

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2013

Call to Order: The joint meeting of the Selectboard and Finance Committee was called to order at 6:07pm at the Gill Town Hall.

Selectboard Present: Randy Crochier and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant

Finance Committee Present: Alden Booth, Claire Chang, Timmie Smith, and Jim Poulsen.

Others Present: Police Chief David Hastings, Nancy Griswold

Police Department FY14 Budget Request: Chief Hastings explained his budget request for FY14. It is level-funded from FY13 at \$181,827 including the \$14,357 for part-time officers. He noted that within the salary section of the budget the amount for the Chief's Holiday Pay (pay to the Chief for working on holidays when no part-time officers are available) has increased because the part-time officer who had been covering many holiday shifts will likely be working full-time for another town, and that will limit his availability to work holidays in Gill. It was noted that the reference to "Personal" time in the salary section is erroneous. Pay for Personal Days is included in the Chief's and Sergeant's regular salary lines. Ray will make the correction.

An increase in the Dues & Subscriptions was explained to be caused by a hike in the dues for the Mass. Chiefs of Police Association. The Chief also explained that the line for Clothing/Personal Protective Equipment doesn't include bulletproof vests. However, the Chief's and Sergeant's vests are only two years old, and have several years of expected life remaining.

The request for Vehicle Maintenance is down due to purchasing the new 2013 Interceptor and shifting the 2004 Explorer to the Highway Department. It was noted that the Explorer currently has issues with a rear spring and extensive rust, and likely will not pass inspection in August. Mick will be asked to get an estimate of the cost of the repairs.

The Chief asked to increase the Radar Recertification line from \$500 to \$597, as that cost has increased this year. Omitted from the submitted budget, \$29 will also be added to the License ID Guide line. Both increases will be subtracted from the \$4,500 line for Part Time Officers Salary, in order to keep a level-funded request.

Questioned about shift coverage by part-time officers, the Chief explained that the \$14,357 funded by a special article last year was completely spent as of February 8, 2013. He stated that he had no preference whether the \$14,357 was included within his omnibus budget or funded by a special article. The Chief estimated that \$22,800 would be needed in order to provide the same level of coverage for an entire year. He noted that part-time officers are always paid "straight time," even if they are working on a holiday, and recommended the Personnel Committee consider paying "time-and-a-half" for holiday shifts.

The Chief also explained that the current budget for part-time officers does not include enough funding to fill shifts and also fully cover the vacations, holidays, and personal days of the Chief and Sergeant. In order to continue to provide shift coverage and also cover paid absences, it would require an additional \$10,962. It was pointed out that the current budget for part-time officers is more than \$10,962, so there is already money to cover paid absences, depending how that money is used and prioritized.

When asked where he would most like to see extra funding, if it were available, the Chief answered that more shift coverage, up to the \$10,962, would be his top priority. A solar-powered speed limit sign for Gill Center is also a desired object, estimated at \$8,000 for a fixed-location unit. A portable model would be more.

The Chief did not request funding to replace the 2005 Crown Vic, even though he believes it is time. The Town just received the new 2013 Interceptor. The 2005 Crown Vic has 94,800 miles on it. The Chief will likely be asking to replace the '05 in FY15.

The Chief and Nancy Griswold left at 6:50pm.

Other FY14 Budgets: The proposed budget for the Moderator was reviewed, with an increase requested to fund a small amount of supplies and training. There was a brief discussion about saying the Pledge of Allegiance before Town Meetings, and it was left that those with questions about the practice will discuss it with the Moderator well ahead of the next Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee budget was reviewed. A line for the \$1,500 Reserve Fund will be added to that spreadsheet.

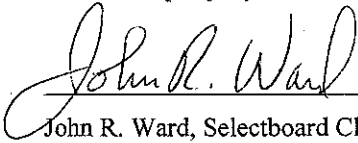
The Accountant's budget was reviewed. The Legal budget was reviewed. The budget for Information Technology was discussed. Ray noted a \$350 increase in order to replace the printer used by the Accountant. The printer is used to print checks, and regularly pulls through multiple checks when it is printing. Given its age, repair is not a cost effective option according to I.T. experts at NMH. Ray's computer, and probably the Accountant's, are the two units slated for replacement next year.

The ZBA budget was reviewed, with a reduction due to the success of their Revolving Fund. Permit fees charged to applicants go into the Revolving Fund and are used to cover the expense of advertising and postage, so the ZBA has zeroed both those budget lines for FY14.

The budget for Street Lights was reviewed, as was the budget for the Council on Aging.

Adjournment: The Selectboard and Finance Committee adjourned their meetings at 7:25pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk