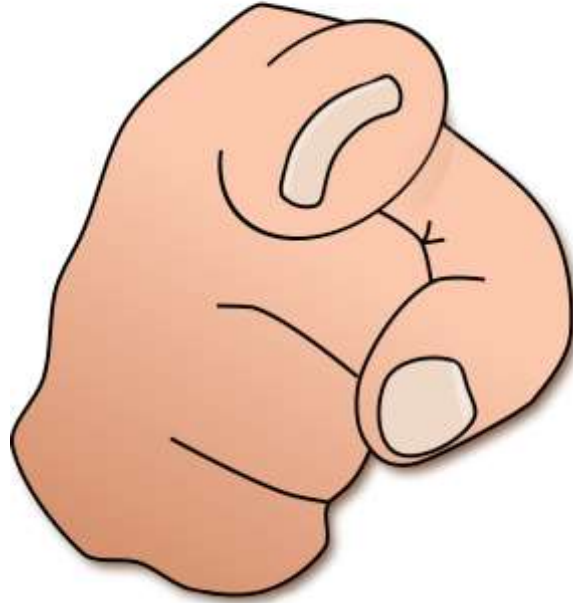


WE WANT YOU!



WE NEED YOU!

The Town is always looking for residents who might be able to volunteer for one of Gill's many boards, committees, councils and commissions. If you think you might be interested in joining any of these groups, please contact the Chair, or contact Ray Purington at 863-9347.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee (Greg Snedeker, 863-8168)

Conservation Commission (Paul Sievert, 863-2370)

Council on Aging (Bev Demars, 863-4792)

Zoning Board of Appeals (Suzanne Smiley, 863-8174)

**Part 2 of May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting
& June 10, 2015 Special Town Meeting**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 4, 2015

To any of the Constables of the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Gill Town Hall in said Town on Monday, the Fourth day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen (5/4/2015) at 6:30 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to postpone Article 1 to after Article 9.

Substantial progress has been made to catch up on Annual Reports. A volunteer compiled the report for FY 2010, and using money approved at last year's Town Meeting, Ann Banash was hired to prepare the reports for FY 2011, 2012, and 2013. All are in final or near-final draft form, and we hope to have printed reports to distribute in June. By postponing the article, it will allow voters the opportunity to revisit it in June at the second half of Town Meeting.

Related to Annual Reports, the Town Clerk has leftover copies of Annual Reports (from the 1950s and newer) that are available to residents on a first-come basis. If you are looking to fill in gaps in your collection, or want one key date (birth year, perhaps), act now. Supplies are limited, and the offer will not be repeated!

Article 2: To elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to elect Edward J. Golembeski and Clifford C. Hatch as Field Drivers and elect the Selectboard as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

Article 3: To see if the Town will 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 2016 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2016 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement.

Chapter 90 funds are given annually by the State to the Town, and are used for our road maintenance program – activities such as repaving asphalt roads, applying new oil & stone, grading gravel roads, and drainage and guardrail projects. The Town will receive \$150,995 for FY2016.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five-year contract with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management Recycle America, LLC for recycling services at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five-year contract with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management Recycle America, LLC for recycling services at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility.

*Each week Gill's curbside recycling (paper and containers – cans, glass & plastics) are delivered to the Springfield M.R.F. The Town's current 10-year contract with the M.R.F. expires on June 30th. Under the current contract, the Town is paid for the weight of the recyclables that we send. Because market prices are lower now than 10 years ago, the Town will receive lower payments under the new contract. But, we will still get paid! If the Town does not approve the new 5-year contract, then we will be **charged** a per-ton fee to deliver recyclables to the M.R.F. A handout (attached) from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District provides additional details.*

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to revise its Zoning Bylaws to regulate Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs) that may be established in the Town of Gill under Mass. Department of Health regulations for the "Implementation of an Act for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana" (105 CMR 725), by amending or adding the following sections, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority vote is required to amend the Zoning Bylaws.)

1. Amend Section 2C, Table Of Use Regulations—to allow an RMD with no more than 2,500 square feet of enclosed floor area by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals in the Village Commercial District;
2. Amend Section 3, Dimensional Schedule— to require that no RMD shall be sited within a radius of three hundred (300) feet of a school, daycare center, park or playground, or any location where children commonly congregate;
3. Amend Section 17, Definitions—to insert new definitions relating to RMDs;
4. Amend Section 24B, Projects Requiring Site Plan Review—to add RMDs to the list of projects requiring Site Plan Review by the Zoning Board of Appeals;
5. Amend Section 24C, Procedure, Subsection 2—to allow the Reviewing Board the right to retain, at the applicants' expense, other expert consultants (in addition to a Registered Professional Engineer) to advise the Board on any or all aspects of a site plan; and
6. Create a new Section 25, Registered Marijuana Dispensaries to establish the purpose, procedures and application requirements, special conditions, and administrative regulations relating to the establishment of RMDs in Gill.

NOTE: The complete text of these proposed amendments is labeled "Town of Gill Planning Board, Proposed Medical Marijuana Zoning Bylaw, Town Meeting Version" and is dated May 4, 2015. Copies of the complete text of the proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment are available at the Town Hall during its regular business hours, on the Town website at www.gillmass.org/, and as handouts at Town Meeting

Motion: It is moved the Town revise its Zoning Bylaws to regulate Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs) that may be established in the Town of Gill under Mass. Department of Health regulations for the "Implementation of an Act for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana" (105 CMR 725), by amending or adding sections in accordance with the handout labeled "Town of Gill Planning Board, Proposed Medical Marijuana Zoning Bylaw, Town Meeting Version" and dated May 4, 2015.

State-licensed Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs) were created by a November 2012 statewide ballot initiative. Shortly thereafter, at least one town voted to ban RMDs from their town, only to have their actions reversed by the Attorney General. Towns may not ban RMDs, but may enact Zoning Bylaws that regulate the size, location, and some aspects of how they operate.

Gill's Planning Board has prepared this proposed Zoning Bylaw so that the Town will have regulations in place IF a RMDs should ever look to locate in Gill. To date, no RMDs have considered Gill, and none are known to be looking. (An RMD has been approved by Greenfield's Zoning Board, and is expected to open later this year.)

The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Zoning Bylaw by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$1,116,764.00 borrowing authorized by the Gill-Montague Regional School District ("District"), for the purpose of paying costs of GMRSD Window Project at Sheffield Elementary School, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376 replacing the windows in the

auditorium/gymnasium wing, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of GMRSD School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) seventy six percent (76%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town approve the \$1,116,764.00 borrowing authorized by the Gill-Montague Regional School District ("District"), for the purpose of paying costs of GMRSD Window Project at Sheffield Elementary School, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376 replacing the windows in the auditorium/gymnasium wing, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of GMRSD School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) seventy six percent (76%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA.

Alternate Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 6.

The Town of Montague is asking its voters to consider approving and paying for a major window replacement project at the Montague-owned Sheffield Elementary School. The project has qualified for a 76% reimbursement rate from the Mass. School Building Authority.

Because Sheffield is a Montague-owned building, Montague will be solely responsible for the other 24% of the project's costs. (Just as major repairs and renovations to Gill Elementary are solely Gill's to pay.)

The School District will take out the loan for the project and Montague will repay the loan through an annual capital assessment until the loan is paid off. Gill will not be assessed for any portion of this loan. However, because it is the District that is doing the borrowing, both member towns must give their approval to the debt.

The Alternate Motion, which is taking no action and passing over the article, is also considered approval of the article.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$145,000.00 borrowing authorized by the Gill-Montague Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of GMRSD Boiler Burner Project at Sheffield Elementary School, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376 replacing the boiler and two burners, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"). To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town approve the \$145,000.00 borrowing authorized by the Gill-Montague Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of GMRSD Boiler Burner Project at Sheffield Elementary School, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376 replacing the boiler and two burners, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"). To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority.

Alternate Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 7.

This article is similar to Article 6, but without any MSBA reimbursement. The Town of Montague is asking its voters to consider approving and paying for boiler & burner replacement project at the Montague-owned Sheffield Elementary School.

Because Sheffield is a Montague-owned building, Montague will be solely responsible for 100% of the project's costs. (Just as major repairs and renovations to Gill Elementary are 100% Gill's to pay.)

The School District will take out the loan for the project and Montague will repay the loan through an annual capital assessment until the loan is paid off. Gill will not be assessed for any portion of this loan. However, because it is the District that is doing the borrowing, both member towns must give their approval to the debt.

The Alternate Motion, which is taking no action and passing over the article, is also considered approval of the article.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2016, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2016, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School.

Quintus Allen was an original trustee of the Greenfield Savings Bank. Upon his death in 1884, he established a trust fund to be used for education-related expenses in Colrain, Gill, Leyden, and Shelburne. The interest earned by the Trust is distributed to those towns each year. This year the Gill Elementary School is using \$3,616.50 of the Quintus Allen money to purchase nature education supplies (magnifying glasses, bird feeders & houses, insect nets, field guides, etc.) and provide a stipend for a nature education intern. The current balance of the Town's Quintus Allen account is \$11,708, before this year's expenses.

In recent years the School has used the Quintus Allen funds for:

- 2014 Student Clay Tile Mural (\$1,920.59)*
- 2014 Stipend for Afterschool ACT Play Assistant (\$250.00)*
- 2012 Soccer Goals and Sports Equipment (\$1,351.59)*
- 2011 Artist-in-Residence, all-school performance of scripts written by each class (\$3,000.00)*
- 2009 Upgrade to Electrical Panel to allow for a computer lab and classroom computers (\$6,625.00)*

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following revolving funds per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which revenues will be deposited into the funds and expended to pay related costs under the authorization of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed below, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year, or take any action relative thereto:

Dept. Spend	Authorized to	Types of Receipts Credited	Program/Purpose for which Funds may be Expended	Maximum Annual Expenditures
Fire Dept.		Oil Burner Inspection Fees	Inspector & Etc.	\$2,000.00
Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer		Dog Fees & Fines	Licenses, Dog Care & Control, & Etc.	4,000.00
Cemetery Commission		Opening Fees	Cemeteries & Caretaking	2,000.00
Conservation Commission		Consultant Fees	Project Review	10,000.00
Agricultural Commission		Farmers' Market & Ag Event Fees	Ag Programs	500.00
Energy Commission		Workshop and Program Fees	Energy Programs	1,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals		ZBA Fees	Hearings & Expenses	2,000.00
Board of Health, Administrative Assistant		Recycling Program Revenue	Solid waste & recycling programs, Solid Waste District membership, recycled-content office products	5,000.00

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to authorize the listed revolving funds per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which revenues will be deposited into the funds and expended to pay related costs as recommended by the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year:

These are the same revolving funds that were approved last year. A revolving fund allows program fees to be used within the fiscal year for the purposes listed by the "department" that collects the fees.

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Move to continue the remainder of the Annual Town Meeting to Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

*The Town has not yet finished its budget process for Fiscal Year 2016. The Selectboard recommends continuing Annual Town Meeting to a later date, at which time the remaining articles will be presented.*

**Article 1:** To hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to postpone Article 1 to after Article 9. (Approved, declared unanimous, 5/4/15)

**Motion:** It is moved to pass over Article 1.

*Substantial progress has been made to catch up on Annual Reports. A volunteer compiled the report for FY 2010, and using money approved at last year's Town Meeting, Ann Banash was hired to prepare the reports for FY 2011, 2012, and 2013. All are in final or near-final draft form.*

*Unfortunately, and through no fault of the volunteer or Ms. Banash, the reports have not yet been printed. The printed reports will be available by early fall, at the latest.*

*Related to Annual Reports, the Town Clerk has leftover copies of Annual Reports (from the 1950s and newer) that are available to residents on a first-come basis. If you are looking to fill in gaps in your collection, or want one key date (birth year, perhaps), act now. Supplies are limited, and the offer will not be repeated!*

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, plus any cost of living adjustment (COLA) that may be provided by the Town:

|                                                |             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Constable(s) – Each Posting                    | \$18.94     |
| Moderator – Annual Town Meeting                | \$138.16    |
| Special Town Meeting, Each                     | \$24.64     |
| Selectboard Chair                              | \$2,537.32  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each | \$2,306.72  |
| Board of Assessors Chair                       | \$3,081.13  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each | \$2,801.03  |
| Board of Health Chair                          | \$1,389.13  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each | \$1,272.11  |
| Town Clerk                                     | \$17,467.83 |
| Tax Collector                                  | \$22,007.57 |
| Additional As Sewer Receipts Collector         | \$657.88    |
| Treasurer                                      | \$19,699.34 |
| Registrars – Three members, Each               | \$58.75     |
| Town Clerk                                     | \$94.10     |

*All amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2015. A COLA, if approved in Article 11, would be in addition to the amounts listed above. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 2 absent.*

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,991.00 (Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety One and 00/100 Dollars) to provide a 1.7% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials.

*In March the Personnel Committee recommended a COLA of 1.7% to the Selectboard based upon the 1.7% Social Security increase being granted for 2015. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent.*

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise by taxation \$1,338,301.76 (One Million Three Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred One and 76/100 Dollars) and transfer \$49,000.00 (Forty Nine Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from Sewer Use Fees and appropriate \$38,865.00 (Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five and 00/100 Dollars) from Fiscal Year 2016 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$1,426,166.76 (One Million Four Hundred Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty Six and 76/100 Dollars) for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard.

*Please see the separate handout (legal-sized paper) for the Omnibus amounts. The amounts in the motion come from lines 87-90 of the handout. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$1,584,937.00 (One Million Five Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,566,029.00 for its Fiscal Year 2016 operating assessment and \$18,908.00 for its Fiscal Year 2016 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$1,584,937.00 (One Million Five Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,566,029.00 for its Fiscal Year 2016 operating assessment and \$18,908.00 for its Fiscal Year 2016 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

*Although the GMRSD managed to limit its FY 2016 budget increase to 5.27%, and the overall towns' assessment to 3.5%, Gill's assessment for the GMRSD's operating budget has increased by \$124,701 (8.7%) and the debt service for the high school/middle school renovation project increased by \$1,798. The majority of the increase is due to a shift in enrollment – Gill's percentage of the students in the District grew from 12.60% (Oct. 1, 2013) to 13.94% (Oct. 1, 2014).*

*Through careful and conservative budgeting, the Town is able to afford this year's assessment without reaching into our Stabilization Fund or calling for a Prop. 2-½ Override vote. However, because finances – ours, theirs, and yours – continue to tighten, we anticipate the possibility of continued difficulties for the District and the Town in dealing with next year's District budget. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent.*

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$9,652.00 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two and 00/100 Dollars) to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, and to pay for an annual energy performance audit, all relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$9,652.00 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two and 00/100 Dollars) from the Energy Stabilization Fund to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond

Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, and to pay for an annual energy performance audit, all relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School.

*A 2/3 majority is required to transfer money out of a stabilization fund.*

*This article makes the Fiscal Year 2016 payments related to the 2011 energy improvements at the Gill Elementary School. It is the fourth payment out of sixteen total. The money in the Energy Stabilization Fund is available because of savings produced by the energy improvements. There is presently \$5,134 in the fund, and Special Town Meeting Article 1 will add \$13,672, bringing the balance to \$18,806. After this vote, \$9,154 will remain in the fund to be put toward future years' payments.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent.*

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

*The Town voted to establish the CIPC at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Their report to the Town is in the handout for today's meeting (green paper). Articles 16 – 18, and Article 5 of the Special Town Meeting were requested by the CIPC.*

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the account to construct office walls in the Town Hall and make related improvements, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to add to the account to construct office walls in the Town Hall and make related improvements.

*In 2010 Town Meeting voters approved \$10,000 to construct offices for the Town Clerk and the Treasurer-Collector. That initial amount turned out to be not enough to do a complete project, and so the work was never started. The need for the offices, however, has not gone away. Both roles are important functions within the Town's government, and deserve more privacy and security than is currently provided by the short, gray fabric panels.*

*The two new offices will be built on the north side of the building, in the space currently used for committee meetings. The walls will be full height, floor to ceiling, and the existing exterior door on the north wall will be replaced with a window. The three existing windows will be removed, and new, energy-efficient replacement windows ("2 over 2", to match the existing) will be installed.*

*The Town Clerk's office will be in the northwest corner (where the long rectangular table currently sits), and the Treasurer-Collector's office will be in the middle, between the Town Clerk's office and that of the Administrative Assistant. Once the project is complete, the gray fabric partitions will come down, and committees will meet in that space on the south side of the room.*

*If this article is approved (\$10,000), and Special Town Meeting Article 2 is approved (\$9,500), there will be a total of \$29,500 available to construct these offices and provide professional working spaces to our Treasurer-Collector and Town Clerk.*

*The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase a single-axle dump truck with an all-season body and plow and wing plow and related accessories for the Highway Department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)



**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to purchase and set up a used single-axle dump truck with an all-season body, plow, and related accessories (which may include a wing plow) for the Highway Department.

*In 2013, when the Town last tried to replace the 1990 dump truck, the measure was defeated 39-38 in the September ballot election to authorize a \$155,000 debt exclusion to purchase a new truck. The old truck is now 2 years older, and there is unanimous agreement from the Highway Department, Capital Improvement Planning Committee, Finance Committee, and Selectboard that it is time to get a new truck. A new-to-us truck, that is.*

*Fred Chase II, a Gill resident, truck expert, Finance Committee member, and newly-appointed member of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee, has done a yeoman's job locating a used 2009 Sterling dump truck that comes with an all-season body, heavy-duty plow frame and plow, and wing plow. The truck is in excellent condition, and members of the Highway Department have inspected and driven the truck, and recommend its purchase.*

*If this article is approved, the Town will right away begin the process to purchase the 2009 Sterling. Because all of the money for the truck is coming from Free Cash, borrowing is not necessary and there will not be a separate ballot election to approve a debt exclusion.*

*The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$13,141.00 (Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Forty One and 00/100 Dollars) to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$13,141.00 (Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Forty One and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library.

*The funds will be used to hire a company that specializes in drying out wet & damp basements by installing interior perimeter drainage, a sump pump, and a HEPA air filtration unit. The result will be improved air quality in the entire Library, lower humidity levels, and a dry basement that can be used for badly needed storage. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a triennial appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a triennial appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company.

*Every three years the Department of Revenue requires the Assessors to obtain a new appraisal of the value of the Gill portion of the Turners Falls Dam, as well as other property in Gill owned by FirstLight. This article adds to the account for saving toward the next appraisal. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent.*

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the Board of Assessors Triennial Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the Board of Assessors' Triennial Revaluation account.

*Fiscal Year 2017 is the next triennial recertification year for Gill, in which the Department of Revenue will review and certify property values town wide. Because of the added level of research and analysis, the Assessors incur extra costs during revaluation years. This article continues saving toward the next revaluation. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent.*

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) for the Town Audit Account to be used toward a portion of the cost to conduct an independent financial audit of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be used toward a portion of the cost to conduct an independent financial audit of the Town.

*This Article continues to set aside funds to pay for the next triennial audit of the Town's finances, to be conducted in Fiscal Year 2016. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent.*

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,534.00 (Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Four and 00/100 Dollars) and further transfer \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), for a total of \$16,534.00 (Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Four and 00/100 Dollars) for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

*This article builds upon last year's small beginning toward setting aside money to meet future expenses of the Town's obligation to provide health insurance for future retirees. Although the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability is a very large number, the Selectboard and Finance Committee believe there are still too many assumptions and unknowns built into what is essentially an actuarial estimate. More work will be done in the coming years to get a better understanding of these future financial obligations, and refine the calculations of how much needs to be saved into the OPEB Trust Fund. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for one or more of the Stabilization Funds of the Town (Capital, Education, Energy, or General), or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$31,053.00 (Thirty One Thousand Fifty Three and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the General Stabilization Fund.

*A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.*

*There is currently \$138,627 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$48,200 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$208,039 in the General Stabilization Fund.*

*If any of the articles of the Annual Town Meeting or Special Town Meeting are amended or defeated, the Selectboard anticipates adjusting the amount in this article accordingly in order to maintain a balanced budget that does not require an override. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money or sums of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) or other available funds to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2016, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$68,000.00 (Sixty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from

unappropriated funds (Free Cash), and further transfer \$924.00 (Nine Hundred Twenty Four and 00/100) from Released Overlay, for a total of \$68,924.00 (Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Four and 00/100 Dollars) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2016.

*Free Cash is the money that remains unspent in department budgets from the previous year, plus any revenues that exceed what was anticipated when the tax rate was set. The Free Cash from Fiscal Year 2014 was certified by the Department of Revenue to be \$217,194. Of that, \$10,000 is being put toward the Town Hall Office Walls (Article 16), \$50,000 toward the Highway truck (Article 17), \$13,141 toward the Library Basement project (Article 18), \$35,000 toward the Town Hall Basement project (Special Town Meeting, Article 5), \$10,000 toward the OPEB Trust Fund (Article 22), and \$31,053 is going into General Stabilization. The remaining \$68,000 is used in this article to reduce the tax rate and contribute toward the operation of the Town.*

*Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2016 tax rate. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

And, you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; The Gill Store & Tavern, Main Road; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, in said Town seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.

Given under our hand this \_\_\_ day of April in the year Two Thousand Fifteen (4/\_\_/2015).

Selectboard of Gill

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_, Board member

\_\_\_\_\_, Board member

A true copy Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals who may need auxiliary aids for effective communication for this meeting should call the Gill Town Hall at (413) 863-9347 or MA Relay System at (800) 439-2370.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Gill by posting up attested copies of the same at Town Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; Gill Store & Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, seven days before the date hereof, as within directed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Constable of Gill

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

|    | <b>A</b>                                                    | <b>B</b>                       | <b>C</b>                       | <b>D</b>                                         | <b>E</b>                               | <b>F</b>      | <b>G</b>                                                |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                                             |                                |                                | <b>FY16</b>                                      |                                        |               |                                                         |
|    | Omnibus Budget for 6/10/2015<br>Annual Town Meeting, Part 2 | <b>FY14</b><br><b>Approved</b> | <b>FY15</b><br><b>Approved</b> | <b>Selectboard &amp;</b><br><b>Finance Comm.</b> | <b>Increase /</b><br><b>(Decrease)</b> | <b>%</b>      | <b>Notes</b>                                            |
|    |                                                             | <b>with COLA</b>               | <b>with COLA</b>               | <b>Recommended</b>                               | <b>( D - C )</b>                       | <b>Change</b> |                                                         |
| 1  | <b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>                                   |                                |                                |                                                  |                                        |               |                                                         |
| 2  | Moderator Salary                                            | 328.96                         | 332.10                         | 332.00                                           | (0.10)                                 |               |                                                         |
| 3  | Selectboard Salaries                                        | 7,150.76                       | 7,150.76                       | 7,150.76                                         | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 4  | Selectboard Expenses                                        | 2,854.90                       | 2,909.06                       | 2,800.00                                         | (109.06)                               | -3.7%         |                                                         |
| 5  | Administrative Assistant (Salary & Exp.)                    | 52,414.37                      | 53,207.79                      | 55,266.00                                        | 2,058.21                               | 3.9%          | Step raise                                              |
| 6  | Finance Committee                                           | 150.00                         | 150.00                         | 150.00                                           | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 7  | Reserve Fund                                                | 1,500.00                       | 1,500.00                       | 1,500.00                                         | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 8  | Accountant Expenses                                         | 200.00                         | 200.00                         | 200.00                                           | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 9  | Assessors Salaries                                          | 8,683.19                       | 8,683.19                       | 8,683.19                                         | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 10 | Assessors Clerical & Expenses                               | 29,465.94                      | 30,655.85                      | 30,821.20                                        | 165.35                                 | 0.5%          |                                                         |
| 11 | Treasurer Salary                                            | 19,408.21                      | 19,699.34                      | 19,699.34                                        | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 12 | Treasurer Expenses                                          | 6,805.00                       | 6,902.00                       | 7,037.00                                         | 135.00                                 | 2.0%          |                                                         |
| 13 | Tax Collector Salary                                        | 21,682.33                      | 22,007.57                      | 22,007.57                                        | (0.00)                                 |               |                                                         |
| 14 | Tax Collector Expenses                                      | 8,333.00                       | 8,522.00                       | 8,754.00                                         | 232.00                                 | 2.7%          |                                                         |
| 15 | Legal                                                       | 5,000.00                       | 5,000.00                       | 5,000.00                                         | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 16 | IT Committee                                                | 2,050.00                       | 1,750.00                       | 2,550.00                                         | 800.00                                 | 45.7%         | Setup & database transfer costs for Assessor's computer |
| 17 | Town Clerk Salary                                           | 17,209.68                      | 17,467.83                      | 17,467.83                                        | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 18 | Town Clerk Expenses                                         | 3,635.00                       | 5,115.00                       | 4,670.00                                         | (445.00)                               | -8.7%         | Fewer elections in FY16                                 |
| 19 | Electors/Registrars                                         | 1,627.20                       | 3,288.00                       | 2,230.00                                         | (1,058.00)                             | -32.2%        | Fewer elections in FY16                                 |
| 20 | Conservation Commission                                     | 823.66                         | 826.39                         | 827.00                                           | 0.61                                   |               |                                                         |
| 21 | Agricultural Commission                                     | 200.00                         | 200.00                         | 200.00                                           | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 22 | Planning Board                                              | 1,841.33                       | 1,775.23                       | 1,775.00                                         | (0.23)                                 |               |                                                         |
| 23 | Zoning Board of Appeals                                     | 1,662.45                       | 1,573.30                       | 1,574.00                                         | 0.70                                   |               |                                                         |
| 24 | Energy Commission                                           | 500.00                         | 500.00                         | 500.00                                           | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 25 | Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations                         | 24,962.31                      | 25,585.71                      | 25,502.00                                        | (83.71)                                | -0.3%         |                                                         |
| 26 | Building Repairs & Maintenance                              | 18,000.00                      | 18,000.00                      | 18,000.00                                        | -                                      |               |                                                         |
| 27 | Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations                        | 18,598.00                      | 20,574.00                      | 19,764.40                                        | (809.60)                               | -3.9%         |                                                         |
| 28 | <b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>                             | <b>255,086.29</b>              | <b>263,575.12</b>              | <b>264,461.29</b>                                | <b>886.17</b>                          | <b>0.3%</b>   |                                                         |
| 29 |                                                             |                                |                                |                                                  |                                        |               |                                                         |
| 30 | <b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>                                        |                                |                                |                                                  |                                        |               |                                                         |
| 31 | Police Department                                           | 184,470.79                     | 187,080.19                     | 187,080.00                                       | (0.19)                                 |               |                                                         |
| 32 | Fire Department                                             | 74,781.02                      | 75,360.85                      | 76,644.00                                        | 1,283.15                               | 1.7%          | Small increases in budget for labor & equipment         |
| 33 | <b>PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>259,251.81</b>              | <b>262,441.04</b>              | <b>263,724.00</b>                                | <b>1,282.96</b>                        | <b>0.5%</b>   |                                                         |
| 34 |                                                             |                                |                                |                                                  |                                        |               |                                                         |

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

|    | A                                                           | B                 | C                 | D                                             | E                                     | F            | G                                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                                             |                   |                   | FY16                                          |                                       |              |                                                             |
|    | Omnibus Budget for 6/10/2015<br>Annual Town Meeting, Part 2 | FY14<br>Approved  | FY15<br>Approved  | Selectboard &<br>Finance Comm.<br>Recommended | Increase /<br>(Decrease)<br>( D - C ) | %<br>Change  | Notes                                                       |
|    |                                                             | with COLA         | with COLA         |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |
| 35 | <b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>                                         |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |
| 36 | Trees and Forestry                                          | 6,000.00          | 6,455.00          | 6,455.00                                      | -                                     |              |                                                             |
| 37 | Highway Department                                          | 238,701.33        | 247,267.81        | 248,987.00                                    | 1,719.19                              | 0.7%         | Step raise                                                  |
| 38 | Highway Dep't. - Snow & Ice Removal                         | 53,651.00         | 53,651.00         | 63,970.00                                     | 10,319.00                             | 19.2%        | Covering costs in event of another long, hard winter        |
| 39 | Bridges and Street Lights                                   | 5,750.00          | 6,300.00          | 6,300.00                                      | -                                     |              |                                                             |
| 40 | Solid Waste & Recycling                                     | 68,504.00         | 69,632.00         | 70,432.00                                     | 800.00                                | 1.1%         | Increase covers cost to buy 2-year supply of trash stickers |
| 41 | Solid Waste District Assessment                             |                   |                   | 1,065.00                                      | 1,065.00                              |              | 25% from town budget; 75% from revolving fund               |
| 42 | Sewer                                                       | 79,230.32         | 87,865.00         | 87,865.00                                     | -                                     |              |                                                             |
| 43 | Cemetery Commission                                         | 4,500.00          | 4,500.00          | 4,500.00                                      | -                                     |              |                                                             |
| 44 | Memorial Committee                                          | 693.00            | 693.00            | 790.00                                        | 97.00                                 | 14.0%        | Using less of Donations Fund for flags & Mem Day services   |
| 45 | <b>PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>457,029.65</b> | <b>476,363.81</b> | <b>490,364.00</b>                             | <b>14,000.19</b>                      | <b>2.9%</b>  |                                                             |
| 46 |                                                             |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |
| 47 | <b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>                          |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |
| 48 | Board of Health Salaries                                    | 3,875.22          | 3,933.35          | 3,933.35                                      | -                                     |              |                                                             |
| 49 | Board of Health Clerical & Expenses                         | 2,851.72          | 2,694.20          | 2,694.69                                      | 0.49                                  |              |                                                             |
| 50 | Council on Aging                                            | 5,676.00          | 5,676.00          | 7,606.20                                      | 1,930.20                              | 34.0%        | Montague wage reclassification & step raise for Director    |
| 51 | Veterans District Assessment                                | 2,323.00          | 2,393.00          | 2,863.00                                      | 470.00                                | 19.6%        | Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District            |
| 52 | Veterans Benefits                                           | 4,000.00          | 4,000.00          | 5,500.00                                      | 1,500.00                              | 37.5%        | Additional Gill veteran receiving benefits                  |
| 53 | <b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL</b>                    | <b>18,725.94</b>  | <b>18,696.55</b>  | <b>22,597.24</b>                              | <b>3,900.69</b>                       | <b>20.9%</b> |                                                             |
| 54 |                                                             |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |
| 55 | <b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>                             |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |
| 56 | Library                                                     | 23,719.25         | 25,569.75         | 25,555.00                                     | (14.75)                               |              |                                                             |
| 57 | Recreation Commission                                       |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              | No volunteers have stepped forward                          |
| 58 | Historical Commission                                       | 860.00            | 860.00            | 860.00                                        | -                                     |              |                                                             |
| 59 | <b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION TOTAL</b>                       | <b>24,579.25</b>  | <b>26,429.75</b>  | <b>26,415.00</b>                              | <b>(14.75)</b>                        | <b>-0.1%</b> |                                                             |
| 60 |                                                             |                   |                   |                                               |                                       |              |                                                             |

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

|    | A                                                           | B                   | C                   | D                                             | E                                     | F             | G                                                        |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                                             |                     |                     | FY16                                          |                                       |               |                                                          |
|    | Omnibus Budget for 6/10/2015<br>Annual Town Meeting, Part 2 | FY14<br>Approved    | FY15<br>Approved    | Selectboard &<br>Finance Comm.<br>Recommended | Increase /<br>(Decrease)<br>( D - C ) | %<br>Change   | Notes                                                    |
|    |                                                             | with COLA           | with COLA           |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 61 | <b>FIXED COSTS</b>                                          |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 62 | Town Insurance                                              | 39,404.00           | 40,192.00           | 40,860.00                                     | 668.00                                | 1.7%          |                                                          |
| 63 | Mariamante Loan (debt excl)                                 | 14,594.00           | 14,639.33           | 14,444.70                                     | (194.63)                              | -1.3%         |                                                          |
| 64 | Dump Truck Debt Payment (debt excl)                         | 28,053.00           |                     |                                               | -                                     | 100.0%        | 5-year debt exclusion loan has been paid off             |
| 65 | Energy Bond & Performance Audit                             | 9,026.26            |                     |                                               | -                                     | 100.0%        | To be discussed & voted under Article 14 & STM Article 1 |
| 66 | Retirement                                                  | 80,595.00           | 81,538.00           | 81,943.00                                     | 405.00                                | 0.5%          |                                                          |
| 67 | Unemployment Fund                                           | 2,500.00            |                     | -                                             | -                                     | 100.0%        | Town has adequate balance in its Unemployment Trust Fund |
| 68 | Group Health and Life Insurance                             | 83,063.48           | 83,064.00           | 81,707.00                                     | (1,357.00)                            | -1.6%         | Savings in Town's share of retirees' health insurance    |
| 69 | Police Cruiser Loan (debt excl)                             | 11,455.49           | 11,290.01           | 11,124.53                                     | (165.48)                              | -1.5%         | Final year of a 3-year loan                              |
| 70 | Town Hall Roof Loan (debt excl)                             | 16,672.00           | 16,448.00           | 16,224.00                                     | (224.00)                              | -1.4%         | Final year of a 3-year loan                              |
| 71 | <b>FIXED COSTS TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>285,363.23</b>   | <b>247,171.34</b>   | <b>246,303.23</b>                             | <b>(868.11)</b>                       | <b>-0.4%</b>  |                                                          |
| 72 |                                                             |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 73 | <b>FRCOG ASSESSMENT</b>                                     |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 74 | Statutory & Reg'l Services Assessments                      | 11,146.00           | 11,786.00           | 9,536.00                                      | (2,250.00)                            | -19.1%        | Savings due to moving to State's retirement system       |
| 75 | Accounting                                                  | 19,436.00           | 22,394.00           | 22,917.00                                     | 523.00                                | 2.3%          |                                                          |
| 76 | Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health                      | 10,206.00           | 11,788.00           | 10,788.00                                     | (1,000.00)                            | -8.5%         |                                                          |
| 77 | Regional Emerg. Preparedness                                | 100.00              | 100.00              | 150.00                                        | 50.00                                 | 50.0%         |                                                          |
| 78 | Cooperative Inspection Program                              | 6,500.00            | 6,500.00            | 6,500.00                                      | -                                     |               |                                                          |
| 79 | <b>FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL</b>                               | <b>47,388.00</b>    | <b>52,568.00</b>    | <b>49,891.00</b>                              | <b>(2,677.00)</b>                     | <b>-5.1%</b>  | Total reduction will be voted to Town's OPEB Trust Fund  |
| 80 |                                                             |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 81 | <b>EDUCATION</b>                                            |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 82 | Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.                               |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               | To be discussed & voted under Article 13.                |
| 83 | GMRSD Bldg Loan                                             |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               | To be discussed & voted under Article 13.                |
| 84 | Franklin County Technical School                            | 129,926.00          | 96,620.00           | 62,411.00                                     | (34,209.00)                           | -35.4%        | Gill's enrollment decreased from 8 to 5 students         |
| 85 | <b>EDUCATION TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>129,926.00</b>   | <b>96,620.00</b>    | <b>62,411.00</b>                              | <b>(34,209.00)</b>                    | <b>-35.4%</b> |                                                          |
| 86 |                                                             |                     |                     |                                               |                                       |               |                                                          |
| 87 | <b>OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>1,477,350.17</b> | <b>1,443,865.61</b> | <b>1,426,166.76</b>                           | <b>(17,698.85)</b>                    | <b>-1.2%</b>  |                                                          |
| 88 | Less Transfer of Sewer Use Fees                             | 45,000.00           | 49,000.00           | 49,000.00                                     |                                       |               | Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget               |
| 89 | Less Estimated Sewer Receipts                               | 34,042.00           | 38,865.00           | 38,865.00                                     |                                       |               | Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget               |
| 90 | <b>TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION</b>                             | <b>1,398,308.17</b> | <b>1,356,000.61</b> | <b>1,338,301.76</b>                           | <b>(17,698.85)</b>                    | <b>-1.3%</b>  |                                                          |

| Supplemental Info for Article 12 - Omnibus Budget |                                                     | Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2016 |                     |                                           |                   |                |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                                                   | A                                                   | B                                      | C                   | D                                         | E                 | F              |
|                                                   |                                                     | Fiscal Year 2014                       | Fiscal Year 2015    | Selectboard & Fin. Comm. Fiscal Year 2016 | Dollar Change     | Percent Change |
| 1                                                 | Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)                    | 1,477,350.17                           | 1,443,865.61        | 1,426,166.76                              | (17,698.85)       | -1.2%          |
| 2                                                 | Warrant Articles                                    | 171,219.06                             | 183,819.00          | 183,871.00                                | 52.00             | 0.0%           |
| 3                                                 | Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)      | 63,603.36                              | 80,022.00           | 76,257.00                                 | (3,765.00)        | -4.7%          |
| 4                                                 | Total Town Budget                                   | 1,712,172.59                           | 1,707,706.61        | 1,686,294.76                              | (21,411.85)       | -1.3%          |
| 5                                                 | GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)          | 1,439,343.00                           | 1,458,438.00        | 1,584,937.00                              | 126,499.00        | 8.7%           |
| 6                                                 | <b>Total Gross Budget</b>                           | <b>3,151,515.59</b>                    | <b>3,166,144.61</b> | <b>3,271,231.76</b>                       | <b>105,087.15</b> | <b>3.3%</b>    |
| 7                                                 | State Receipts                                      | 238,691.00                             | 265,306.00          | 275,351.00                                | 10,045.00         | 3.8%           |
| 8                                                 | Local Receipts                                      | 227,000.00                             | 227,200.00          | 223,400.00                                | (3,800.00)        | -1.7%          |
| 9                                                 | Available Funds                                     | 233,294.45                             | 189,739.00          | 257,135.00                                | 67,396.00         | 35.5%          |
| 10                                                | Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate                    | 68,000.00                              | 68,000.00           | 68,000.00                                 | -                 | 0.0%           |
| 11                                                | <b>Total Receipts</b>                               | <b>766,985.45</b>                      | <b>750,245.00</b>   | <b>823,886.00</b>                         | <b>73,641.00</b>  | <b>9.8%</b>    |
| 12                                                | Total Gross Budget                                  | 3,151,515.59                           | 3,166,144.61        | 3,271,231.76                              | 105,087.15        | 3.3%           |
| 13                                                | Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)           | 766,985.45                             | 750,245.00          | 823,886.00                                | 73,641.00         | 9.8%           |
| 14                                                | Property Tax Assessment                             | <b>2,384,530.14</b>                    | <b>2,415,899.61</b> | <b>2,447,345.76</b>                       | <b>31,446.15</b>  | <b>1.3%</b>    |
| 15                                                | Town-wide Property Valuation (FY16 is in process)   | 142,105,491                            | 143,353,073         | 143,353,073                               | -                 | 0.0%           |
| 16                                                | Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation) | <b>16.78</b>                           | <b>16.85</b>        | <b>17.07</b>                              | <b>0.22</b>       | <b>1.3%</b>    |
| 17                                                | Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence        | 192,000                                | 192,000             | 192,000                                   | -                 | 0.0%           |
| 18                                                | Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence     | 3,222                                  | 3,236               | 3,278                                     | 42                | 1.3%           |

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: JUNE 10, 2015

To any of the Constables of the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Gill Town Hall in said Town on Wednesday, the Tenth day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen (06/10/2015) at 7:00 PM then and there to act on the following articles:

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$13,672.00 (Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2015 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to the Energy Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$13,672.00 (Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2015 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to the Energy Stabilization Fund.

*A 2/3 majority is required to transfer money into a stabilization fund.*

*\$13,672 is the amount that the School District credited Gill's assessment for Fiscal Year 2015 because of energy savings at Gill Elementary School during Fiscal Year 2014. There is currently \$5,134 in the Energy Stabilization Fund, and this transfer will bring the total to \$18,806. Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting will use \$9,652 to make bond, interest, and audit payments for Fiscal Year 2016.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2015 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account (number 192) to add to the account to construct office walls in the Town Hall and make related improvements, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$9,500.00 (Nine Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2015 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account (number 192) to add to the account (number 001-192-5800) to construct office walls in the Town Hall and make related improvements.

*This article will transfer leftover money from the current year's building maintenance budget into the Office Walls account. There is currently \$10,000 in the account, and this article, plus \$10,000 to be voted in Article 16 of the Annual Town Meeting will make a total of \$29,500 available to construct first floor office space (walls and doors) for the Treasurer-Collector and Town Clerk. The explanation for Article 16 contains a more detailed description of the proposed work.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 absent.*

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,276.00 (Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Six and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2015 FRCOG Assessment Account (number 001-199-5400) to the OPEB Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$2,276.00 (Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Six and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2015 FRCOG Assessment Account (number 001-199-5400) to the OPEB Trust Fund.

*As a result of special legislation passed last year, the FRCOG was able to transfer its employees and retirees from the Franklin Regional Retirement System to the Massachusetts State Retirement System, retroactive to July 1, 2014. The change in systems allowed the FRCOG to return a portion of this year's*



*Statutory Assessments back to the member Towns. It was felt by the Selectboard and Finance Committee that it is appropriate to add this to Gill's trust fund for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), and save it toward the Town's share of future health insurance costs for our own retirees.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent.*

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Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$9,500.00 (Nine Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) to purchase a snow plow (mold board and A-frame) for the Highway Department, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 4.

The Selectboard believes that before committing to the expense of a new snow plow, more research is needed to determine if the existing snow plow can be repaired.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Town Hall, work which may include an interior basement waterproofing system and sump pumps, foundation repairs and exterior foundation drains, or a combination thereof, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$35,000.00 (Thirty Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Town Hall, work which may include an interior basement waterproofing system and sump pumps, foundation repairs and exterior foundation drains, or a combination thereof.

The Town Hall has a very wet basement – in addition to two sump pumps that run year-round, a Shop-Vac must be used after every heavy rain to vacuum up water that leaks in through the foundation and flows across the floor in the Assessor's Office. The problem has been getting worse, and the dampness and humidity is not conducive to a healthy work environment or to the proper storage of permanent records.

Assuming the basement project at the Slate Memorial Library (Article 18 of Annual Town Meeting) goes smoothly and successfully, it is anticipated that the same company will be hired to perform similar work in Town Hall's basement.

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 absent.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to design, engineer, permit, purchase, and install water quality treatment equipment for the Gill Elementary School or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 6.

The water well at the Elementary School has manganese levels that are slightly above the DEP's newly-established (in 2014) acceptable limits. Additionally, several times in the last five years, water samples have tested positive for coliform bacteria (but never positive for the more dangerous e. coli strain). The Town has secured a \$25,350 grant from the USDA to hire an engineer to create a preliminary design for a system that will treat both issues. Once the preliminary design is complete, sometime later this year, the Town will have a better understanding of the treatment system's projected cost, and can determine financing at that time.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; The Gill Store & Tavern, Main Road; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, in said Town fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.

Given under our hand this 26th day of May in the year Two Thousand Fifteen.

Selectboard of Gill

_____, Chair

_____, Board member

_____, Board member

A true copy Attest:

_____, Town Clerk

Date: _____

Individuals who may need auxiliary aids for effective communication for this meeting should call the Gill Town Hall at (413) 863-9347 or MA Relay System at (800) 439-2370.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Gill by posting up attested copies of the same at Town Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; Gill Store & Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, fourteen days before the date hereof, as within directed.

_____ Constable of Gill

Date: _____

2015 Report of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee

Created by the June 2010, Annual Town Meeting, the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC) members were appointed by the Selectboard. By definition, the Committee is charged with studying proposed projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which 1) are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than five years; 2) have a useful life of at least five years; and 3) cost over \$10,000.

Appointed by the Selectboard were: at-large members:, Ray Steele (resigned April, 2015) and Nancy Griswold; School Committee representative Sandy Brown, Selectboard representative Greg Snedeker, and Finance Committee representative Veronica "Ronnie" LaChance. Fred Chase II was appointed on May 19, 2015 to replace at-large member Ray Steele. One additional at-large member is still needed.

The Committee requested all Town Departments to submit capital requests. Based on those returned, the Committee recommends for FY16 the following:

- Purchase a single-axle dump truck with an all-season body, plow and wing plow to replace the current 1990 Ford truck
- Remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library
- Construct office walls in the Town Hall for the Town Clerk and Treasurer/Tax Collector
- Repair foundation and correct wetness in basement of the Town Hall

It is expected that the following items will need to be addressed in the next five years:

Town Hall

- Construct office walls (\$10,000 approved by 2010 Town Meeting, an additional \$10,000 is recommended)
- Correct wetness in basement
- Preserve/protect Town documents

Public Safety Complex

- Replace/repair roof (in progress)

Gill Elementary School

- Upgrade water and well components (in progress)
- Acquire and install emergency generator
- Replace floor tile
- Replace roof
- Update lightning protection system

Fire Dept.

- Replace air packs and bottles
- Replace the 1985 emergency van
- Replace brush truck
- Replace 1979 Louis tanker truck
- Replace 1987 pumper truck

Highway

- Replace single-axle Ford Truck with a single axle dump truck with plow/wing (recommended 2015)
- Replace Kubota tractor with used backhoe
- Replace 1985 Chipper

Police Dept.

- Replace 2005 police cruiser

Cemetery

- The Town has a need to acquire additional land as our present cemeteries are running out of saleable burial plots.

On-Going Projects

- The town hall walls will hopefully be completed in FY16
- Heating system for Town Hall is slated for the Phase II of GC grant
- Safety Complex roof is slated for completion in FY16
- Riverside boiler/heat pumps hopefully installed in FY16

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of
the Capital Improvements Planning Committee

Greg Snedeker, Chair