

June 17, 2019  
Annual Town Meeting



**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)

Cable Advisory Committee (Tom Hodak, 863-4227)

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

Council on Aging (Bev Demars, 863-4792)

Cultural Council (Sue Kramer, 863-6330)

Energy Commission (Vicky Jenkins, 325-5722)

Finance Committee (Claire Chang, 626-3620)

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: JUNE 17, 2019

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 Seventeenth day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen (6/17/2019) at 6:00 PM 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 pass over Article 1.

*Progress has been slow during the past year, and good intentions to hire the new part-time Administrative Clerk were hampered by turnover in other departments. Filling this position is a priority for this summer, and Annual Reports continue to be the top priority for that person.*

**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 the Regional Animal Control Officer as Assistant Field Driver and elect the Selectboard as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

*The names and positions are the same as last year, with the addition of the Regional Animal Control Officer. The Town is joining a new program established by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office that will provide an Animal Control Officer who will be shared by the towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne.*

**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 2020 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 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 2020 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 \$147,906 for Fiscal Year 2020. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 4:** 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 2020, 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 vote to accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2020, 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. The Town received \$2,475 from the Trust this year, and there is a balance of \$5,456 in the Town's Quintus Allen account.

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

2018-19 Outdoor Learning Center (\$4,344.20)  
2017 Chromebook Computers (24) & Storage Cart (\$6,050.00)  
2016 Climbing Wall & Gear (\$1,329.21)  
2015 Nature Program Coordinator & Equipment (\$2,915.60)  
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)

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

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a ten (10) year contract commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Selectboard's determination the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting's approval in the Spring of 2020 of funding for these services, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a ten (10) year contract commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Selectboard's determination the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting's approval in the Spring of 2020 of funding for these services.

*Each week the recyclable paper and containers collected in Gill are brought to the Springfield MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) where the items are sorted, processed, and eventually hauled to other companies that re-use them to manufacture new products. The regional contract with the Springfield MRF is set to expire on June 30, 2020. There is a bid process underway to select a MRF operator for another 10-year contract and that contract will most likely be finalized this August.*

*Approval of this article will allow the Selectboard to sign the new 10-year contract if they determine it is the best solution for Gill. The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District will advise the Selectboard on the terms of the contract and if there are other alternatives.*

*The Finance Committee took no action on this article as there is no specific financial impact to the Town.*

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F  $\frac{3}{4}$ , which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access (Public, Educational, and Governmental access) services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, with the fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2020, which begins on July 1, 2019, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F  $\frac{3}{4}$ , which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access (Public, Educational, and Governmental access) services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, with the fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2020, which begins on July 1, 2019.

*This article is brought about by a final ultimatum from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. If the Town does not adopt this statute, then money the Town receives from Comcast to provide PEG Access programming and services (including video recording Town Meetings and Selectboard meetings) will no longer be dedicated for PEG Access purposes and must become part of the general funds of the Town. Approval of this Article is the first step in keeping these funds set aside for the purpose designated in the Town's License Agreement with Comcast. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to have the Town Accountant transfer any balance as of June 30, 2019 from the existing PEG Access Fund, Account # 271, to the new PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to have the Town Accountant transfer any balance as of June 30, 2019 from the existing PEG Access Fund, Account # 271, to the new PEG Access and Cable Related Fund.

*This is the second step of the process started in Article 6. Approving this article will allow PEG Access money that has already been received from Comcast to be transferred into the newly created fund (assuming Article 6 is approved). The current balance in the PEG Access Fund is \$95,860. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for PEG Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses for Fiscal Year 2020, 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 PEG Access and Cable Related Fund to provide for PEG Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses for Fiscal Year 2020.

*Assuming Articles 6 and 7 are approved by voters, this Article makes the funding appropriation to provide PEG Access services next year. During Fiscal Year 2019 the Town received \$13,226 in PEG Access payments from Comcast. Expenses this year were approximately \$11,500, with the majority of that spent on improvements to the Town Hall sound system and on equipment upgrades to simplify the setup and recording of meetings and other events.*

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

**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 unspent 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, Regional Animal Control Services, Dog Care & Control, & Etc.	8,000.00
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, Town Administrator		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 unspent money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal 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. This is the same list of revolving funds that was approved last year. The purposes and amounts are also the same except for the dog fund, which has a higher maximum annual expenditure this year to cover the \$4,976 assessment from the Sheriff's Office for the Regional Animal Control Officer program.*

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

**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	\$20.40
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$144.00
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$25.50
Selectboard Chair	\$2,633.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each	\$2,393.00
Board of Assessors Chair	\$3,197.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each	\$2,906.00
Board of Health Chair	\$1,442.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each	\$1,320.00
Town Clerk	\$21,631.00
Tax Collector	\$24,360.00
Additional As Sewer Fee Collector	\$684.00
Treasurer	\$21,966.00
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$61.20
Town Clerk, as Chair	\$98.00

*Except for rounding, all amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2019. 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 0 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 by taxation \$16,470.00 (SIXTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide a 2.8% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials.

*The Personnel Committee recommended this year's COLA based on the 2.8% Social Security increase granted for 2019. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 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 (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 \$1,624,717.00 (ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS) and transfer \$64,300.00 (SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from Sewer Use Fees and appropriate \$98,800.00 (NINETY EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from Fiscal Year 2020 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$1,787,817.00 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 89 – 92 of the handout. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$1,642,995.00 (ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide \$1,634,027.00 for its Fiscal Year 2020 operating assessment and \$8,968.00 for its Fiscal Year 2020 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 \$1,642,995.00 (ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide \$1,634,027.00 for its Fiscal Year 2020 operating assessment and \$8,968.00 for its Fiscal Year 2020 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

*The GMRSD's total Fiscal Year 2020 "All Funds" budget increased by 3.7%. The overall operating assessment to both towns increased by 3.90%, with Gill seeing a 0.89% increase and Montague 4.40%. Gill's assessment for the GMRSD's operating budget has increased by \$14,405 and the debt service for the high school/middle school renovation project decreased by \$1,580.*

*A handout from the GMRSD is attached (blue paper).*

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

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$4,656.00 (FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to purchase and equip a truck for the Gill-Montague Regional School District Facilities Management Department, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$4,656.00 (FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to purchase and equip a truck for the Gill-Montague Regional School District Facilities Management Department, including any and all incidental and related costs.

*The District has requested a total of \$40,000 from Gill and Montague to replace its 15 year old 1-ton dump truck. The amount is divided based on each town's share of the district-wide enrollment. This year Gill has 11.64% of the enrollment (91 students) and Montague has 88.36% (691 students). The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$5,330.00 (FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to replace sidewalks and curbing at the 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 \$5,330.00 (FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to replace sidewalks and curbing at the Turners Falls High School, including any and all incidental and related costs.

*The District has requested a total of \$82,000 from Gill and Montague to replace the sidewalks and curbing at the High School. The amount is divided based on each town's share of the enrollment at the High School. This year Gill has 6.5% of the enrollment (22 students) and Montague has 93.5% (316 students). The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2019 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 add to the account to upgrade the electrical service, panels and subpanels at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Fiscal Year 2019 Snow & Ice Removal Expense Account, and further transfer \$38,461.00 (THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY ONE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from Free Cash, and further raise and appropriate by taxation \$5,548.00 (FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add a total of \$54,009.00 to the account to upgrade the electrical service, panels and subpanels at the Gill Elementary School.

*In 2017 Gill's voters approved a total of \$40,000 to update the electrical service at the Gill Elementary School based on an estimate from a West County electrician. The District hired an electrical engineering firm to design the project and develop bid specifications. The engineers determined several major code requirements were missing from the original estimate, including the need for an exterior panel & meter and the need to run new buried wires encased in concrete from the utility pole to the building. When the project was bid in 2018, the only bid was for \$109,000.*

*Portions of the electrical service in the basement were damaged in January 2019 when the well pump flooded the lower levels of the school. The District will receive a total of \$47,275 from its insurance company that can be put toward the upgrades to the electrical service. Barring any further changes to the bid specifications, and assuming there is some competition in the next round of bids, it is expected the \$54,009 being provided by this article plus the previously voted funds and the insurance settlement will cover the costs to complete this project.*

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

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$4,000.00 (FOUR THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the FirstLight Appraisal Account to be used toward the costs associated with 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 \$4,000.00 (FOUR THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account to add to the FirstLight Appraisal Account to be used toward the costs associated with 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 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 18:** 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 Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$3,000.00 (THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account 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 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 19:** 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 \$5,000.00 (FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account 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 audit of the Town's finances. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 20:** 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 \$8,738.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS) and further transfer \$5,000.00 (FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), for a total of \$13,738.00 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), 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 \$44,540. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2019 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 to add to the account 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 \$3,900.00 (THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Fiscal Year 2019 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account to add to the account 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. This article will add to the \$20,000 set aside last year for a roof replacement project that should happen in the next year or two. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 22:** 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 two classrooms, and replace the concrete steps at the west entrance 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 \$15,000.00 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to paint the walls and ceiling and install new carpet flooring in the two classrooms, and replace the concrete steps at the west entrance of the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs.

*Last summer the front hallway of the Riverside Municipal Building underwent a handsome transformation as the walls and ceiling were painted and the floor re-carpeted. This year we hope to do the same spruce up in the two classrooms used by the Four Winds School, and the School has offered to share in the expense. As part of this appropriation the worn and decaying concrete steps will be replaced with new, cast in place concrete steps. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.*

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Department SCBA ("Air packs") Stabilization Fund, and vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to establish a Fire Department SCBA ("Air packs") Stabilization Fund, and vote to transfer \$15,000.00 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) into the fund.

*A two-thirds vote is required to establish a stabilization fund.*



*It has been said for many years the Town's plan to replace air packs should be something more certain than "Hope we get another FEMA grant." In 2017, just as the 15-year certifications on the majority of our air packs were about to expire, the Fire Department was extremely fortunate to be awarded a FEMA grant for \$118,627 to replace 20 air packs. The Selectboard used the NMH Donation Account to provide \$25,896 as the Town's match for the grant. Before many more years pass us by, it is time to begin responsibly saving toward the next time we need to update these most critical pieces of firefighting gear.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 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 transfer \$2,000.00 (TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be placed into the Energy Stabilization Fund.

*There is currently \$52,562 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$154,750 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$23,353 in the Energy Stabilization Fund, and \$244,134 in the General Stabilization Fund. (Totals do not include amounts voted in or out by other articles considered tonight.)*

*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 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 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 2020, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$43,000.00 (FORTY THREE 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 2020.

*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 2018 was certified by the Department of Revenue to be \$128,447. Of that, \$4,656 was recommend for use in Article 14 (GMRSD truck), \$5,330 in Article 15 (TFHS sidewalks), \$38,461 in Article 16 (Gill Elementary electrical), \$5,000 in Article 20 (OPEB), \$15,000 in Article 22 (Riverside paint, carpet, and steps), \$15,000 in Article 23 (Air pack stabilization fund), \$2,000 in Article 24 (Energy stabilization fund), and \$43,000 in this article.*

*Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles considered earlier tonight, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2020 tax rate. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 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; 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 5th day of June in the year Two Thousand Nineteen (6/5/2019).

**Selectboard of Gill**

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John R. Ward, Chair

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Randy P. Crochier, Board member

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Gregory M. Snedeker, Board member

A true copy Attest:

(signed) Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

Date: June 5, 2019

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.

(signed) Craig D. Gaudry, Constable of Gill

Date: June 6, 2019

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY20			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/17/2019 Annual Town Meeting	FY18 Approved with COLA	FY19 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) ( D - C )	% Change	Notes
1	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>						
2	Moderator (Stipend & Expenses)	335.00	440.32	441.00	0.68	0.2%	
3	Selectboard Stipends	7,272.28	7,418.48	7,419.00	0.52		
4	Selectboard Expenses	4,560.90	4,266.30	4,238.00	(28.30)	-0.7%	
5	Town Admin & Admin Clerk (Salary&Exp.)	59,614.26	75,142.36	81,796.00	6,653.64	8.9%	Wage scale promotion & step increase for Town Admin
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	9,008.68	9,009.00	0.32		
10	Assessors Expenses	11,699.60	12,750.00	13,040.00	290.00	2.3%	
11	Assessors Clerical Salary	21,629.72	22,064.64	22,069.00	4.36		
12	Treasurer Salary	21,534.30	21,965.84	21,966.00	0.16		
13	Treasurer Expenses	8,350.00	8,880.00	9,425.00	545.00	6.1%	Financial advisor fees; higher cost for performance bond
14	Tax Collector Salary	23,881.58	24,359.66	24,360.00	0.34		
15	Tax Collector Expenses	8,685.00	8,807.00	9,104.00	297.00	3.4%	Increases in postage and software license fee
16	Legal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-		
17	IT Committee	4,220.00	4,260.00	4,260.00	-		
18	Town Clerk Salary	21,205.60	21,630.18	21,631.00	0.82		
19	Town Clerk Expenses	1,825.00	1,925.00	2,204.00	279.00	14.5%	Postage increase and extra training \$ for new Town Clerk
20	Elections/Registrars	6,573.00	9,333.00	9,333.00	-		
21	Conservation Commission	833.24	668.00	668.00	-		
22	Agricultural Commission	400.00	400.00	400.00	-		
23	Planning Board	1,814.98	745.00	745.00	-		
24	Zoning Board of Appeals	1,625.96	200.00	200.00	-		
25	Energy Commission	500.00	500.00	500.00	-		
26	Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations	23,799.64	23,155.78	23,352.00	196.22	0.8%	
27	Building Repairs & Maintenance	18,000.00	18,250.00	18,500.00	250.00	1.4%	
28	Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations	19,765.00	20,357.00	20,677.00	320.00	1.6%	
29	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>283,805.86</b>	<b>303,377.24</b>	<b>312,187.00</b>	<b>8,809.76</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	
30							
31	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>						
32	Police Department	194,342.34	190,498.56	202,035.00	11,536.44	6.1%	Raise for Police Chief; software support; gasoline
33	Fire Department	80,755.30	86,236.42	87,400.00	1,163.58	1.3%	Vehicle maintenance; step raises
34	Emergency Management	6,500.00	5,900.00	6,500.00	600.00	10.2%	Equipment; moved \$150 FRCOG dues into this line
35	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL</b>	<b>281,597.64</b>	<b>282,634.98</b>	<b>295,935.00</b>	<b>13,300.02</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY20			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/17/2019 Annual Town Meeting	FY18 Approved with COLA	FY19 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) ( D - C )	% Change	Notes
36							
37	<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>						
38	Trees and Forestry	8,111.00	8,291.00	8,626.00	335.00	4.0%	
39	Highway Department	249,479.50	244,584.10	246,125.00	1,540.90	0.6%	Truck & equipment repairs; road signs
40	Highway Dep't. - Snow & Ice Removal	63,970.00	63,970.00	63,970.00	-		
41	Bridges and Street Lights	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00	(500.00)	-20.0%	
42	Solid Waste & Recycling	70,731.00	71,730.00	71,730.00	-		
43	Solid Waste District Assessment	2,320.00	2,419.00	3,675.00	1,256.00	51.9%	Split 75/25 between taxation & revolving fund, up from 50/50
44	Hazardous Waste Collection	500.00	750.00	750.00	-		
45	Sewer	96,065.00	159,065.00	163,100.00	4,035.00	2.5%	Modest 2% Increase expected for sewage disposal
46	Cemetery Commission	4,500.00	6,000.00	12,200.00	6,200.00	103.3%	Mowing costs, tree work, startup costs for green cemetery
47	Memorial Committee	834.00	874.00	874.00	-		
48	<b>PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL</b>	<b>499,010.50</b>	<b>560,183.10</b>	<b>573,050.00</b>	<b>12,866.90</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	
49							
50	<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>						
51	Board of Health Salaries	4,000.28	4,081.04	4,082.00	0.96		
52	Board of Health Expenses	3,778.28	2,970.68	2,971.00	0.32		
53	Council on Aging	8,040.00	8,662.00	9,096.00	434.00	5.0%	Increase in cost for internet programs at Senior Center
54	Veterans District Assessment	2,615.00	2,665.00	2,763.00	98.00	3.7%	
55	Veterans Benefits	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-		
56	<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<b>23,433.56</b>	<b>23,378.72</b>	<b>23,912.00</b>	<b>533.28</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	
57							
58	<b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>						
59	Library	27,603.48	28,647.96	29,156.00	508.04	1.8%	Electricity, books, DVDs
60	Recreation Committee	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	-		
61	Historical Commission	860.00	875.00	895.00	20.00	2.3%	Exhibits & displays
62	<b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION TOTAL</b>	<b>31,163.48</b>	<b>32,222.96</b>	<b>32,751.00</b>	<b>528.04</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY20			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/17/2019 Annual Town Meeting	FY18 Approved with COLA	FY19 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) ( D - C )	% Change	Notes
63							
64	<b>FIXED COSTS</b>						
65	Town Insurance	41,668.00	41,613.00	43,061.00	1,448.00	3.5%	
66	Mariamante Loan (debt exclusion)	14,651.00	14,936.00	32,015.00	17,079.00	114.3%	Faster paydown, 4 years left after FY20 payment
67	Safety Complex Roof Loan (debt excl)	16,328.00	16,029.00	-	(16,029.00)	-100.0%	
68	Energy Bond	10,786.00	8,467.00	8,967.00	500.00	5.9%	
69	Retirement System	95,447.00	102,099.00	96,609.00	(5,490.00)	-5.4%	FY19 was last year of early retirement premium
70	Group Health and Life Insurance	93,750.00	122,883.00	120,679.00	(2,204.00)	-1.8%	
71	Backhoe Loan	7,360.00	7,234.00	6,108.00	(1,126.00)	-15.6%	FY20 is last year of 3-year loan
72	Police Cruiser Loan (debt exclusion)	13,835.00	13,556.00	13,101.00	(455.00)	-3.4%	FY20 is last year of 3-year debt exclusion loan
73	<b>FIXED COSTS TOTAL</b>	<b>293,825.00</b>	<b>326,817.00</b>	<b>320,540.00</b>	<b>(6,277.00)</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	
74							
75	<b>FRCOG ASSESSMENT</b>						
76	Statutory & Reg'l Services Assessments	9,970.00	10,276.00	10,063.00	(213.00)	-2.1%	
77	Accounting Program	23,618.00	24,301.00	25,454.00	1,153.00	4.7%	Wages & benefits for Program staff
78	Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health	11,112.00	11,112.00	11,340.00	228.00	2.1%	
79	Regional Emergency Preparedness	150.00	150.00	-	(150.00)	-100.0%	Expense moved into Emergency Management budget
80	Cooperative Inspection Program	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	-		
81	<b>FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>52,350.00</b>	<b>53,339.00</b>	<b>54,357.00</b>	<b>1,018.00</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	
82							
83	<b>EDUCATION</b>						
84	Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.						To be discussed and voted under Article 13
85	GMRSD Bldg Loan						To be discussed and voted under Article 13
86	Franklin County Technical School	142,934.00	150,778.00	175,085.00	24,307.00	16.1%	Gill's enrollment increased from 10 to 11 students
87	<b>EDUCATION TOTAL</b>	<b>142,934.00</b>	<b>150,778.00</b>	<b>175,085.00</b>	<b>24,307.00</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	
88							
89	<b>OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>1,608,120.04</b>	<b>1,732,731.00</b>	<b>1,787,817.00</b>	<b>55,086.00</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	
90	Less Transfer of Sewer Use Fees	57,200.00	60,200.00	64,300.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
91	Less Estimated Sewer Receipts	38,865.00	98,865.00	98,800.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
92	<b>TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION</b>	<b>1,512,055.04</b>	<b>1,573,666.00</b>	<b>1,624,717.00</b>	<b>51,051.00</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

Supplemental Info for Article 12 - Omnibus Budget		Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2020				
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
	Omnibus Budget for 6/17/2019	FY18	FY19	Selectboard & Fin. Comm. Fiscal Year 2020	Dollar Change	Percent Change
1	Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)	1,580,839.04	1,732,731.00	1,787,817.00	55,086.00	3.2%
2	Warrant Articles	208,963.00	195,029.00	154,103.00	(40,926.00)	-21.0%
3	Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)	69,332.13	69,061.06	79,594.00	10,532.94	15.3%
4	Total Town Budget	1,859,134.17	1,996,821.06	2,021,514.00	24,692.94	1.2%
5	GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)	1,630,737.00	1,630,170.00	1,642,995.00	12,825.00	0.8%
6	<b>Total Gross Budget</b>	<b>3,489,871.17</b>	<b>3,626,991.06</b>	<b>3,664,509.00</b>	<b>37,517.94</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
7	State Receipts	289,118.00	299,119.00	288,757.00	(10,362.00)	-3.5%
8	Local Receipts	232,400.00	225,400.00	225,400.00	-	0.0%
9	Available Funds	267,061.00	321,065.00	286,447.00	(34,618.00)	-10.8%
10	Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate	54,500.00	49,000.00	43,000.00	(6,000.00)	-12.2%
11	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>843,079.00</b>	<b>894,584.00</b>	<b>843,604.00</b>	<b>(50,980.00)</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>
12	Total Gross Budget	3,489,871.17	3,626,991.06	3,664,509.00	37,517.94	1.0%
13	Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)	843,079.00	894,584.00	843,604.00	(50,980.00)	-5.7%
14	Property Tax Assessment	<b>2,646,792.17</b>	<b>2,732,407.06</b>	<b>2,820,905.00</b>	<b>88,497.94</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
15	Town-wide Property Valuation (FY20 is in process)	154,062,408	158,308,636	158,308,636	(estimated)	
16	Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation)	<b>17.18</b>	<b>17.26</b>	<b>17.82</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
17	Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence	200,509	209,983	209,983	-	0.0%
18	Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence	3,445	3,624	3,742	117	3.2%

## Gill-Montague Regional School District FY20 Budget Proposal

### Gill's Assessment

The Gill-Montague Regional School District has developed an FY20 budget based upon Montague's affordable assessment. Gill's total assessment for FY20 is \$1,642,995 which is a 0.78% increase from FY19.

Gill	Enrollment Percentage	Total Operating Assessment	Operating Assessment Increase	% Increase	Share of HS Debt	Debt Assessment	Total Operating & Debt Assessment
FY17	14.16%	1,574,992	8,963	0.57%	11.90%	18,030	1,593,023
FY18	13.17%	1,616,443	41,450	2.63%	9.70%	14,294	1,630,736
FY19	11.77%	1,619,622	3,179	0.20%	7.40%	10,548	1,630,170
FY20	11.64%	1,634,027	14,405	0.89%	6.50%	8,968	1,642,995

### FY20 Revenues

The district's total all funds budget for FY20 is \$22,542,872 which is a 3.7% increase from FY19.

REVENUE SOURCES	FY18 BUDGET APPROVED	FY19 BUDGET APPROVED	FY20 BUDGET PROPOSED	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
CHAPTER 70 STATE AID	6,177,674	6,211,590	6,441,443	229,853
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	530,000	200,000	200,000	0
INTEREST INCOME	3,300	4,000	4,500	500
EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY (E&D)	190,000	100,000	150,000	50,000
ERVING TUITION	770,000	805,000	940,000	135,000
CHARTER REIMBURSEMENT	200,000	121,659	54,183	(67,476)
CHAPTER 71 TRANSPORTATION REIMB	316,100	301,765	270,000	(31,765)
OPERATING ASSESSMENTS	10,772,099	11,232,240	11,669,848	437,608
CAPITAL DEBT ASSESSMENT (HS)	147,053	142,538	137,970	(4,568)
CAPITAL DEBT ASSESSMENT (Sheffield)	68,145	66,552	64,914	(1,638)
GRANTS/REVOLVING ACCOUNT BUDGET	1,512,122	1,489,956	1,427,991	(61,965)
CIRCUIT BREAKER REVOLVING BUDGET	177,494	248,238	306,500	58,262
SCHOOL CHOICE REVOLVING BUDGET	763,950	825,152	875,523	50,371
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS PROJECTED BUDGET</b>	21,627,936	21,748,690	<b>22,542,872</b>	794,182

- An anticipated increase in Chapter 70 state aid of approximately \$230K or 3.7% exceeds increases of the recent past by over \$200,000 and reflects increased state support for the education of high needs students.
- The increase in Erving Tuition reflects an adjustment for increased projected enrollment.

- The increase in spending from E&D reflects a larger than typical anticipated contribution this year.
- The increased spending from the school choice revolving account reflects our ability to draw upon balances accumulated by spending less than revenue received in recent years.

## FY20 Expenditures

FY20 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	GENERAL FUND BUDGET	CHOICE/ CB BUDGET	GRANTS/ REVOLV. BUDGET	ALL FUNDS BUDGET	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	
ADMINISTRATION (1000)	628,654	0	0	628,654	(40,866)	-6.1%
INSTRUCTIONAL (2000)	8,804,551	770,523	442,985	10,018,059	368,218	3.8%
STUDENT SERVICES (3000)	1,427,494	0	649,006	2,076,500	45,116	2.2%
OPERATIONS (4000)	1,703,903	0	0	1,703,903	181,781	11.9%
BENEFITS & INSURANCE (5000)	4,372,372	0	23,000	4,395,372	38,319	0.9%
TUITION (9000)	2,793,000	411,500	313,000	3,517,500	207,819	6.3%
CAPITAL DEBT (8000)	202,884	0	0	202,884	(6,206)	-3.0%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>19,932,858</b>	<b>1,182,023</b>	<b>1,427,991</b>	<b>22,542,872</b>	<b>794,182</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

This proposed budget will enable the district to not just reverse a trend of reducing staff and services but will allow it to add or reinstate the following full-time positions:

- Bilingual Paraprofessional
- Middle School Life Skills Teacher
- Secondary Dean of Students
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Sheffield Special Education Teacher
- School Adjustment Counselor

In addition, this budget will allow the district to do the following;

- Continue its multi-year plan to provide secondary students with Chromebook computers
- Update its elementary math and reading programs
- Educate and support more students with highly specialized needs within the district
- Add resources to support student social and emotional learning, particularly at the secondary level
- Address building and grounds maintenance needs.

We anticipate that FY20 will be the baseline year for a trend towards improved state funding and thus improved learning opportunities. However, the district will continue to work in partnership with area districts and municipal stakeholders to seek opportunities for improved fiscal sustainability, increased efficiencies, and more robust educational programs.