

# TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

*April 29, 2013*

Call to Order: The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 6:07pm.

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

Finance Committee: Timmie Smith, Jacob Rau, Claire Chang, Alden Booth, Ronnie LaChance, Tupper Brown, and Jim Poulsen (6:16pm)

Others Present: Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Nancy Griswold

Minutes: John made a motion, seconded by Randy, to accept the minutes from 4/16 and 4/22. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

FC Minutes: Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Claire, to adopt the Selectboard minutes of 4/16 as those of the Finance Committee. The motion passed 4-0. Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Jacob, to adopt the Selectboard minutes of 4/22 as those of the Finance Committee, with the addition that under discussion of the Cemetery budget, "Alden volunteered to talk with Snow & Sons about cemetery mowing." The motion passed 5-0, with Timmie abstaining from the vote.

FY14 Budget Review: The Selectboard and Finance Committee continued their review of budget requests for FY14. Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo spoke to the Elections budget request, noting that it is likely the FY13 budget will be overspent due to the special Senate primary and election caused by Senator Kerry's mid-term resignation to become Secretary of State. The budget request for FY14 shows a decrease because she has only budgeted for the annual Town election and for the possibility of an override election. The Town Clerk budget for FY13 is similarly close to going over budget because of the extra Senate elections. Lynda was able to save \$500 by not using the Accuvote machine in the June Senate election. She will be paying close attention to the actual expenses for both budgets as the end of the year approaches.

There was discussion of the Town Clerk's request for a \$1,000 increase to the salary for that position. Lynda explained that the amount is meant to open the door for further discussion, and serves as a placeholder to allow voters to discuss the salary and make a decision. She feels strongly that the salaries for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer shouldn't be left the same year after year. Additionally, the Assessor's Clerk position is paid roughly \$2,700 more than the Town Clerk, but there are significantly more responsibilities for the Town Clerk. As Town Clerk, there are many decisions which by state law are hers alone to make.

The Personnel Committee's recommendation was discussed – "(The) Personnel Committee recommend(s) to the Selectboard that the salaries/stipends of the Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Town Clerk be considered on the Annual Town Meeting warrant separate from those of other stipended elected officials." The Personnel Committee did not take a stance on specific dollar amounts for the three positions.

There was uncertainty whether the Personnel Committee's recommendation envisioned a warrant article for each of the three positions, or if it suggested one article encompassing all three positions. The question will be referred back to the Personnel Committee for clarification. Additionally, they will be asked to make recommendations for specific dollar amounts for the positions.

Town Clerk Annual Conference: Lynda requested the Selectboard and Finance Committee sign a statement acknowledging the Town Clerk's FY13 budget does not contain money to attend the annual Town Clerk Conference. With the signed statement, Lynda will be eligible for a scholarship that will cover many of the

conference expenses. John made a motion, seconded by Randy, for the Selectboard to sign the statement. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Claire made a motion, seconded by Jim, for the Finance Committee to sign the statement. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The statement was signed.

Treasurer/Tax Collector Budget Request: Treasurer and Tax Collector Ronnie LaChance discussed her budget requests for FY14. She too is requesting a \$1,000 increase to the salaries of each of her two positions. It was suggested that it makes sense to hold of on further discussion until the Personnel Committee has met again.

Treasurer expenses were discussed, including payroll service costs and a decrease in tax title expenses because there are fewer taxpayers that need to be placed into tax title. Both budgets will be discussed further when information on projected FY13 expenses are available.

Recreation Committee Budget: Ray noted that there isn't really a Rec Committee anymore, as there is only one remaining member, Nathan Duda. Nathan wants to stay as a member, in hopes that others will join the committee and help restart it. There was discussion about reducing and/or zeroing out the Rec budget for FY14, and rely upon their Revolving Fund for money to restart the programs when there are new Committee members.

GMRSD Budget: It was noted that the GMRSD's assessment to Gill for FY14 falls within the parameters of the Compact for Education Funding established two or three years prior. Gill's assessment increased by a higher percentage than Montague's because Gill's state-set minimum contribution increased more than Montague's. It is an indication that Gill is a relatively more wealthy community than our neighbor. Because the assessment for FY14 increased by less than 2.5%, Ray suggested putting the difference into the Education Stabilization Fund. Timmie pointed out that the Turners Falls High School was recently ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the state.

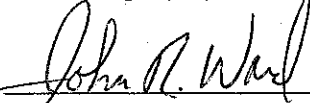
FC Tech Budget: The assessment for FY14 is down due to Gill's enrollment decreasing by two pupils.

Conservation Commission Budget: Ray reported for the ConCom that this budget request is a decrease from FY13. The various expense lines were adjusted to better reflect actual expenses and priorities of the Commission for next year.

Cemetery Followup: Alden reported on a conversation with Ed Snow of Snow & Sons Landscaping. Each cemetery has its own price per mowing - \$60 for West Gill, \$88 for Center, and \$210 for North. Snow would need a week's notice in order to do "on demand, as needed" mowing. Alden will talk with the Cemetery Commission about having him act on their behalf and monitor the need for mowing.

Adjournment: The Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings adjourned at 8:05pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.*



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk  
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Monday, April 29, 2013

Selectmen, Finance Committee,

I have learned that there is a possible opportunity to attend the FY2013 Town Clerk Conference, however I have no money in my budget to cover the expenses. The process to complete my application for Scholarship tuition payment including registration, meals, travel expenses and hotel accommodations requires that you confirm that there is no money in my FY2013 budget for this and sign this letter to that effect. I am very interested in attending the conference and I know you support educational opportunities, so I ask that you, please sign below.

Thank you,

*Lynda Hodsdon Mayo*

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

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