<u>June 19, 2018</u> <u>Annual Town Meeting (part 2)</u> <u>& Special Town Meeting</u>



Please use the microphone when recognized to speak.

It greatly improves the audio quality of the recording, which is kept as an archival record of the meeting.

Volunteers Wanted

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.

Agricultural Commission (Ray Steele, 863-2443)

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

Council on Aging (Bev Demars, 863-4792)

Energy Commission (Vicky Jenkins, 325-5722)

Finance Committee (Claire Chang, 626-3620)

Recreation Committee (Nick Stevens, 977-8609)

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

Contents of this handout:

- Cover page & Contents
- Special Town Meeting yellow paper, pages 1-4
- 2018 Report of Capital Improvement Planning Committee orange paper, pages 1-2
- Annual Town Meeting (Articles 15 26) white paper, pages 7-12
- Omnibus Budget (Article 17) legal-size paper, pages 1-4

(Articles 1 - 14 of the Annual Town Meeting were acted upon on May 7th. To save paper, the motions and explanations for Articles 1 - 14 have been omitted from this evening's handout. Copies of the May 7th handout are available; you may pick one up from the wooden desk in the main room on the 1st Floor.)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: JUNE 19, 2018

TOWN OF GILL

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 Tuesday, the 19th day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen (06/19/2018) at 6:55 PM then and there to act on the following articles:

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee's report to the Town is in the handout for today's meeting (orange-colored paper). Articles 1 through 8 represent the capital budget items for FY19, and were requested and recommended by the CIPC.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2018 Snow & Ice Removal Expense Account, and further raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to re-surface the existing asphalt pavement (north side driveway and rear parking areas) at the Public Safety Complex, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$12,000.00 (TWELVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Fiscal Year 2018 Snow & Ice Removal Expense Account, and further transfer \$20,000.00 (TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to re-surface the existing asphalt pavement (north side driveway and rear parking areas) at the Public Safety Complex, including any and all incidental and related costs.

The blacktop on the Fire Department driveway and rear parking areas at the Public Safety Complex is crumbling and full of ankle-twisting potholes. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2018 Snow & Ice Removal Expense Account for the repair and refurbishment of an existing snow plow for the Highway Department, including any and all incidental and related costs, 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 the Fiscal Year 2018 Snow & Ice Removal Expense Account to be used for the repair and refurbishment of an existing snow plow for the Highway Department, including any and all incidental and related costs.

In lieu of purchasing a new snow plow, the Machinery Advisory Committee recommends repairing an existing plow. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Article 3: 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 paint the walls and ceiling and install new carpet flooring in the hallway of the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$8,000.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to paint the walls and ceiling and install new carpet flooring in the hallway of the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs.

The 1970s orange broadloom carpet is worn and holey, and will be replaced with brown-patterned nylon carpet tiles, which are easier to replace should a section become stained or damaged. The walls and ceiling have grown dingy with time, and will be freshened with two coats of paint in an off-

white color selected by the Historical Commission. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Article 4: 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 install commercial vinyl tile flooring in the office areas of the Fire Department and Police Department, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$16,000.00 (SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to install commercial vinyl tile flooring in the office areas of the Fire Department and Police Department, including any and all incidental and related costs.

The existing flooring in these areas is a hodge-podge of carpet, vinyl composition tile (VCT), and bare concrete, all of which is old and worn. The proposed new flooring will be commercial-grade vinyl plank flooring that is durable and easy to maintain. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

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 install a second set of security doors in the foyer and a window and/or camera system to the main office, all at the Gill Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$20,000.00 (TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to install a second set of security doors in the foyer and a window and/or camera system to the main office, all at the Gill Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs.

The School District has requested this project as a means of enhancing student safety by better controlling access into the Gill Elementary School. The primary purpose is to provide a secure area for visitors to enter the School and then be buzzed through after speaking with and being visually observed by the person in the main office. As a secondary benefit, the extra set of doors will serve as an airlock and allow less heat to escape through the front doors in the winter months. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 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 for Gill's share of purchasing and installing network controllers and related components that manage the HVAC and related systems to upgrade the Building Management Systems at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$8,000.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used for Gill's share of purchasing and installing network controllers and related components that manage the HVAC and related systems to upgrade the Building Management Systems at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs.

This project would update the network control units and related software for the Building Management Systems at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School. These are essential to the operation of heating, air conditioning, and related systems at the building. Failure of the existing controllers would result in building closure. The current units were at the end of their product life cycle when the building was renovated and are no longer made or supported.

Although OEM replacements can be found, the building is on borrowed time and support for installation and troubleshooting is limited. As a District-owned building, the \$80,000 project cost is split between Gill (10%) and Montague (90%). The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Article 7: 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 for a portion of the cost of hiring an Owner's Project Manager and Designer to provide a feasibility study and schematic design of a new roof for the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS), and further transfer \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used for a portion of the cost of hiring an Owner's Project Manager and Designer to provide a feasibility study and schematic design of a new roof for the Gill Elementary School.

In February 2018, at the request of the Selectboard, the School District applied to the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program for funding for a new roof at the Gill Elementary School. The current asphalt shingle roof was installed in 1995. A decision on the application is expected sometime this summer. If the project is accepted into the program, it is anticipated we will receive a reimbursement rate of approximately 75 percent.

The first step for an accepted project is to hire an Owner's Project Manager and Designer, which likely would take place in the fall of 2018, with design work happening through the fall and winter. MSBA's review and approval of the schematic design would happen in the spring of 2019. Town Meeting will vote on the project in 2019, and if everything goes smoothly, construction would happen in the spring or summer of 2020.

While the exact costs of the Owner's Project Manager and Designer are not known, this article begins saving toward the expense. If there is favorable news from MSBA this summer, it is expected there will be a Special Town Meeting to appropriate the rest of the design funds. The cost of the schematic design is reimbursable by the MSBA at the same rate, even if the Town decides to not go forward with construction. (However, if the Town decides to not go forward, we can never again apply to the MSBA for a roof replacement project at the Elementary School!)

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2018 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account, and further raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for a portion of the cost to install a new roof at the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$5,025.00 (FIVE THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Fiscal Year 2018 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account, and further transfer \$14,975.00 (FOURTEEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used for a portion of the cost to install a new roof at the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs.

The existing asphalt shingles were installed in 1979 (when Jimmy Carter was President and gasoline cost 86 cents per gallon). This article begins saving money toward a roof replacement project that should happen in the next year or two. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; 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 4th day of June in the year Two Thousand Eighteen.

Selectboard of Gill			
	, Chair		
	, Board member		
	, Board member		
A true copy Attest:			
	, Town Clerk	Date:	
	t, I have notified and warned t own Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office		• • •

up nd Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, fourteen days before the date hereof, as within directed.

_____Constable of Gill

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.

2018 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: Tom Hodak, Dan Trenholm, School Committee representative Jane Oakes, Selectboard representative Greg Snedeker, and Finance Committee representative Veronica "Ronnie" LaChance.

The Committee requested all Town Departments to submit capital requests. Based on those returned, the Committee recommends for FY19 the following:

- Continued from 2017, the purchase of two pumper tankers and one emergency vehicle for the Fire department (not to be purchased all at once but over a period of ten years)
 * The Town would like to thank the Northfield Mount Hermon School for their gift of \$300,000 to help with the purchases of these vehicles.
- Re-surface the existing asphalt pavement (north side driveway and rear parking areas) at the Public Safety Complex
- Repair and refurbishment of an existing snow plow for the Highway Department
- Paint the walls and ceiling and install new carpet flooring in the hallway of the Riverside Municipal Building
- Install commercial vinyl tile flooring in the office areas of the Fire Department and Police Department
- Install a second set of security doors in the foyer and a window and/or camera system to the main office, all at the Gill Elementary School
- Gill's share of purchasing and installing network controllers and related components that manage the HVAC and related systems to upgrade the Building Management Systems at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School
- Replace the 2008 Ford police cruiser

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

Town Hall

- Correct wetness in basement (in progress)
- Preserve/protect Town documents (partially completed)
- Replace boiler (Green Community grant submitted)

Public Safety Complex

- Re-surface the existing asphalt pavement (north side driveway and rear parking areas) at the Public Safety Complex (**recommended 2018**)
- Replace vinyl tile flooring in police and fire depts. (recommended 2018)

Gill Elementary School

- Upgrade water and well components (in progress, expected 2018)
- Upgrade electrical panels (in progress, expected 2018)
- Replace roof (recommendation continued, waiting on State approval MSBA grant)
- Replace floor tiles (recommendation continued)
- Update lightning protection system
- There are other needs that fall below the \$10,000 threshold

Riverside Building

- Install new roof
- Repair concrete steps & wood columns; replace doors for both basement entryways

Slate Memorial Library

- Basement wetness remediation (completed)
- Replace furnace (Green Community grant submitted)
- Insulate walls and roof/ceiling (Green Community grant submitted)

Cemeteries

Fire Department

- Replace air packs and bottles (completed 2018, FEMA grant/NMH funds)
- Replace 1985 emergency van (Rescue 1) (in progress)
- Replace 1979 tanker truck (Engine 3) (in progress)
- Replace 1987 pumper truck (Engine 1) (recommendation continued/FEMA grant)
- Replace 1985 brush truck (Brush 1)

Highway Department

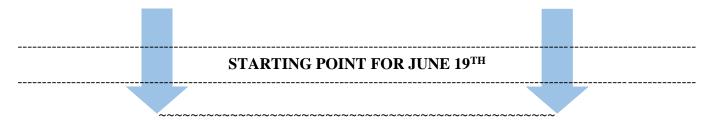
- Repair and refurbishment of an existing snowplow (recommended 2018)
- Replace single-axle Ford Truck with a single axle dump truck with plow/wing (completed)
- Purchase used backhoe (completed)
- Replace 1985 Chipper

Police Department

- Replace 2008 police cruiser (recommended 2018)
- Replace 2005 police cruiser (completed)

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee

Greg Snedeker, Chair



Article 15: 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:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$20.00
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$141.00
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$25.00
Selectboard Chair	\$2,581.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,346.00
Board of Assessors Chair	\$3,134.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,849.00
Board of Health Chair	\$1,413.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,294.00
Town Clerk	\$21,206.00
Tax Collector	\$23,882.00
Additional As Sewer Fee Collector	\$670.00
Treasurer	\$21,535.00
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$60.00
Town Clerk, as Chair	\$96.00

Except for rounding to whole dollars, all amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2018. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 16: 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 by taxation \$11,070.00 (ELEVEN THOUSAND SEVENTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide a 2.0% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials.

The Personnel Committee recommended a COLA of 2.0% based upon the 2.0% Social Security increase granted for 2018 and a similar rate of inflation shown in the Consumer Price Index. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 17: 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 (the "Omnibus budget"), 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 and appropriate by taxation \$1,539,779.00 (ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) and transfer \$60,200.00 (SIXTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED 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 2019 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$1,638,844.00 (ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town (the "Omnibus budget"), 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 page 3, Column D, lines 88 – 91 of the handout. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to establish the position of "Assistant to the Administrative Assistant", by that name or any other, and to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for the wages and expenses thereof, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to establish the position of "Administrative Clerk" and raise and appropriate by taxation \$14,350.00 (FOURTEEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the wages and expenses thereof.

The proposed Administrative Clerk position is a new, part-time, un-benefitted position budgeted for 15 hours per week, with a starting wage of \$17.45 per hour. The person will work under the direction of the Administrative Assistant. Responsibilities will include compiling and publishing the Annual Town Report, updating the website, writing newsletter articles, and providing general clerical support to the Administrative Assistant, Selectboard, and other Town boards, committees, departments, and elected officials. The position incorporates the hours and duties of the previous Clerical Assistant who worked for the Planning Board, Board of Health, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, both relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$8,467.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, both relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School.

This article provides for the Fiscal Year 2019 payments related to the 2011 energy improvements at the Gill Elementary School. It is the seventh payment out of sixteen total. The amount is reduced from last year because the performance contract with Siemens has been terminated by the Selectboard as it was no longer practically useful. After looking at five years of the School's energy data it was determined 1) the baseline assumptions used to predict the energy savings were flawed, and 2) the cost of energy (heating oil and electricity prices) have not escalated at the predicted rate, and for these reasons the anticipated savings are not being realized. Up until now, the District has been paying the Town for the assumed energy savings.

Rather than continue to back charge the School District for energy savings they aren't experiencing, it is recommended the funding source for the Bond and interest costs be shifted to the tax rate. It is felt this is fair to the taxpayers of both District Towns, and will provide an extra bit of financial stability to the District at a time when stability is greatly needed. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$2,000.00 (Two THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a 5-year 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 \$2,000.00 (Two THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a 5-year appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company.

Every five 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 for Fiscal Year 2022. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$2,000.00 (Two THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the Board of Assessors Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account.

Fiscal Year 2022 is the next 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 revaluation. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 22: 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 at the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2018. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 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 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 from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS), for a total of \$16,534.00 for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

This article continues to set 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 still a very large number (\$620,000 when last updated in 2016, but down from \$760,000 in 2013), the Selectboard and Finance Committee believe there are many assumptions and unknowns built into what is essentially an actuarial estimate.

However, by placing money into its OPEB fund, the Town demonstrates to banks and other potential lenders it recognizes the financial liability and is doing its best to save for it. In turn, the Town receives slightly better loan rates when it borrows money for building repairs, equipment purchases, and other purposes. The current balance in the fund is \$35,434. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 24: 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.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$14,495.00 (FOURTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be placed into the Education Stabilization Fund and further raise and appropriate by taxation \$2,000 (Two THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be placed into the Energy Stabilization Fund.

There is currently \$63,427 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$139,799 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$21,305 in the Energy Stabilization Fund, and \$243,335 in the General Stabilization Fund. (Totals do not include amounts voted in or out by other articles considered tonight.)

The figure of \$14,495 proposed for transfer into the Education Stabilization Fund represents a portion of the difference between the Fiscal Year 2019 (next year's) actual assessments for the Gill-Montague Regional School District and the Franklin County Technical School and what the assessments would have been if there had been 2.5% increases over the Fiscal Year 2018 (this

year's) assessments. Putting money into the Education Stabilization Fund will provide a reserve that can be used in future years when assessment increases are greater than 2.5%.

The \$2,000 in this motion is a portion of the savings created when the Town converted its streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs in 2015.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 25: 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 2019, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$49,000.00 (FORTY NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2019.

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 2017 was certified by the Department of Revenue to be \$158,975. Of that, \$3,000 was used in Article 10 (225th anniversary), \$10,000 in Article 23 (OPEB), \$49,000 is used in this article, and \$96,975 is recommended for several of the articles on the accompanying warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2019 tax rate. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, and 0 absent.

Article 26: Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts

Motion: It is moved:

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation in their first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores;

Whereas the naked Colonial broadsword brandished above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is copied from Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Euro-Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were taken from a Native skeleton kept in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675, their subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Nations within the boundaries of Massachusetts were kept in a state of serfdom, and their members legally considered incompetent wards of the state until the nonviolent action of the so-called Mashpee Rebellion of 1833 led to the granting of Native self rule by the Massachusetts legislature in 1834, as if the sovereign right of Native self-government was the Massachusetts legislature's to confer;

Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Euro-Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, is approaching in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to a new awareness of a better relationship between the descendants of the Euro-Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of these shores;

And whereas Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation of their symbols for public schools and sports teams, the diminution and pollution of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their cultural lifeways;

Therefore we, the voters of the Town of Gill, support the bill introduced by State Representative Byron Rushing, (D-Suffolk) H-1707 calling for an investigation by a special commission, including members of the legislature and representatives of Native Nations of Massachusetts, to recommend changes to the State Flag and Seal of the Commonwealth; and

Be it further resolved that within five days of the dissolution of this town meeting, the Town Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to Representative Susannah Whipps, to the chairpersons and members of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee (to which H-1707 was reported with an "ought to pass" recommendation by the House Rules Committee on February 22, 2018), and to Executive Director Geoffrey Beckwith of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

The motion is identical to the posted warrant article, with the addition of the last paragraph which directs the action to be taken if the motion is approved. The matter does not pertain to Town finances, so the Finance Committee took no action.

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 25th day of April in the year Two Thousand Eighteen (4/25/2018).

Selectboard of Gill

Randy P. Crochier, Chair

Gregory M. Snedeker, Board member

John R. Ward, 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 Telecommunications Relay Service at 711, or MassRelay at (800) 439-2370 for TTY devices.

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: _____

	A	B	С	D	Е	F	G
				FY19			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/2018	FY17	FY18	Selectboard &	Increase /	%	Notes
	Annual Town Meeting (continuation)	Approved	Approved	Finance Comm.	(Decrease)	Change	
		with COLA	with COLA	Recommended	(D-C)		
1	GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
2	Moderator (Stipend & Expenses)	335.00	335.00	436.00	101.00	30.1%	New Moderator - added money to travel to training if desired
3	Selectboard Stipends	7,272.28	7,272.28	7,273.00	0.72		
4	Selectboard Expenses	4,520.00	4,560.90	4,252.00	(308.90)	-6.8%	Cut travel allowance; print 25 fewer copies Town Reports
5	Administrative Assistant (Salary & Exp.)	56,190.00	59,614.26	59,613.00	(1.26)		
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 Stipends	8,830.80	8,830.80	8,832.00	1.20		
10	Assessors Expenses	10,300.00	11,699.60	12,750.00	1,050.40	9.0%	Additional cost to have consultant perform property visits
11	Assessors Clerical Salary	21,205.60	21,629.72	21,632.00	2.28		
12	Treasurer Salary	20,034.30	21,534.30	21,535.00	0.70		
13	Treasurer Expenses	8,480.00	8,350.00	8,880.00	530.00	6.3%	Increased funds to initiate tax-taking proceedings
14	Tax Collector Salary	22,381.58	23,881.58	23,882.00	0.42		
15	Tax Collector Expenses	8,518.00	8,685.00	8,807.00	122.00	1.4%	
16	Legal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-		
17	IT Committee	4,250.00	4,220.00	4,260.00	40.00	0.9%	
18	Town Clerk Salary	17,764.76	21,205.60	21,206.00	0.40		
19	Town Clerk Expenses	1,825.00	1,825.00	1,925.00	100.00		Additional travel costs for trainings on 2020 US Census
20	Elections/Registrars	6,990.00	6,573.00	9,245.00	2,672.00		State Primary & Election in Sept/Nov, and early voting
21	Conservation Commission	830.00	833.24	668.00	(165.24)	-19.8%	Salary for clerical help moved to new Administrative Clerk
22	Agricultural Commission	200.00	400.00	400.00	-		
23	Planning Board	1,794.00	1,814.98	745.00	(1,069.98)		Salary for clerical help moved to new Administrative Clerk
24	Zoning Board of Appeals	1,598.00	1,625.96	200.00	(1,425.96)	-87.7%	Salary for clerical help moved to new Administrative Clerk
25	Energy Commission	500.00	500.00	500.00	-		
26	Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations	23,756.00	23,799.64	23,113.00	(686.64)	-2.9%	
27	Building Repairs & Maintenance	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,250.00	250.00	1.4%	
28	Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations	19,765.00	19,765.00	20,357.00	592.00	3.0%	
29	GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	272,190.32	283,805.86	285,611.00	1,805.14	0.6%	
30							
31	PUBLIC SAFETY						
32	Police Department	191,064.00	194,342.34	187,396.00	(6,946.34)		Savings in wages due to a retirement
33	Fire Department	78,735.00	80,755.30	85,381.00	4,625.70		Vehicle/equipment maintenance & repair
34	Emergency Management		6,500.00	5,850.00	(650.00)		Fine-tuning in second year of having a budget
35	PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	269,799.00	281,597.64	278,627.00	(2,970.64)	-1.1%	

	Α	В	С	D	Е	F G
				FY19		
	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/2018	FY17	FY18	Selectboard &	Increase /	% Notes
	Annual Town Meeting (continuation)	Approved	Approved	Finance Comm.	(Decrease)	Change
		with COLA	with COLA	Recommended	(D-C)	
36						
37	PUBLIC WORKS					
38	Trees and Forestry	7,655.00	8,111.00	8,291.00	180.00	2.2%
39	Highway Department	251,381.00	249,479.50	241,401.00	(8,078.50)	-3.2% Savings in wages due to a retirement
40	Highway Dep't Snow & Ice Removal	63,970.00	63,970.00	63,970.00	-	
41	Bridges and Street Lights	3,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	
42	Solid Waste & Recycling	69,981.00	70,731.00	71,730.00	999.00	1.4%
43	Solid Waste District Assessment	2,232.00	2,320.00	2,419.00	99.00	4.3%
44	Hazardous Waste Collection		500.00	750.00	250.00	50.0% Disposal costs have increased
45	Sewer	92,585.00	96,065.00	99,065.00	3,000.00	3.1% Increased \$\$ for sewage disposal, & will go up more in Fall
46	Cemetery Commission	4,500.00	4,500.00	6,000.00	1,500.00	33.3% Extra mowing expense of 1 more cemetery (Riverside)
47	Memorial Committee	834.00	834.00	874.00	40.00	4.8% Planting tool to ease the knees planting 172 geraniums!
48	PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	496,638.00	499,010.50	497,000.00	(2,010.50)	-0.4%
49						
50	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
51	Board of Health Salaries	4,000.28	4,000.28	4,001.00	0.72	
52	Board of Health Clerical & Expenses	3,733.00	3,778.28	2,953.00	(825.28)	-21.8% Salary for clerical help moved to new Administrative Clerk
53	Council on Aging	7,904.00	8,040.00	8,662.00	622.00	7.7% Increase to wages/benefits for shared Senior Center Director
54	Veterans District Assessment	2,082.00	2,615.00	2,665.00	50.00	1.9%
55	Veterans Benefits	5,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	
56	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL	23,219.28	23,433.56	23,281.00	(152.56)	-0.7%
57						
58	CULTURE & RECREATION					
59	Library	26,643.58	27,603.48	28,283.00	679.52	2.5% Step increases for Library staff
60	Recreation Committee	3,600.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	-	
61	Historical Commission	860.00	860.00	875.00	15.00	1.7%
62	CULTURE & RECREATION TOTAL	31,103.58	31,163.48	31,858.00	694.52	2.2%

	A	В	С	D	Е	F G
				FY19		
	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/2018	FY17	FY18	Selectboard &	Increase /	% Notes
	Annual Town Meeting (continuation)	Approved	Approved	Finance Comm.	(Decrease)	Change
		with COLA	with COLA	Recommended	(D-C)	
63						
64	FIXED COSTS					
65	Town Insurance	40,860.00	41,668.00	41,613.00	(55.00)	-0.1%
66	Mariamante Loan (debt exclusion)	14,527.56	14,651.00	14,936.00	285.00	1.9% Seven years remaining on loan
67	Safety Complex Roof Loan (debt excl)	16,636.80	16,328.00	16,029.00	(299.00)	-1.8% FY19 is third year of 3-year debt exclusion loan
68	Retirement System	88,093.00	95,447.00	102,099.00	6,652.00	7.0% Increase due to actuarial adjustments of life expectancies
69	Group Health and Life Insurance	86,500.00	93,750.00	122,883.00	29,133.00	31.1% Rate increase; 1 more taking insurance & 2 new retirees
70	Backhoe Loan		7,360.00	7,234.00		FY19 is second year of 3-year loan
71	Police Cruiser Loan (debt exclusion)		13,835.00	13,556.00	(279.00)	-2.0% FY19 is second year of 3-year debt exclusion loan
72	FIXED COSTS TOTAL	246,617.36	283,039.00	318,350.00	35,311.00	12.5%
73						
74	FRCOG ASSESSMENT					
75	Statutory & Reg'l Services Assessments	9,749.00	9,970.00	10,276.00	306.00	3.1%
76	Accounting	23,105.00	23,618.00	24,301.00	683.00	2.9%
77	Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health	11,112.00	11,112.00	11,112.00	-	
78	Regional Emergency Preparedness	150.00	150.00	150.00	-	
79	Cooperative Inspection Program	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	-	
80	FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL	51,616.00	52,350.00	53,339.00	989.00	1.9%
81				•		
82	EDUCATION					
83	Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.					Already voted as Article 13 on May 7th
84	GMRSD Bldg Loan					Already voted as Article 13 on May 7th
85	Franklin County Technical School	126,096.00	142,934.00	150,778.00	7,844.00	5.5% \$4,234 Gill's share of renovations; FCTS enrollment is down,
86	EDUCATION TOTAL	126,096.00	142,934.00	150,778.00	7,844.00	5.5% Gill's 10 students are greater % of total budget
87				•	•	
88	OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL	1,517,279.54	1,597,334.04	1,638,844.00	41,509.96	2.6%
89	Less Transfer of Sewer Use Fees	53,720.00	57,200.00	60,200.00		Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
90	Less Estimated Sewer Receipts	38,865.00	38,865.00	38,865.00		Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
91	TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION	1,424,694.54	1,501,269.04	1,539,779.00	38,509.96	2.6%

	Supplemental Info for Article 17 - Omnibus Budget	Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2019							
	A	В	С	D	E	F			
				Selectboard & Fin. Comm.		Percent			
-	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/2018	FY17	FY18	Fiscal Year 2019	Dollar Change	Change			
1	Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)	1,517,279.54	1,580,839.04	1,638,844.00	58,004.96	3.7%			
2	Warrant Articles	26,752.00	208,963.00	212,916.00	3,953.00	1.9%			
3	Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)	83,542.00	69,332.13	69,614.00	281.87	0.4%			
4	Total Town Budget	1,627,573.54	1,859,134.17	1,921,374.00	62,239.83	3.3%			
5	GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)	1,593,022.00	1,630,737.00	1,630,170.00	(567.00)	0.0%			
6	Total Gross Budget	3,220,595.54	3,489,871.17	3,551,544.00	61,672.83	1.8%			
7	State Receipts	282,110.00	289,118.00	280,776.00	(8,342.00)	-2.9%			
8	Local Receipts	223,400.00	232,400.00	232,400.00	-	0.0%			
9	Available Funds	110,803.00	267,061.00	245,065.00	(21,996.00)	-8.2%			
10	Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate	68,000.00	54,500.00	49,000.00	(5,500.00)	-10.1%			
11	Total Receipts	684,313.00	843,079.00	807,241.00	(35,838.00)	-4.3%			
12	Total Gross Budget	3,220,595.54	3,489,871.17	3,551,544.00	61,672.83	1.8%			
13	Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)	684,313.00	843,079.00	807,241.00	(35,838.00)	-4.3%			
14	Property Tax Assessment	2,536,282.54	2,646,792.17	2,744,303.00	97,510.83	3.7%			
15	Town-wide Property Valuation (FY19 is in process)	152,972,409	154,062,408	155,300,000	(estimated)				
16	Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation)	16.58	17.18	17.67	0.49	2.9%			
17	Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence	199,246	200,509	200,509	-	0.0%			
18	Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence	3,303	3,445	3,543	98	2.9%			