

# TOWN OF GILL

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



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## SELECTBOARD/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2009

### Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

### Present

Ann Banash, John Ward, Nancy Griswold, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Town Administrator; Claire Chang, Chris Collins, Leland Stevens, Timmie Smith, Ronnie LaChance, Jim Poulsen, Alden Booth (arrived late), Finance Committee members.

### Absent

Tupper Brown, Joe Williams, Finance Committee members.

### Special Town Meeting Warrant

Article 1: Timmie questioned whether, if challenged, the moderator would be allowed to take a count on a 2/3 vote. Tracy reported that the statute states that if seven people challenge the voice vote, the moderator must take a count; otherwise, it's the moderator's decision. Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Article 2: Claire questioned how much the article would leave in the dog fund. Tracy reported approximately \$3,300 would be left. Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Article 3: Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Alden joined the meeting.

Article 4: Jim volunteered to help get the Recreation Commission books in order. Both groups agreed that a stipulation should be added that any fundraising effort goes first to reimburse the Town.

*Addendum: It is unclear whether there is a mechanism for this to happen, therefore, the warrant does not include language to this effect. It will be part of the motion made during the meeting, if it is determined to be legal.*

Article 4.5: A proposal was made to insert an additional article to provide FY10 funds for the Recreation Committee. Both groups thought it best to add conditions to such an article as follows:

1. An FY2010 budget, itemized per activity and per revenue source, must be presented to the Selectboard by October 31, 2009,
2. An FY2011 budget, itemized per activity and per revenue source, must be presented to the Selectboard by February 1, 2010, and
3. The Committee must present a report of revenues and expenses per activity within 30 days following conclusion of each activity.

Both groups agreed to the new article with the conditions.

Article 5: Both groups were ok with article as worded. There was a question as to whether the Schuetzen Verein pays meals taxes. Tracy will research.

Article 6: Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Article 7: Both groups were ok with article as worded. Timmie questioned whether it was a conflict of interest for John to head up the Energy Commission. John replied that he will not serve on the Commission, he's only recruiting members to serve on it.

Article 8: Both groups were ok with article as worded. Claire suggested explaining in the italicized comments on the motions handed out at town meeting that the next town report will cover six months, January through June 2009.

Article 9: Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Article 10: Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Article 11: Both groups were ok with article as worded.

Chris made the suggestion of tying article 5 directly into stabilization, meaning that any meals taxes collected would go directly into stabilization for the permanent future. Tracy questioned whether this was good accounting practice, since you normally use recurring revenues to pay recurring expenses and one-time revenues to fund stabilization. Claire questioned how difficult it might be to track exactly how much of the Town's state aid came from the meals tax as opposed to general state aid. Many members of both groups expressed support for the idea. The groups decided not to write the idea into the article, but perhaps to bring it up in the motion after people had had more time to think and discuss the idea.

#### Professional Development

Timmie raised the issue of professional development funds for Tracy to become a certified public procurement officer, for a total of \$1,200. She made a motion to add an article to the special town meeting warrant to "enhance the town administrator's

professional development line by \$1,200 to allow her to take necessary courses to become a certified public procurement officer.” Lee seconded the motion.

Chris raised the issue of the Selectboard having no funds to attend the MMA conference in Boston. If funds were given to Tracy for the PPO course, that opens a whole can of worms related to professional development funds.

Ann reported that Tracy was getting paid work time to attend the PPO course. Perhaps it should be revisited next year. Perhaps, also, the Personnel Committee should discuss the issue.

Alden left the meeting.

Timmie pointed out that the Town may be on the hook for legal fees down the road if anything should go wrong with a procurement because Tracy didn't have the proper training.

The Finance Committee voted 5 to 1 to defeat the motion. Ronnie left the meeting.

Article 12: Both groups were ok with article as worded.

#### Local Receipts

Tracy explained that, after talking with the accountant, she reduced the estimated receipts for motor vehicle excise taxes and investment income. This reduces the amount available to transfer into stabilization to \$6,811.03.

#### Gill Elementary School Plumbing Work

Tracy reported that there is some plumbing work that needs to happen at Gill Elementary School in order for them to be DEP compliant. The current estimate is \$4,453. Lynn Bassett will come to the Selectboard's 8/31 meeting to explain the full situation. Tracy asked whether another article should be added to the warrant to fund this item, or whether it should come out of the \$18,000 set aside for maintenance on town buildings. Both groups agreed to take it out of the building maintenance account.

Jim left the meeting.

#### District Meeting Date

Tracy reported that the Superintendent has proposed a district meeting date of 9/24. Both groups agreed that date was fine.

#### Jeff Singleton's Request to Meet

Ann explained that Jeff had requested to meet with the Board regarding the letter it sent asking for a district meeting to be scheduled quickly. Since Jeff's request, Tupper had suggested to him to instead create a political action committee to advocate his ideas. This seemed acceptable to Jeff and it no longer seems like a meeting with him is necessary.

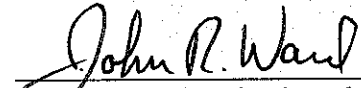
Yom Kippur

Ann asked if anyone on the Selectboard had an issue meeting on their next scheduled meeting date, 9/14, which is Yom Kippur. No one on the Board had an issue, so the meeting will go on as scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

The Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 6:09 p.m. The Selectboard remained behind so that Tracy could amend the warrant for town meeting as discussed and sign it. The Selectboard then adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Town Administrator.*

  
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John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk