

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Gill, Massachusetts  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – May 1, 2006  
Opening-21 Voters Present  
1047 Registered Voters in the Town  
Population-1502

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Moderator, Ray Steele at the Gill Town Hall. Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo read the introduction and ending of the warrant.

Selectboard person Ann Banash addressed the Moderator to make a motion to continue the Annual Town Meeting to June 26, 2006 with a preliminary informational meeting on June 19, 2006.

The motion was seconded and voted. The Moderator announced the Annual Town Meeting continued to June 26th..... at 6:00 P.M.

June 26, 2006  
Continuation of the Annual Town Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Moderator Ray Steele at the Gill Town Hall.

## Voters Present 131

**Article 1:** Move to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town.

Here are the corrections I have thus far for the Town Report. I will be printing the motions to hand out for Annual Town Meeting continuation and would like to include these as well. Please let me know ASAP if any further changes or additions will be made. Thank you!

- 1) 1) Page 26 – to include the addition of grants acquired by the Fire Department;
- 2) 2) Page 72 – calculation of subtotals omitted on the Trust Funds Accounts for North Cemetery;
- 3) 3) Page 20 –Assessors report the word Exemptions should replace the word Abatements under Real Estate; and
- 4) 4) Page 12 – Personnel Committee date of resignation for Sandy Brown should reflect June, not January.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 2:** Move the Town elect the *Selectboard* as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber and *Cliff Hatch and Ed Golembeski as field drivers* - all for one year.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 3:** Move the Town vote to accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the fiscal year 2007 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Select board to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 4:** Move the Town vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows:

Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$100.45
Special Town Meetings	20.75
Selectperson Chair	2,234.91
Second & Third Member, each	2,021.67
Town Clerk	10,521.34
Tax Collector	14,344.25
From Sewer Receipts	569.25
Treasurer	10,895.00
Assessors – Chair	2,678.50
Second & Third Member, each	2,472.49
Board of Health – Chair	1,182.14
Second & third member, each	1,079.31
Registrars – three members, each	49.97
Town Clerk	80.04

Motion to Amend made by the Finance Committee to decrease the COLA by 1% to equal 2.5% COLA

Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$99.47
Special Town Meetings	20.55
Selectperson Chair	2,209.88
Second & Third Member, each	2,003.87
Town Clerk	10,419.68
Tax Collector	14,200.81
From Sewer Receipts	563.75
Treasurer	10,765.00
Assessors – Chair	2,652.62
Second & Third Member, each	2,411.10
Board of Health – Chair	1,159.75
Second & third member, each	1,056.74
Registrars – three members, each	49.48
Town Clerk	79.26

Motion made and seconded for amendment of the 2.5% increase.

Amendment passed 65 Yes and 29 No

Vote for amended motion: 68 Yes and 29 No

Motion is made by the Ann Banash the Chair of the Select Board to move forward and consider Articles 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 next. **Seconded and Passed**

**Article 12:** Move the Town vote to transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund Five Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$550.00) for use at the Gill Elementary School.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 13:** Move the Town vote to PASSOVER Article 13 to allow employment of a full-time firefighter.

**Voted Unanimously to Passover**

**Article 14:** Move the Town vote to *transfer from overlay surplus the sum of (\$24,617.05), from special appropriation for Gill Elementary boiler (\$25,000.00) and from funds appropriated for Assessors' revaluation in the amount of (\$11,009.67) for a total of Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Six Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$60,626.72)* to provide for a full recollection of data, purchase or upgrade assessing software, provide conversion of data, training and services related to the mandated triennial certification for the Assessors office.

**Passed Majority**

**Article 15:** Move the Vote to Passover Article 15

**Vote Unanimously to Passover**

**Article 16:** Move the Town vote to *raise and appropriate* Two Thousand Two Hundred and No Cents (\$2,200.00) for payment of the first of two installments to purchase a used voting machine and maintenance contract for the Town Clerk's office.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 17:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation those amounts listed under FY2007 REQUESTED in the FY2007 Omnibus, except all salary amounts be reduced to reflect a 2.5% COLA and less amounts listed under the Available Funds Designation, including Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred Two Dollars and 55/100 (\$36,502.55) reserved bond premiums, One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Two and 45/100 (\$154,782.45) Debt Reserve funds, Fifty Six Thousand One Hundred Forty-Six Dollars and Twenty Five Cents (\$56,146.25) Sewer Revenues, and less Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$30,000.00) from reserved Trash Sticker Revenues for a total of Two Million Three Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and 69/100 (**\$2,335,785.69**), to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year.

<b>FY2007 FINAL OMNIBUS</b>						
	reflects change to 2 1/2%	FY2006	FY2007	AVAIL	Dollar	Percent
		APPROPRIATE D	REQUESTED	FUNDS	Increase	Increase
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					> FY06	> FY06
Moderator		156.71	160.63		\$ 4	2.50%
Selectboard Salary		6,066.40	6,217.62		\$ 151	2.49%
Selectboard Expense		3,505.00	3,505.00		\$ -	0.00%
Legal Expenses		4,000.00	4,000.00		\$ -	0.00%
Admin Salary		38,251.20	40,531.58		\$ 2,280	5.96%
Admin Expenses		800.00	800.00		\$ -	0.00%
Finance Committee		125.00	125.00		\$ -	0.00%
Reserve Fund		2,500.00	2,500.00		\$ -	0.00%
Accountant Salary		19,837.00	20,655.00		\$ 818	4.12%
Accountant Expense		1,535.00	1,200.00		\$ (335)	-21.82%
Assessors' Salary		7,366.50	7,550.13		\$ 184	2.49%
Assessors Clerk Salary		13,140.00	10,393.50		\$ (2,747)	-20.90%
Assessors Legal Counsel		200.00	200.00		\$ -	0.00%
Assessors Expense		4,194.00	2,340.00		\$ (1,854)	-44.21%
Treasurer Salary		8,790.41	10,895.00		\$ 2,105	23.94%
Treas/Coll Banking Serv.		150.00	150.00		\$ -	0.00%
Treas/Tax Title Forecl.		750.00	750.00		\$ -	0.00%
Treasurer Expenses		1,800.00	4,220.00		\$ 2,420	134.44%
Tax Collector Salary [SR]		13,114.53	14,344.25	569.25	\$ 1,230	9.38%
Tax Collector Expense		6,060.00	6,022.00		\$ (38)	-0.63%
Town Clerk Salary		10,165.55	10,419.68		\$ 254	2.50%
Town Clerk Expense		2,459.85	2,375.00		\$ (85)	-3.45%
Sal.Elect/Listers/Reg.		1,000.00	3,300.00		\$ 2,300	230.00%
Conservation Commission		500.00	375.00		\$ (125)	-25.00%
Planning Board		745.00	745.00		\$ -	0.00%
Board of Appeals		500.00	500.00		\$ -	0.00%
IT Committee Expense		3,000.00	3,000.00		\$ -	0.00%
Town Hall		15,611.00	16,300.00		\$ 689	4.41%
Riverside Municipal Bldg.		7,922.00	8,675.00		\$ 753	9.51%
Garage/Public Safety Bldg.		11,235.00	14,990.00		\$ 3,755	33.42%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.</b>		<b>185,480.15</b>	<b>197,239.39</b>	<b>569.25</b>	<b>\$ 11,759</b>	<b>6.34%</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>						
Police Department		160,000.00	172,250.00		\$ 12,250	7.66%
Animal Control Officer		800.00	800.00		\$ -	0.00%
Dog Fund		800.00	800.00		\$ -	0.00%
Fire Department		62,000.00	66,100.00		\$ 4,100	6.61%
Civil Defense		400.00	400.00		\$ -	0.00%
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		<b>224,000.00</b>	<b>240,350.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 16,350</b>	<b>7.30%</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>						
Highway Dept.(part FY05 special art)		266,366.00	256,949.21		\$ (9,417)	-3.54%
Bridges & Street Lights		6,000.00	8,000.00		\$ 2,000	33.33%
Tree & Forestry		4,000.00	4,000.00		\$ -	0.00%
Sewer Department [SR]		52,525.40	55,577.00	55,577.00	\$ 3,052	5.81%
Solid Waste District		2,524.00	2,634.00		\$ 110	4.36%
Haz. Waste Collection		850.00	850.00		\$ -	0.00%
Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling [TSR]		44,000.00	66,200.00		\$ 22,200	50.45%
Recycling		22,200.00	-		\$ (22,200)	-100.00%
Cemetery Commission		2,500.00	2,500.00		\$ -	0.00%
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>400,965.40</b>	<b>396,710.21</b>	<b>55,577.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,255)</b>	<b>-1.06%</b>
<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>						
Bd. of Health Salaries		6,715.93	6,883.83		\$ 168	2.50%
Bd. of Health Expense		500.00	500.00		\$ -	0.00%
<b>Total Bd. of Health</b>		<b>7,215.93</b>	<b>7,383.83</b>		<b>\$ 168</b>	<b>2.33%</b>
Council on Aging		5,720.11	6,022.00		\$ 302	5.28%
Veteran's District		2,709.00	3,245.00		\$ 536	19.79%
Veteran's Benefits		4,000.00	4,000.00		\$ -	0.00%
<b>TOTAL HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERV.</b>		<b>19,645.04</b>	<b>20,650.83</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 1,006</b>	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION</b>						
Library Salary		9,703.77	9,946.36		\$ 243	2.50%
Library Expense		6,000.00	6,300.00		\$ 300	5.00%
<b>Total Library</b>		<b>15,703.77</b>	<b>16,246.36</b>		<b>\$ 543</b>	<b>3.46%</b>
Recreation Committee		3,600.00	3,600.00		\$ -	0.00%
Historical Commission		450.00	860.00		\$ 410	91.11%
<b>TOTAL CULTURE/REC.</b>		<b>19,753.77</b>	<b>20,706.36</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 953</b>	<b>4.82%</b>

<b>FIXED COSTS</b>						
Garage Const. Loan - 2 yrs remaining	19,592.00	18,644.00		\$ (948)	-4.84%	
Temporary Loan Interest	7,500.00	20,000.00		\$ 12,500	166.67%	
Property/Liability/Work Comp Insurance	43,000.00	48,500.00		\$ 5,500	12.79%	
Group Health & Life Ins	75,000.00	82,000.00		\$ 7,000	9.33%	
Unemployment Comp	2,550.00	2,550.00		\$ -	0.00%	
Franklin County Retirement	46,680.00	57,965.00		\$ 11,285	24.18%	
<b>TOTAL FIXED COSTS</b>	<b>194,322.00</b>	<b>229,659.00</b>	-	<b>\$ 35,337</b>	<b>18.18%</b>	
<b>FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</b>						
Statutory Assessment	2,039.64	2,431.09		\$ 391	19.19%	
Core Services Assessment	5,762.38	6,057.06		\$ 295	5.11%	
Fee for Service Programs (Engineering)	5,500.00	1,300.00		\$ (4,200)	-76.36%	
Regional Radio Assessment Fire/Police	-	1,624.00				
Regional Health Program	4,200.00	7,096.00		\$ 2,896	68.95%	
Inspection Program	23,088.82	35,841.00		\$ 12,752	55.23%	
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>40,590.84</b>	<b>54,349.15</b>	-	<b>\$ 13,758</b>	<b>33.90%</b>	
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
Gill/Montague School [DR]	1,095,041.00	1,165,805.00	154,782.45	\$ 70,764	6.46%	
TFHS/GFMS Bldg. Loan [BP]	107,980.43	191,285.00	36,502.55	\$ 83,305	77.15%	
Total Assessment	<b>1,203,021.43</b>	<b>1,357,090.00</b>		<b>\$ 154,069</b>	<b>12.81%</b>	
Tech School District	74,149.00	96,462.00		\$ 22,313	30.09%	
Tech School Capital Program	2,050.69	-		\$ (2,051)	-100.00%	
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1,279,221.12</b>	<b>1,453,552.00</b>	<b>191,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 174,331</b>	<b>13.63%</b>	
<b>OMNIBUS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,363,978.32</b>	<b>2,613,216.94</b>		<b>\$ 249,239</b>	<b>10.54%</b>	
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>	223,490.82	247,431.25	247,431.25	\$ 23,940	10.71%	
<b>LESS PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FUNDS</b>	16,090.94	30,000.00				
<b>OMNILESS TOTAL</b>	<b>2,124,396.56</b>	<b>2,335,785.69</b>		<b>\$ 211,389</b>	<b>9.95%</b>	
<b>AVAIL</b>	<b>SR: Sewer Receipts</b>		<b>BP: GM Bond Premium Receipt</b>			
<b>FUNDS:</b>	<b>DR: Debt Reserve</b>		<b>TSR: Trash Sticker Receipts</b>			
<i>Percentage Increase computed by dividing the dollar increase by the FY2006 appropriated, then multiplying the resulting fraction by 100.</i>						

**Amendment to add \$1,800.00 to Recreation Department Budget  
Passed by Majority**

Vote on budget as amended to reflect additional \$1,800.00  
Total: \$2,335,785.69

**Passed Majority**

**Article 5:** Motion to pass over.  
**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 6:** Move the town vote to accept the provision of MGL chapter 140, section 147A to empower the town to enact by-laws and ordinances relative to the regulation of dogs.  
**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 7:** Move the Town vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be deposited into the fund and expended to purchase dog tags, pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other related dog control expenses under the direction of the Town Clerk, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> next will be limited to \$2000, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year.  
**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 8:** Move the town vote to establish the following bylaw pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 140:

Section 1

- 1.1 The registering, numbering, description and licensing, pursuant to the provisions of MGL chapter 140, of all dogs and kennels in the Town of Gill shall be conducted in the office of the Town Clerk. Said licensing period is from April 1 to March 31. All dogs six months of age or older shall be licensed and have a current rabies inoculation as required under MGL chapter 140, sections 137 and 145B as amended.
- 1.2 The fees shall be as prescribed in MGL chapter 140, except that the annual fee for the licenses shall be:
- Male.....\$10
  - Female.....\$ 10
  - Neutered Male.....\$ 5
  - Spayed Female .....\$ 5
  - Kennel license
    - a. Not more than four dogs.....\$15
    - b. Five to nine dogs.....\$30
    - c. Ten or more dogs.....\$50
- 1.3 An additional late fee of \$10 for every dog shall be assessed to a dog owner who fails to properly license his dog by June 1 of any year.
- 1.4 The Select Board as deemed necessary will approve any future changes to the fee structure of the dog licensing program. Kennel fees shall be set from time to time by the Select Board and shall reflect the cost for boarding and care of a dog on a daily basis.
- 1.5 No fee shall be charged for a license for a service dog specifically trained and certified as such. No license fee or part thereof shall be refunded because of a subsequent death, loss, spaying, neutering, removal from the Town or any other disposal of the dog.
- 1.6 All monies collected for licenses, fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be retained by the Town in a revolving fund pursuant to Chapter 44, section 53E ½ to pay for the various expenses in relation to the licenses, the care and destruction of the dogs, and any payment for damages committed by dogs of no known owner.
- 1.7 Any payments made for damages are subject to Chapter 140, section 161A and in no case shall exceed \$500.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 9:** Move the Town vote to adopt the following Excessive Noise bylaw:

Because excessive noise can interfere with the public health, safety, welfare and peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the Town of Gill, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons occupying, having the charge of, or being present in or about any buildings, structure, premises, shelter, vehicle, or conveyance or any part thereof, in the Town of Gill, due to undue or extreme acceleration of off road recreational vehicle, snowmobile, ATV, or skidding or spinning of the wheels of such vehicle on the pavement or road surface.

Assessment of the noise shall be as follows: if after a complaint to the police the noise is plainly audible from the building or structure or premises or shelter or lot line thereof, in which or from which the noise is produced, interfering with the public health, safety, welfare, peace and quiet of complaints, the fact that the noise is plainly audible by a law enforcement officer shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation of this bylaw.

Whoever is found in violation of any of the provisions or requirements of this by-law may be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each offense. All prosecutions of any violations shall begin within six (6) months from the date of any citation for said offense. Police Officers are empowered to enforce violations of this bylaw.

**Passed 40 YES 28 NO**

**Article 10:** Move the Town vote to establish an Agricultural Commission to represent the Gill commercial farming and agricultural community, as well as other farming and forestry activities.

The purpose of the Agricultural Commission will be to support agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Gill. The Commission's duties shall include but will not be limited to the following: serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuits of agriculture in Gill; promote agricultural-based opportunities in Town; act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; work for the preservation of prime agricultural lands; advise the Board of Selectman, or any other appropriate Town Boards on issues involving agriculture; and shall pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community.

The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Moderator, of which the majority of the membership shall be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. All members of the Commission must either be residents of the town, or owners and farmers of agricultural property within the town. There may be up to three alternates appointed to the Commission by the Moderator that will serve to fill any vacancies at a meeting of the

Commission.

In making appointments, the Moderator is asked specifically to consider the intent of the Commission to represent the agricultural interests of the Town.

The terms will be as follows: Two members for a term of three years; two members for a term of two years and three thereafter; and one member for a term of one year and three years thereafter.

The Moderator shall fill a vacancy based on the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments, based upon the recommendations of the Commission.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 11:** Move the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, §18 requiring that all retirees, their spouses and dependents who are enrolled in Medicare Part A at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, or eligible for coverage thereunder at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, be required to enroll in a Medicare health benefits supplement plan offered by the town.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 18:** Move the Town to authorize and direct the Assessors to take One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$190,000.00) from unappropriated funds to be used to stabilize the tax levy for fiscal year 2007.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 19:** Move the Town vote to transfer from unappropriated funds, the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$30,000) for the stabilization fund.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Tributes**

**Patricia Hawkins  
By Beverly Demars**

Patricia Hawkins served 6 years on the Cemetery Commission. Pat almost single-handed read and transcribed all the information from every gravestone in North Cemetery for our records.

She attended Greenfield Community College classes to learn how to clean a gravestone the correct way and how to straighten out the leaning stones. Many Saturday mornings, or after finishing her full-time job during the week, you could find Pat helping with those projects. She was always willing to give her time for the Town and we thank her for that.

**Oleathia Prevett and Joseph Girard  
By Harriet A. Tidd**

Gill lost two long-time members of its Council on Aging.

Oleathia Mae Prevett died on November 30, 2005. Oleathia and her husband, Frank were named to the Council in 1988. Frank died a few years ago, but in spite of poor health, Oleathia kept up her interest. During her earlier years on the farm, she enjoyed helping out with 4-H youngsters. Many people will remember and have enjoyed purchasing vegetables at her self-service stand.

Joseph Girard was one of the original members of the Council since 1984. It was poor health that curbed his activity the last few years. He also served the town as selectman, moderator and electrical inspector.

As these old-timers pass on, citizens willing to devote a few hours to the Town are getting hard to find.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

**A true Copy.  
Attest:**

**Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Town Clerk**