

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES May 20, 2010

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Selectboard: Ann Banash, Randy Crochier and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Finance Committee: Claire Chang, Tupper Brown, Ronnie LaChance, Timmie Smith, Lee Stevens, Alden Booth

Budget Discussions: The discussions resumed from the 5/19 meeting using the meeting agenda and its numbered list of 13 budget related topics.

Item 4 – Personnel: It was noted that Ronnie cannot take part in discussions or votes related to the positions of Tax Collector and Treasurer.

The positions of Town Clerk and Tax Collector will be on the Election Ballot in May 2011. The Treasurer was just re-elected earlier this week during the 5/17/2010 town election. The Town Clerk's current salary is \$11,150.54, which would place it in the range of Grade 2/3 on the town's wage scale. The Town Clerk has requested the salary be raised to \$22,768.23, which equates to Grade 7, Step A.

The Tax Collector's current salary is \$16,121.80 (approximately a Grade 4), and the Tax Collector has requested the salary be raised to \$22,768.23, which equates to Grade 7, Step A. The Treasurer's current salary is \$13,851.34 (approximately a Grade 3), and the Treasurer has requested the salary be raised to \$22,768.23, which equates to Grade 7, Step A.

Based on opinions expressed, those present were generally supportive of salary increases for the three positions, if there is money available in the FY11 budget. There was not agreement on the amount of the increases.

For the Highway Superintendent, a number of people praised his performance, hard work, and dedication to the Town. While there seemed to be support for moving the position from a Grade 7 to a Grade 8 if money allows, this appeared to be a lower priority item.

Earlier in the year the Personnel Committee recommended that employees receive a 3% COLA increase. Opinions were offered in favor and against, with the only conclusion being this is a difficult topic to decide, and that there is disagreement on the issue among those present. Stipends for elected officials (Selectboard, Board of Assessors, and Board of Health) also received discussion, primarily on the amounts Gill pays in comparison to other towns.

A proposal to change the pay Grade of the Administrative Assistant/Town Administrator position was referred to the Selectboard, and will be on their agenda for their May 25th meeting.

Item 5 – Police Needs: Agenda items 5a-5f were discussed. Ray was asked to find out how much grant money has been used for equipment purchases during the past 5-7 years. With grant money exhausted, this information is necessary in order to determine a reasonable amount to budget each year for equipment replacement.

Item 6 – Fire Needs: It was noted that \$13,000 is a high-end estimate for the cost of a brush truck insert and/or conversion kit. The Fire Chief is still trying to get estimates for the cost to retrofit the air packs to be capable of “buddy breathing”.

Item 7 – Highway Needs: The highway truck needs a new/used dump body and sub-frame, not just the “body” listed on the agenda. The approximate cost is still \$10,000.

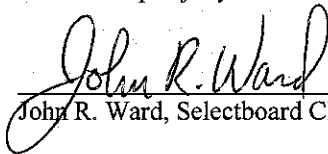
Item 9 – Capital Planning Committee: Ray provided notes that Tracy compiled two years ago when the formation of a capital planning committee was last considered. There is general support for passing the bylaw to establish the committee. It was suggested that the bylaw could include a section that explains the qualities that are being looked for in potential members of the committee, for instance, an interest in capital planning.

For the next meeting, it was asked to have available the tax rate impact for each \$1,000 of expenses. It was also asked to have a comparison of Gill’s tax rate to that of surrounding communities.

The next budget meeting was scheduled was Monday, May 24th at 6:30 p.m. The Selectboard meeting will be held on May 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk

Claire Chang, Finance Committee Secretary