

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

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

Others Present: Rick James and Police Chief David Hastings

Executive Session: John announced that the Selectboard would be going into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices. The meeting will reconvene in open session afterwards. A roll call vote was held, and Ann, Randy, and John all voted in favor of going into Executive Session.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:12pm. David Detmold joined the meeting; Chief Hastings left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the minutes from 1/31. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Vermont Yankee Letter: The Board reviewed the final draft of their letter concerning the effects of the scheduled closure of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant, first discussed at the 1/31 meeting. It was discussed whether the Board would sign a letter that outlined benefits and reasons to renew the license for the plant. It was pointed out that Town Meeting several years ago voted unanimously to support the closure of VY. Also, regardless of the political views of the Safe and Green Campaign that proposed this letter, the points raised in the letter are valid. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to sign the letter. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and the letter was signed.

Green Burial Letter: The Board reviewed their letter to the Gill Cemetery Commission in support of green burials as an option for Gill's cemeteries. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to sign the letter. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and the letter was signed.

Date for Annual Town Meeting: The Board discussed possible dates for the 2011 Annual Town Meeting. In August the Board had opened the possibility of holding ATM on a Saturday, in response to requests from residents. There was consensus among the Board that ATM could be opened on a Monday night this May to vote on the routine and non-money articles. The budget and money articles would be continued to a date in June, possibly a Saturday. Ray will include an article in the April newsletter asking residents to weigh in on the weeknight/weekend issue. Town elections are Monday, May 16th, so May 9th will be explored as a possible date for ATM.

Town Hall Office Walls: Ray reported that the office walls project at Town Hall has been taken on by the Franklin County Technical School as a community project. The work is tentatively scheduled for sometime this Fall. Ray will work with the FCTS contact person to verify our materials list and a pricing estimate. It was suggested that when the work is being done, it might also be a good time to explore blown-in insulation for the exterior walls. Ray will check with FCTS to see if they do that type of work, and will also ask MassSave.

Rep. Denise Andrews: Denise Andrews, Gill's newly elected State Representative, will hold office hours at the Gill Town Hall from 6:30-7:30pm on March 28th, November 7th, and June 14, 2012. Ray will announce this information in the newsletter and on the website.

Schuetzen Verein Alcohol License: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to renew the all alcohol seasonal restaurant license for the Schuetzen Verein Athletic Association for the period of 4/1/11 – 1/15/12. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and the renewed license was signed.

New Mutual Aid Laws: The Board briefly discussed recently passed laws that allow Selectboards to opt-in their towns to Statewide Public Safety and Public Works Mutual Aid. The laws are similar to a longstanding one for Fire Mutual Aid. Ray will invite Gene Beaubien, Gill's Emergency Management Director, and a representative from MEMA to the next meeting to explain the new laws.

Doug's Auto Body: The Board gratefully acknowledged a donation by Doug Smith and Doug's Auto Body of \$2,500 in labor performed during the repair and refurbishment of the Fire Department's Brush Truck. A letter was signed that thanked Doug and recognized the donation.

FY12 Revenue Projections: Ray presented a first look at estimated revenue for FY 2012. Based on weak building permit activity in 2010, revenue from new growth is expected to be down sharply, and is conservatively estimated at only \$13,000. State aid, based on the Governor's proposed budget, is down \$17,000, and some legislators are cautioning their towns that aid may decrease further. Local receipts are also projected to be slightly lower, based largely on a steady decline in motor vehicle excise taxes. Initially it looks like revenues may be almost \$33,000 lower than FY11, but it was pointed out that these projections do not include any money from the Education Stabilization Fund created in December. Ray will present an initial look at FY12 Expenses in two weeks.

Announcements: The Agricultural Commission is holding a Gill Dessert Potluck on 2/18, and the Energy Commission is sponsoring a Window Insulating Insert Workshop on 2/26. The Recreation Committee will hold its annual sliding party on 2/27, and kindergarten registration for Gill residents will be on 3/2.

David Detmold left the meeting.

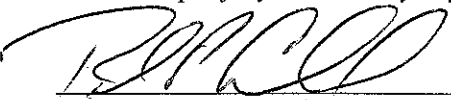
Reverse 911: Ray reported that Gill had conducted its first test of a Reverse 911 call system on February 9th. Gene Beaubien arranged for the no-cost test with assistance from Vermont Yankee's Emergency Preparedness Planner. This system could be activated in the event of a town-wide or specific-area emergency, and will rapidly deliver a recorded message to large number of telephone numbers. A VY database of 312 Gill phone numbers was used for the test. All numbers were called, some multiple times, during a 12-minute period, and the "This is a test" message was successfully delivered to 222 numbers. The other 90 numbers were busy, unanswered, or out of service. Ray explained that residents who want their landline or cell phone numbers added to this database should call the Fire Department or his office.

Part-Time Officer: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to appoint Scott Minckler as a part-time police officer for the Town effective 2/14/11 – 6/30/11, contingent upon him providing proof of an up-to-date physical. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY11 Warrant #17. Randy did not sign the payroll warrant.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.


Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

DATE: February 14, 2011

TO: Those With Authority Over the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon, including the Entergy Nuclear Corporation, the Vermont Legislature and Public Service Board, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

CONCERNING: Effects of the Scheduled Closure of Vermont Yankee on Workers, Residents, and the Environment of our Towns and Cities

On February 24, 2010, the Vermont Senate voted 26-4 to deny the extension of Vermont Yankee's original 40-year license that expires on March 21, 2012. The reactor is now scheduled to cease operation on or before that date. This scheduled closure is likely to affect nearby towns and cities in the tri-state area in a number of ways. Because it is the responsibility of local selectboards and town/city councils to protect and enhance the safety and well-being of our towns and cities, we are writing this letter to urge all the appropriate authorities to take whatever steps may be necessary in order to minimize negative impacts that Vermont Yankee's closure may have on its workers, local residents, and the environment.

Our expectations include the following:

- that Vermont Yankee workers, many of whom live in our towns and cities, be given first preference when workers are hired for the multi-year decommissioning and site clean-up process.
- that during this post-shutdown period, when the reactor's radioactive components will be dismantled and removed or stored on site, workers remaining on the site receive the maximum protection from radiation exposure.
- that those workers whose jobs are discontinued or who choose not to accept employment during this post-shutdown period be treated fairly.
- that during this final period, as the reactor continues to age and minor accidents and radioactive leakages continue to occur (if they do), residents and officials of nearby towns and cities be assured that there will be extra attention to maintenance and repair of all systems associated with the reactor, coupled with heightened inspections, monitoring, and testing to minimize the possibility of a major accident and ensure that people, animals, and the environment are not exposed to any additional risks of breathing, drinking, or otherwise ingesting radioactivity.

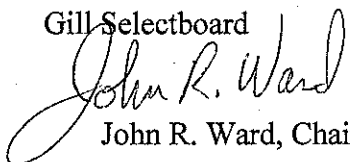
- that any tendency to delay or cancel needed maintenance and repairs during the reactor's final months of operation be strenuously resisted, and that if circumstances warrant, Vermont Yankee be shut down permanently *before* its scheduled retirement date.
- that during the decommissioning and site clean-up process, when toxic radioactive components are likely to be shipped from the reactor site to nuclear waste repositories in other states *via* roads and railways passing through our towns and cities, local residents as well as local selectboards, city councils, and relevant town and city departments (police, fire, and emergency medical, etc.) shall be notified in advance so as to provide maximum protection for people, wildlife, and the local environment in the event of a transportation accident.
- that conservative effluent radiation and thermal standards protective of the Connecticut River and downstream fish, wildlife and human communities be established and/or strictly adhered to, to prevent unnecessary exposure to radiation prior to and during the decommissioning process.
- that a *citizens advisory board* be formed, with its members appointed by local selectboards and town/city councils, so as to facilitate on-going, two-way communication regarding all of these matters.

Finally, we respectfully request that all local selectboards and town/city councils shall be kept informed in a timely way of all relevant plans, decisions, and other developments related to Vermont Yankee that might affect our towns and cities during the reactor's final phase of operation and during the subsequent period of decommissioning and site clean-up.


Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Gill Selectboard


John R. Ward, Chair


Randy P. Crochier, Clerk


Ann H. Banash

cc: Town Boards of Health within close proximity to Vermont Yankee
Windham County Regional Commission (VT)
Franklin Regional Council of Governments (MA)
Southwest Regional Planning Commission (NH)
Elected local, state, and federal officials representing VT, MA, and NH towns
within 20 miles of Vermont Yankee

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

February 14, 2011

Gill Cemetery Commission
Carrie Stevens, Chair
Patricia Haigis
Ann Marie Klein

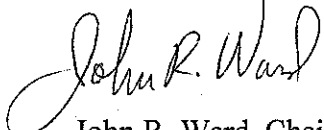
Dear Carrie, Pat, and Ann Marie,

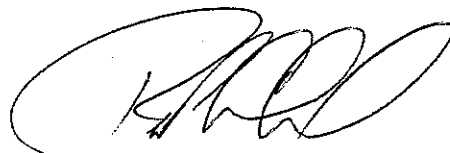
At its meeting of January 31, 2011, the Selectboard received a presentation on "Green" Burial from Joan Pillsbury and Judith Lorei of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts.

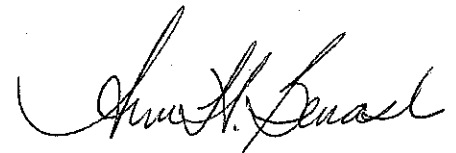
The Selectboard endorses the concept of green burial, and encourages the Cemetery Commission to further explore this as an option for Gill's cemeteries. The Board also asks that provisions for green burial plots be considered as the Commission explores the acquisition and layout of future cemetery land in Gill.

Sincerely,

Gill Selectboard


John R. Ward, Chair


Randy P. Crochier


Ann H. Banash

Cc: Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts

TOWN OF GILL

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February 14, 2011

Mr. Doug Smith
Doug's Auto Body
39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354

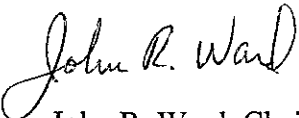
Dear Doug,


On behalf of the residents of Gill, please accept our thanks and gratitude for your donation of many hours of your time doing the necessary bodywork to convert a pickup truck into a brush truck for Gill's Fire Department. The Town is truly fortunate to have such charitable and civic-minded individuals like you, and such businesses like yours.


Your donation of labor valued at \$2,500.00 (repair order # 7140-2) is for work performed on a vehicle that will be used exclusively for public purposes. A donation to the Town may be deductible for income tax purposes if it is made exclusively for public purposes, but please consult a qualified tax advisor to determine your particular tax situation relative to this gift.

With our sincere appreciation,

Gill Selectboard


John R. Ward, Chair


Randy P. Crochier


Ann H. Barash

DRAFT FOR SB 2/14/11

Revenue Projections for FY 2012		FY12	FY11	FY10	FY09	FY08	FY07
updated 02/14/11							
Tax Levy Calculation							
Levy Limit Prior Year		2,059,205	1,983,357	1,894,320	1,782,925	1,619,053	1,561,448
2 1/2% Increase		51,480	49,684	47,358	44,573	41,196	39,036
New Growth		13,000	26,284	41,679	31,809	122,676	18,569
Prop 2 1/2 Override		-	-	-	35,013	-	-
New Levy Limit		2,123,685	2,059,205	1,983,357	1,894,320	1,782,925	1,619,053
Debt Exclusions & Interest		58,137	58,137	58,137	20,171	18,259	-
Maximum Levy		2,181,822	2,117,342	2,041,494	1,914,491	1,801,184	1,619,053
Unused Levy (Max - Taxes)	n/a		1,412	588	901	326	946
Revenue Sources							
Total from Taxation		2,181,822	2,115,930	2,040,908	1,913,590	1,800,858	1,618,107
Total State Aid		216,115	233,121	237,604	290,951	289,797	280,876
Other Funds/Partic. Purp.		67,000	90,983	78,281	110,278	120,864	33,500
Free Cash/Partic. Purp.			22,319	5,000	14,309	6,000	341,108
Free Cash/Reduce Tax Rate			177,555	172,959	122,462	194,268	190,000
Unused Free Cash		149,361					
Total Free Cash & Other		216,361	290,857	256,240	247,049	321,132	564,608
Local Receipts							
Motor Vehicle Excise		145,000	149,000	138,800	148,800	149,250	157,010
Other Excise		1,000	2,071	1,500	2,000	3,000	6,908
Penalty & Int. on Taxes		30,000	29,532	30,200	34,000	31,369	32,000
Fees		15,000	16,503	14,800	14,852	14,852	15,000
Rentals		6,000	6,000	10,200	10,200	10,200	8,797
Licenses & Permits		25,000	24,953	23,000	31,000	32,250	31,000
Fines & Forfeits		9,000	9,960	8,000	14,500	18,500	14,000
Interest Income		4,000	4,723	2,200	6,575	10,000	10,148
Misc. Recurring Income		9,000	8,954	8,954	-	13,480	-
Misc. Non-Recurring		-	29,112	-	16,500	-	2,346
Total Local Receipts		253,000	320,328	245,654	289,792	294,266	348,114
Grand Total		2,867,298	2,900,658	2,780,404	2,741,382	2,706,053	2,776,423

Massachusetts Department of Revenue
 Division of Local Services
 FY2012 Local Aid Estimates

GILL

	FY2011 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2012 Governor's Budget (H1)	Difference
Education:			
Chapter 70		0	0
School Transportation	0	0	0
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	0	0	0
Offset Receipts:			
School Lunch	0	0	0
School Choice Receiving Tuition	0	0	0
Sub-Total, All Education Items	0	0	0
General Government:			
Unrestricted General Government Aid	205,734	190,859	-14,875
Local Share of Racing Taxes	0	0	0
Regional Public Libraries	0	0	0
Police Career Incentive	0	0	0
Urban Renewal Projects	0	0	0
Veterans' Benefits		538	538
State Owned Land	17,373	17,309	-64
Exemptions: Vets, Blind, Surviving Spouses & Elderly	8,252	5,667	-2,585
Offset Receipts:			
Public Libraries	1,762	1,742	-20
Sub-Total, All General Government	233,121	216,115	-17,006
Total Estimated Receipts	233,121	216,115	-17,006

**FY2012 Local Aid Assessments
GILL**

	FY2011 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2012 Governor's Budget (H1)	Difference
County Assessments:			
County Tax	0	0	0
Suffolk County Retirement	0	0	0
Sub-Total, County Assessments	0	0	0
State Assessments and Charges:			
Retired Employees Health Insurance	0	0	0
Retired Teachers Health Insurance	0	0	0
Mosquito Control Projects	0	0	0
Air Pollution Districts	348	365	17
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	0	0	0
Old Colony Planning Council	0	0	0
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	960	760	-200
Sub-Total, State Assessments	1,308	1,125	-183
Transportation Authorities:			
MBTA	0	0	0
Boston Metro. Transit District	0	0	0
Regional Transit	6,001	6,151	150
Sub-Total, Transportation Authorities	6,001	6,151	150
Annual Charges Against Receipts:			
Special Education	0	0	0
STRAP Repayments	0	0	0
Sub-Total, Annual Charges	0	0	0
Tuition Assessments			
School Choice Sending Tuition	0	0	0
Charter School Sending Tuition	0	0	0
Essex County Tech Sending Tuition	0	0	0
Sub-Total, Tuition Assessments	0	0	0
Total Estimated Charges	7,309	7,276	-33

For information about how the estimates were determined and what may cause them to change, click: [Local Aid Estimate Program Summary](#).

**Massachusetts Department of Revenue
Division of Local Services
FY2012 Local Aid Estimates**

GILL MONTAGUE

	FY2011 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2012 Governor's Budget (H1)	Difference
Education:			
Chapter 70*	5,936,062	5,967,929	31,867
Regional School Transportation	180,802	179,790	-1,012
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	157,482	95,410	-62,072
Offset Receipts:			
School Lunch	6,459	7,394	935
School Choice Receiving Tuition	678,232	607,414	-70,818
Essex County Tech Receiving Tuition	0	0	0
Total Estimated Receipts	6,959,037	6,857,937	-101,100
Estimated Charges:			
Special Education	31,803	17,422	-14,381
School Choice Sending Tuition	1,100,161	1,083,945	-16,216
Charter School Sending Tuition	490,359	466,988	-23,371
Total Estimated Charges	1,622,323	1,568,355	-53,968
Receipts Net of Charges	5,336,714	5,289,582	-47,132

*FY2011 Chapter 70 does not include State Fiscal Stabilization Funds of \$31,867.

For additional information about how the estimates were determined and what may cause them to change, please click on the following link: [Local Aid Estimate Program Summary](#).