to your level-services budget for Fiscal Year 2017? If so, describe what it is, what it would cost, and the benefit to the town.

5. What are your plans for improvements and projects for the next five years?

I would like to identify funding for the repair of headstones, especially in Old South Cemetery. My understanding is that there may be town funding available for this type of work. I don't know the extent of the work or the cost but I do think it is something that we should start to explore – even for FY' 18.