

**TOWN OF GILL**  
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*February 1, 2010*

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present

Ann Banash, Nancy Griswold, and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nancy, seconded by John, to approve the minutes from 1/19 and 1/26. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Financial Audit

Ray reported that Scanlon & Associates anticipates a mid-April start to the financial audit. The Board expressed a desire to have the audit completed by mid-May.

Tax Rate & Tax Bills

Tax bills for the second half of FY2010 have been mailed, and are due April 1. The bills reflect the \$13.71/thousand tax rate that was approved by DOR.

Bucket Truck

The bucket truck was purchased by Northfield for \$3,200, and is expected to be trailered to Franklin County this week. Gill will ask Raymond Repair of Bernardston to inspect the vehicle, and if it's in good condition, we will reimburse Northfield for our half.

"Stretch" Building Code

John reported on Stretch Building Code seminar that he attended on January 21. It was explained that there is a local option available for towns to adopt this Stretch Code, which would require new construction and major renovation projects to build to greater levels of energy efficiency than mandated by current building codes. After a public hearing is held, a town may adopt the Stretch Code by a majority vote of Town Meeting. Ray was asked to contact Jim Barry of DOER and get language for a warrant article.

Police Commendation – Sergeant Redmond

Ann read a commendation awarded to Gill Police Sergeant Christopher Redmond and Bernardston's Chief James Palmeri. The commendation, which was featured in a Recorder newspaper article, was presented by the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association, and recognized the officers for their investigative skills and diligence in solving numerous breaking & entering cases from September and October 2009. Nancy stated that Gill is "very, very proud

of Chris and his work.” It was pointed out that this is yet another example of regionalization done informally, cooperatively, and successfully. The Board asked that a letter be written thanking Chris for his outstanding work on this investigation and his continual hard work and dedication to providing excellent police services to the citizens of Gill.

#### WMECO Bridge/Street Lighting Audit

Ray reported results from a 2009 WMECO audit of Gill’s bridge and street lights. Once the Town reviews the audit and accepts the findings, it is anticipated the annual lighting cost will increase by \$75. Gill’s annual budget is approximately \$6,000 for 3 bridge lights, 44 streetlights, and 4 floodlights.

#### Annual Conference for Municipal Officials

Senator Rosenberg’s annual conference for municipal officials is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 1:00 at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton. All three members of the Board asked to be registered for the event, and requested that the announcement of the meeting be sent to members of the Finance and School Committees, plus other committees as may be appropriate depending on the topics of the conference.

#### Purchase Order - Tires

The Board signed a purchase order for up to \$1,000 to purchase and mount two used tires (\$350 each) on the Highway Department’s front-end loader. One tire had already failed and a second was near failure. The tires have already been replaced by Pete’s Tire Barn; the signed purchase order will allow the invoice to be paid.

#### Fee Schedule for Liquor Licenses

Ray presented a revised fee schedule for liquor licenses that adds the new category of “Club with Seasonal Restaurant”, with an annual fee of \$990. This category would meet the needs of organizations like the Schuetzen Verein Association, which is a social club but also rents its facilities for public use. John made a motion, seconded by Nancy, to adopt the revised Board of Selectmen Fee Schedule with an effective date of February 2, 2010. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

#### FY11 Fuel Oil Lock-In

Ray explained that it is again time to sign a purchase agreement for the FY11 supply of fuel oil to heat the Town’s four buildings. He recommended using the bid results obtained by the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC). The Town is paying \$1.8181/gallon this year; LPVEC’s buyer is projecting \$2.15/gallon for next year. It was discussed that the Town should only lock in 60-80% of its estimated usage, to avoid committing for too many gallons in the event of a mild winter and in expectation of reduced fuel consumption due to energy efficiency improvements that hopefully will be made to the buildings and heating systems.

Nancy made a motion, seconded by John, that Paul Schroeder of the LPVEC be appointed as the Town’s agent for locking in the Town’s fuel oil purchases for FY11, at an estimated price of \$2.15/gallon, and further that the Town lock in only enough gallons to meet 70% of the estimated usage, and further that Ann be authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of the Town. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and Ann signed the agreements.

Ray will present the recommended number of gallons at the meeting on 2/17, so long as Mr. Schroeder feels the delay won't cause the Town to miss an opportunity at a lower price.

MRF July-December 2009 Revenue

Ray reported that Gill's revenue share for recyclables sent to the MRF in Springfield was \$1,626.04. This amount is held in escrow by the FCSWMD, and is used to partially fund the Town's assessment from the district.

Moderator Appointments

Moderator Ray Steele has appointed Bill Burnham to the Agricultural Commission and Colleen Sculley to the Finance Committee.

Business Sign Complaint

Ray reported that he received a complaint from a resident regarding the size and number of signs at Green River Honda on Main Road. The Board referred the matter to the Building Inspector, who is the enforcement officer for the Town's Zoning Bylaws.

Franklin Regional Retirement Board – COLA Meeting

A notice was received that the retirement board is meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to vote on adopting a 3% COLA on the first \$12,000 of each retiree's pension.

Disclosure of Financial Interest

Nancy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve Ray's special municipal employee form that discloses the various paid, unpaid, stipend, elected, and appointed positions he holds for the Town. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The form will be filed with the Town Clerk.

Comcast Form 500 for 2009

The Board reviewed an annual filing for 2009 by Comcast reporting the number of customer issues within Gill, and Comcast's response times. There were 6 complaints, and all were resolved in 1-3 days.

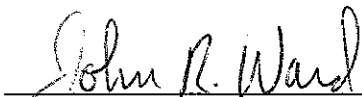
Warrant #16

The Board reviewed and signed Warrant #16.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by John Ward*

  
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John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk