

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2011

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

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

Others Present: Rick James, David Detmold, Steve Hussey (Four Winds School)

Reorganization of the Selectboard: This is the first regular meeting following the May 16th town elections. It is tradition for the Board to elect new officers at this time. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to elect Randy as Chair. The motion passed 2-0, with Randy abstaining from the vote. John made a motion, seconded by Randy, to elect Ann as Clerk. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to appoint Randy as the Selectboard's representative to the Personnel Committee. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to re-appoint John as the Selectboard's representative to the FRCOG. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Four Winds School: Steve Hussey, the Director of the Four Winds School, met with the Selectboard to discuss the School's future plans with respect to renewing their lease of the Riverside Municipal Building. Steve explained that the RMB is their preferred location, but that enrollment has been in steady decline since 2008. This year's enrollment is seven home-schooled students who use Four Winds between one and three days a week to supplement their studies. It is "hopeful", at best, that this number of students will be enrolled for the 2011-12 school year.

Energy costs – primarily heat, but also electricity – remain the two biggest RMB expenses for the Town. For FY11, with Four Winds paying \$500/month rent, we were pretty close to break-even. Next year, due to higher heating oil prices, it will likely take \$575/month to break even. It is hoped that window inserts for the 15 large windows will help cut oil consumption even more than the sheets of plastic tacked to the outside of the building. Steve stated that if the school opens for the 2011-12 year, he believes he could commit to \$575/month. It was suggested that the current lease, at \$500/month, be extended through July and August, and that a 10-month lease be examined in August, when hopefully Four Winds will know their enrollment for the year. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to approve a 2-month extension of the current lease through August 2011 at \$500/month. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

There was discussion of using the downstairs room at the RMB, which once housed the police department, as storage space for the Recreation Committee. Steve had no objections to the use, but asked that he be allowed to "find a small corner" somewhere to store a small amount of supplies and equipment. There were no objections to this arrangement. It is hoped that as part of making space available for the Rec Committee, a work bee can clean out the accumulated clutter from one of the downstairs bathrooms. Steve left the meeting.

Minutes: Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the minutes from 4/25 and 4/27. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Police Dept Use of NMH Gift Money: The Board corrected a vote from the 5/9 meeting in which they transferred funds from the NMH Gift Account to the Police Department. Funds cannot be transferred into an omnibus budget line from an outside account. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to rescind the earlier vote and instead to allow the Police Department to use up to \$4,000.00 from the NMH Gift Account to cover salaries and expenses. The motion passed by a vote of 2 in favor and 1 opposed.

NMH Annual Donation: Ray reported that NMH will be increasing its FY 2011 annual gift in support of emergency services from \$10,000 to \$20,000, and that it will make a gift of \$25,000 in FY 2012. The Board reviewed and

signed a thank you letter to Rick Wood, the CFO and Treasurer of NMH. There was a brief discussion about how to use this newfound "largesse", and whether the increase will impact the much larger issue of a new fire truck for the Town. Regardless, it was felt that it is important not to squander what has been given to the Town.

5:20pm Lynda Hodsdon Mayo (Town Clerk) and Ronnie LaChance (Treasurer) joined the meeting.

WMECO Electricity Audits: Ray explained the proposed electricity saving improvements to be made to the Slate Library, Fire Station, Town Hall, and Riverside Municipal Building as part of the WMECO Small Business Energy Advantage Plan. A summary of the conservation measures was handed out (attached). The SBEAP essentially amounts to a 2-year interest-free loan from WMECO to make energy improvements to Town buildings. The contract for the Town Hall work still needs modifications, and is not ready to be signed. Those for the other three buildings are nearly ready; with a few changes to delete some measures that we don't want to do. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to authorize Ray on behalf of the Selectboard to sign contracts for SBEAP work at the Fire Station, Riverside Municipal Building and Slate Library. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Hampshire Power Municipal Aggregation: The Board reviewed Hampshire Power's application to the Mass. DPU for approval of a Municipal Aggregation program. The first step toward this was taken by Gill's voters at the May 9th town meeting. During the discussion the Board raised a number of questions: What does signing this application lock Gill into? What are the next steps? Will there be a contract to negotiate between Hampshire Power and Gill (and other towns)? Will residential and business customers still have access to conservation rebates and incentives? The Board felt these questions were too important to take action on the application, and tabled the matter for two weeks. Ray will attempt to get answers, and will try to arrange for a representative from Hampshire Power to attend the June 6th meeting.

Siemens Project at Gill Elementary: Ronnie reported to the Selectboard that with their approval, she would borrow \$110,000 from Greenfield Cooperative Bank at 1.01% APY for a 6 month term. This short-term note will provide funds needed to make payments on the Siemens project until long-term financing and 100% of the EECBG grant are received. The Board expressed surprise at the very low rate, and thanked Ronnie for her efforts. John made a motion, seconded by Ann, to sign the short-term borrowing note and the certification of tax-exempt status. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The signatures were witnessed by Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk. Lynda left the meeting at 5:35pm. As authorized at the Board's May 6th meeting, Randy signed the EMSA between Gill and Siemens Building Technologies.

Library Funds: Ronnie explained to the Board that \$4,077.85 has been sitting untouched in an account for the Riverside Library Fund since 1982. She has done extensive research on the funds, and can find no present-day "owner" of these funds, as the library at the Riverside School closed in 1982. She requested the Board approve a transfer of the funds to the Slate Memorial Library Fund. Ann asked that Town Counsel review the transfer. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the transfer of funds from the Riverside Library fund to the Slate Memorial Library fund, subject to a review by Town Counsel. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Ronnie left the meeting at 5:45pm.

GMRSD Superintendency: Ann reported on the May 17th School Committee meeting which she attended, and her offer/request to the School Committee that the Town wants to be involved in the process of selecting the next Superintendent, as this is a crucial step for the future of the District. She read aloud a draft of a letter she has written to the School Committee. The other Board members made several small suggestions, but otherwise felt the letter was appropriately worded. Ray will put the letter onto Town letterhead and email it to Ann to sign and present to the School Committee.

Feedback Wanted by Rep. Andrews: The Board responded to a series of questions which Rep. Denise Andrews had emailed to all of her towns. What is Gill "invested in" and what do we want to be "invested in"? What themes, programs, and priorities are important to the Town? What are some ways that Denise can help Gill? The Board listed three areas: help with the Mariamante property, involvement with Mass DOT on the G-M Bridge and its lighting/electricity consumption, and regionalization (in general, and for schools).

In a somewhat related note, it was mentioned that Montague has a new street sweeper and a new Vac-tor truck, and perhaps Gill could borrow or rent one or both, rather than contracting with a private company.

Appointments: Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to make the following appointments: Tim Storrow to the Open Space Committee (thru 6/30/12), Janet Masucci to the Energy Commission (thru 6/30/12), and Dick French to the RMB Use Study Commission (ad hoc, no term). The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Letter of Support – Health Program: The Board reviewed a suggested letter in support of the FRCOG's application for Accreditation Preparation funding to become a Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans Demonstration Site. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to sign the letter. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

FY 2012 Highway Products: The Board reviewed the bids for FY12 highway products as part of a FRCOG cooperative bid. Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to award the following: ¾" processed gravel – Mitchell Excavating, \$11.50/cu yd (picked up); Hardpack – Mitchell Excavating, \$7.00/ton (picked up); Bituminous concrete – Lane Construction, \$69.00/ton (picked up); Bituminous concrete – Lane Construction, \$63.05/ton (delivered in place); Liquid asphalt – Comer Contracting, \$3.28/gal (delivered in place). The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Ann made a motion, seconded by John, to authorize the FRCOG to contract on behalf of the Town for the above-mentioned bids. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

FRCOG Annual Report: Ray reported that a copy of the FRCOG's Annual Report is available in Town Hall.

As You Write It: The Board acknowledged with thanks and appreciation a donation by the Gill Council on Aging & the GM Senior Center of a copy of As You Write It, an anthology of short stories, remembrances, and essays by area seniors. The book will be given to the Slate Library for circulation.

6:25pm Rick James and David Detmold left the meeting.

Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY11 warrant #24. Randy abstained from signing.

Adjournment: The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Ann H. Banash, Selectboard Clerk

2008-2009

13 full-time students
teachers: one full-time, one 3/5 time
tuition due 123,600.
tuition collected 123,600.

2009-2010

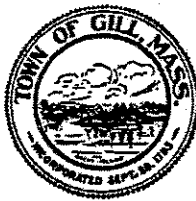
8 full-time students
teachers: one full-time (salary reduced by 42%), one 3/5 time
bus eliminated, along with bus insurance
tuition due 82,400.
tuition collected 71,740.

2010-2011

2 students 3 days; 4 students, 2 days; 1 student, 1 day
one teacher, paid \$15/ hour
tuition due 23,950.
tuition collected 23,950.

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

May 23, 2011

Mr. Rick Wood
Northfield Mount Hermon
One Lamplighter Way
Mount Hermon, MA 01354

Dear Rick,

On behalf of the Town of Gill, thank you to Northfield Mount Hermon for the second \$10,000 gift in fiscal year 2011, which brought the year's total gift to \$20,000. We are also very excited by your pledge of a further increase in fiscal year 2012, to a total of \$25,000.

NMH has long been a financial supporter of the Town's emergency services programs, and your continued and expanded generosity comes at a crucial time in town finances. With the elimination of community policing funds awarded by the state, and with emergency services grants becoming smaller, less frequent, and more competitive, the NMH donation will help us to maintain the needed equipment and level of services that our residents expect and deserve.

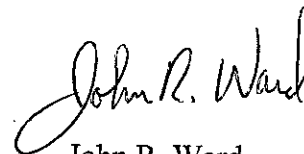
Northfield Mount Hermon and the Town of Gill share so much more than just a zip code. Each is an integral part of the other's identity, and without one, the other's star shines a little less bright. We appreciate the informal partnership between the School and the Town, and look forward to exploring new and creative ventures in the future.

Sincerely,

Gill Selectboard


Randy P. Crochier


Ann H. Bazash


John R. Ward

Town of Gill & Universal Electric Co.
WMECO Small Business Energy Advantage Plan
Project Summary 5/23/2011

Riverside Municipal Building

Measures:

- Replace (7) 60W incandescent bulbs with 15W Compact Fluorescent (CF)
- Replace (4) 150W exterior incandescent bulbs with 42W CF bulbs
- Replace (9) 100W incandescent bulbs with 22W CF bulbs
- Replace CF exit sign with LED exit sign

Cost:

total	minus incentives =	cost to Town	applied over	monthly payment of
\$482.00	- \$219.00	\$263.00	14 months	\$18.79

Slate Memorial Library

Measures:

- Replace (7) 60W incandescent bulbs with 15W CF
- Retrofit (7) 4-ft mag. ballast T-12 fluorescent lights with electronic ballast 25-28W T-8 lights

Cost:

total	minus incentives =	cost to Town	applied over	monthly payment of
\$595.07	- \$185.92	\$409.15	24 months	\$17.05

Town Hall

Measures:

- Replace (1) 60W incandescent bulb with 15W CF
- Install occupancy sensors in Men's Room, Women's Room, Ray's Office, Assessor's Office, Basement Hallway, and Basement Storage Alcove
- Replace (2) 250W HID metal halide exit lights with hard-wired 42W CF

Cost:

total	minus incentives =	cost to Town	applied over	monthly payment of
\$1,049.86	- \$737.10	\$312.76	24 months	\$13.04

Note- cost shown is lower than on proposal – deleted occupancy sensors from Over Cubicles and Meeting Space (areas will be reconfigured this fall with office walls), and Board of Health Office (not really enough regular use)

I as treasurer am requesting that the Board of Selectboard approve the transfer of funds from the Riverside Library Fund to the Slate Library Fund.

The purpose of this transfer is to make these funds available for use by the Slate Library, as there is no Riverside Library since the Riverside School closed in 1982.

I have done extensive research on the Riverside Library Fund. There is no information at the Slate Memorial Library, Historical Museum or at the Gill Town Hall. I have had conversations with Allan Adie, Lisa Greenough, Bev Demars and Ellen Hastings. They had no information on the Riverside Library Fund. Per call to the Massachusetts Registry of Deeds in Greenfield there is no record of this Riverside Library Fund being registered.

I was advised at one of the Treasurers conferences, by an Attorney, that this could be done as long as I documented the above information and that a copy of the transfer be kept with the "Trust Funds"

The amount of the transfer is \$4,077.85. This amount could be a little more as I will not know the added interest until the day that the transfer is done.

Treasurer _____

Date

TOWN OF GILL

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May 23, 2011

To the School Committee:

Langmead

I would like to take a few minutes to expand on the brief conversation I had with Mike after last week's SC meeting in which both Pat Allen and I offered our help in any discussions of the future of the district.

Upon reflection and discussion with the other members of my board we want to make the request more formal and public.

As more than one person has said in the past week, the District is at a critical juncture. There are immediate hiring decisions that need to be made (only one administrator is in place for next year) and the Level 4 report must be written and submitted to DESE.

In addition we believe there needs to be serious discussion now about the future of the District. The district needs a strong administrative leader who has experience dealing with these issues, has the ability to work with the SC and is able to continue the progress that has been made in collaborating with the towns.

Last week you accepted the recommendation of the Superintendent for an interim Superintendent without so much as an interview with the person who was recommended. We certainly understand the urgency of the situation; however it is your responsibility as SC members to get the absolute best person to lead the district in this critical time. We don't feel that you have exhausted all the possibilities even in this tight timeframe.

Carl Ladd's recommended person may, in fact, be the best choice as interim but we are concerned that she has no experience as a superintendent or even a principal, much less any experience in leading a district in strategic planning. We are concerned that whomever you choose could potentially have the authority to make hiring decisions that would impact the district for years to come.

Based on these issues combined with the reality of dealing with the Level 4 designation and developing a plan for the future of the district, we respectfully request that you step back, immediately appoint a committee consisting of representatives of the SC and the towns to communicate with DESE as necessary, and to advertise, interview and recommend to the School committee a candidate for interim superintendent. We believe that this can be accomplished in a timely manner so that there is an appropriate candidate recommended to the committee prior to Dr. Ladd leaving the district.

Any of the members of the Gill Selectboard are willing to serve on such a committee and we urge you to appoint a committee tonight.

Thank you.

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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May 23, 2011

CHA/CHIP Demonstration Site Project
National Association of County and City Health Officials
1100 17th Street, NW, Seventh Floor
Washington, DC 20036

To Whom It May Concern:

As a participating Local Health Department, the Town of Gill is pleased to submit a letter of support to NACCHO for the Franklin Regional Council of Government's application for Accreditation Preparation funding to become a Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans Demonstration Site.

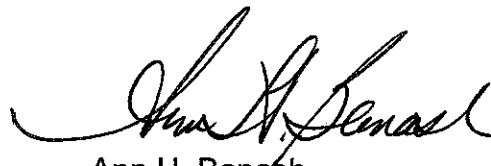
Towns in Massachusetts, especially small ones like ours, face many challenges in addressing health needs for our residents. We fulfill the many mandates we are given using a small but dedicated staff operating with meager funds. Our communities would be ideal recipients of NACCHO's grants to increase the readiness of local health departments to apply for national accreditation, and Franklin County's Boards of Health have a long history of collaboration that makes a very positive outcome likely.

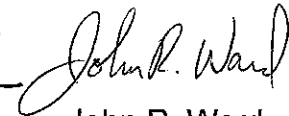
Our town would be happy to be involved in the community health assessment process in Franklin County. We would appreciate the opportunity to have access to important data on the health status of people in our town, and appreciate the chance to have health department staff and members of boards of health trained in how to analyze this data and use it to plan to improve the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Gill Selectboard


Randy P. Crochier


Ann H. Banash


John R. Ward

TO: Andrea Woods, CPO
FRCOG, 425 Main Street, Suite 205, Greenfield, MA 01301

We understand that our municipality is participating in the Franklin Regional Cooperative Highway Products and Services Bids and Contracts for FY 2012.


We authorize the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to contract on our behalf and we have taken action to duly appoint the FRCOG for the above mentioned bid(s)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/MAYOR OF THE TOWN/CITY OF: Gill



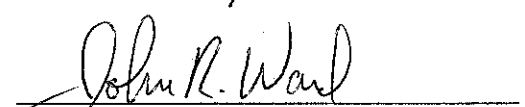
Signature

Signature



Signature

Signature



Signature

May 23, 2011

Date

This form needs to be returned by June 15, 2011.