

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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**FRANKLIN, SS.**

**TOWN OF GILL**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 9, 2011**

To any of the Constables of the Town of Gill 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 said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Gill Town Hall in said Town on Monday, the Ninth day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Eleven (5/9/2011) at 7:00 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

**Article 1:** To hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 2:** To elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2012 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following revolving funds per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which revenues will be deposited into the funds and expended to pay related costs under the authorization of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed below, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year, or take any action relative thereto:

<b>Dept. Authorized to Spend</b>	<b>Types of Receipts Credited</b>	<b>Program/Purpose for which Funds may be Expended</b>	<b>Amount of Funds Authorized</b>
Fire Dept.	Oil Burner Inspection Fees	Inspector & Etc.	\$2,000.00
Town Clerk	Dog Fees	Licenses & Etc.	2,000.00
Cemetery Commission	Opening Fees	Cemeteries & Caretaking	2,000.00
Conservation Commission	Consultant Fees	Project Review	10,000.00
Agricultural Commission	Farmers' Market & Ag Event Fees	Ag Programs	500.00
Energy Commission	Workshop and Program Fees	Energy Programs	1,000.00

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Riverside Municipal Building Use Study Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to amend that paragraph of the Town's Dog Control bylaw that references late fees, to read that "An additional late fee of \$10.00 shall be assessed for every dog whose owner fails to properly license his dog by April 1 of any year.", or take any action relative thereto. (Simple majority required)

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Town's Agricultural Commission bylaw, to read "The Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the Moderator, of which the majority of the membership shall be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture.", and further add to the fourth paragraph the sentence "The Moderator shall appoint additional members to initial

terms of one, two, or three years and three thereafter, in such a way as no more than three members' terms expire in any given year.", or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following **Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market**, or take any action relative thereto:

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry; and

Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Gill in Franklin County have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake; and

Whereas, Gill's residential and business consumers are interested in reducing their electricity rates;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Town Meeting of Gill grant the Board of Selectmen authority to develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities through the Hampshire Council of Governments. If such contracts are to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose any alternative service they desire; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Selectmen will appoint a representative for a committee to oversee such joint action.

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$
Selectboard Chair	\$
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each	\$
Board of Assessors Chair	\$
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each	\$
Board of Health Chair	\$
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each	\$
Town Clerk	\$
Tax Collector	\$
From Sewer Receipts	\$
Treasurer	\$
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$
Town Clerk	\$

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Building Inspector Assessment Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the Fiscal Year 2012 assessment for the Cooperative Inspection Program, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to transfer money out of Stabilization.)

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from the Education Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 operating assessment and any sum or sums of

money for its Fiscal Year 2012 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to transfer money out of stabilization.)

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 operating assessment and any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay Veterans' Benefits, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money in addition to that provided in the Omnibus Budget to be used for the salaries of part-time police officers, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to fund the first year of a three year lease-to-own schedule for the purchase of a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to create a Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding any capital-related project, or pieces of capital equipment, or debt-service payment related thereto, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or take other action relative thereto.

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to fund the Capital Stabilization Fund, this sum contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ Override as allowed under MGL c. 40 §5B. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install replacement interior doors and locksets for the Gill Elementary School, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money to improve the foundation drainage at the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from Sewer Use Fees to the Riverside Sewer System account to offset Fiscal Year 2012 sewer expenses and to pay the Tax Collector as related to collecting sewer fees, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward a portion of the cost of a future appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for the Board of Assessors' Triennial Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay Temporary Loan Interest for short-term borrowing relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto. (A simple majority is needed; voters have already authorized borrowing money for this purpose.)

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the repair and/or replacement of the well and/or water system components at the Gill Elementary School, including borrowing for the repair and replacement and costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

**Article 30:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2012, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 31:** To see if the Town will vote to approve that, upon exceeding the levy limit, any monies appropriated that exceed the levy limit may be contingent upon the approval by the voters of an "Override of Proposition 2 1/2," or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 2.F.5.d of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws by adding the following language to the existing paragraph: "Signs in excess of ten (10) feet in height but not more than twenty (20) feet in height may be allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals as outlined in F.1 above." or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to amend zoning bylaws.)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

And, you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; The Gill Store & Tavern, Main Road; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, in said Town seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.

Given under our hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year Two Thousand Eleven (4/27/2011).

Selectboard of Gill

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_, Board member

\_\_\_\_\_, Board member

A true copy Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals who may need auxiliary aids for effective communication for this meeting should call the Gill Town Hall at (413) 863-9347 or MA Relay System at (800) 439-2370.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Gill by posting up attested copies of the same at Town Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; Gill Store & Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, seven days before the date hereof, as within directed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Constable of Gill

Date: \_\_\_\_\_