

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2009

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present

Ann Banash, John Ward, Nancy Griswold, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Town Administrator; Claire Chang and Timmie Smith, Finance Committee members; Ray Purington, Assessor; Paul Nowill, Personnel Committee member.

Goal-Setting

Ray presented results from the goal-setting retreat the Board held on July 15. He recommended reviewing the list of goals less often than monthly, but more often than annually. He also recommended assigning a “champion” to each goal—someone responsible for making sure it gets done.

The Board discussed the best way to obtain public comment on the list. It instructed Tracy to put the documents on the website and ask people to submit comments by the Board’s next meeting on August 17. It also instructed Tracy to allow ten minutes during the August 17 meeting for public comments and to set aside thirty minutes for Board members to discuss the list amongst themselves.

Review Minutes

John made a motion to accept minutes from its July 16 and 20 meetings as written. Nancy seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

GASB45

Tracy recommended the Board follow through on the GASB45 actuarial study that Town Meeting appropriated funds for. Though the study isn’t required, it is strongly recommended, especially if the Town is trying to be proactive in providing for its future financial liabilities. Nancy made a motion to conduct the study. John seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Green Communities Technical Assistance Planning Grant

Tracy presented more details on the Green Communities Technical Assistance Planning Grant to the Board. She explained that while the Town currently does not meet any of the five criteria that would make the application stronger, it is close to meeting two of them. The Board voted unanimously to pursue the grant and members signed a letter of commitment stating that the Town will meet the five criteria within a year if awarded the grant.

Energy Committee

Another criterion that would make the application for the Green Communities grant stronger is to have a town energy committee. Ann asked John if he'd like to spearhead the formation of such a committee, to which John agreed. The Board instructed Tracy to place an article on the special town meeting warrant to form an energy committee.

Ray and Anna Steele joined the meeting.

Vehicles

Tracy reported that the 1989 surplus dump truck was sold for \$2,000 last week.

She also reported that Police Chief Hastings is exploring the Cash for Clunkers program as a way to replace an aging cruiser. He would like to trade in the white Chevy Blazer that the Highway Department currently uses to purchase a new Ford Taurus cruiser. The Ford Explorer the Chief currently drives would then become a Highway Dept. vehicle, available for the Police Department to use when 4-wheel drive is necessary. The Board asked to have the Chief meet with them before making any final decisions.

Quintus Allen Funds

Ann read aloud a request from the Gill Montague Regional School District Superintendent to access \$7,500 of Quintus Allen funds to upgrade an electrical panel at Gill Elementary School. John suggested asking the District to have an energy audit conducted to see if there might be ways for the School to conserve electricity and to have them create a policy requiring computers to be shut off when not in use, to use power strips, etc.

Tracy questioned whether Town Meeting would have to approve the request. The Board instructed her to research the answer. Nancy made a motion to approve the request. John seconded the motion. Ann recommended amending the motion to include the words "as long as no Town Meeting approval is necessary, otherwise the motion will be placed on the special town meeting warrant." The Board passed the amended motion with a unanimous vote.

Revised Dispatch Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Tracy presented a revised memorandum of understanding between the Town and the State Police to provide dispatch services. The only change from the previous MOU was paragraph 14, which states that "in the event the Department is confronted with budget reductions...the Department reserves its right to limit communication service to emergency voice communication for the police, fire, EMS and related emergency services." Tracy reported that she contacted the State Police to see what that meant for Gill. She was told that some communities use Dispatch for their highway departments as well and that kind of service would be eliminated if necessary. Since Gill only uses Dispatch for emergency communication anyway, there should be no effect if paragraph 14 was invoked. The Board voted unanimously to authorize Ann to sign the MOU.

Fire Department Purchase Order

Tracy presented a purchase order request from the Fire Dept. to perform annual service on the breathing air compressor for a total of \$650. The Board approved.

Agricultural Commission Donation

Tracy reported that the farmers' market on August 2 went well and the Agricultural Commission collected \$70 in donations to pay for "agriships." Nancy made a motion to accept the donation. John seconded the donation and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Payroll and Bill Warrants

The Board approved payroll and bill warrant number 3.

Mariamante

The following people joined the meeting: David Detmold, David Brule, Montague Reporter; Jeff Tirrell, WHAI/WPVQ/WHMP Radio; Joe Graveline, interested party; Stuart Elliott, Gill Historical Commission; Liz Gardner, Aaron LaPointe, Beverly Demars, Ivan Ussach, Kathy Litchfield, residents of Gill; Don Clegg, John Duda, MCTV; Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Gill Town Clerk; Doug Harris, Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office; Elizabeth Perry, Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah); Howard Clark, The Nolumbeka Project.

Doug Harris made a presentation. He reported that the lack of reference to the spokes burial on the site is the greatest shortcoming in the UMass archaeological report. He wonders if the history of the property was adequately researched. The report uses neutral language, which allows the reader to read into it what they will. The report should point out what is significant, not leave it up to the reader to determine.

He indicated a preference to put a call out for remains that have been removed and placed in private and public collections to be returned to the site. Perhaps panels could be erected showing the history of the site.

He offered to assist the Town in finding grant sources that would allow the tribes to purchase the land for preservation. Such sources might include the Trust for Public Lands or the Nature Conservancy. He offered to contact the Trust for Public Lands.

Ann recommended forming a committee of concerned citizens and the Selectboard to explore a partnership with the tribes. However, she also stated that the Town needs to proceed on a parallel course and maintain its progress with considering development and all other options. She suggested a meeting with the tribes again in mid-September.

Howard Clark began commenting on the report. Ann asked him instead to submit his comments in writing.

Special Town Meeting Date

The Board agreed to table discussion on setting a date for the special town meeting until its August 17 meeting.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Town Administrator.

John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk