

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: JUNE 26, 2021

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 outdoors at the Gill Elementary School, 48 Boyle Road in said Town on Saturday, the Twenty Sixth day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty One (06/26/2021) at 10:00 AM then and there to act on the following articles.

The Massachusetts mask order has ended, but those who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 or are concerned about their vulnerability should feel free to wear one when closer than 6 feet to people. Masks will be provided by our Board of Health for those who may want one.

Article 1: To elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year; AND

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 or other purposes for the Fiscal Year 2022 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; AND

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 2022, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64N, Section 3 to impose an excise on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of three percent (3%), or take any action relative thereto.

Article 3: 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. Authorized to Spend	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, Selectboard	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
Selectboard	User Fees from Electric Vehicle Charger	Operating & maintenance costs for Electric Vehicle Charger	4,000.00

Article 4: 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:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$21.50
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$150.00
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$27.00
Selectboard Chair	\$2,742.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,492.00
Board of Assessors Chair	\$3,330.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$3,027.00
Board of Health Chair	\$1,502.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,375.00
Town Clerk	\$22,527.00
Tax Collector	\$25,369.00
Additional As Sewer Fee Collector	\$714.00
Treasurer	\$22,875.00
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$64.00
Town Clerk, as Chair	\$103.00

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation 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.

Article 6: 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 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.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$1,724,635.00 (ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide \$1,711,376.00 for its Fiscal Year 2022 operating assessment and \$13,259.00 for its Fiscal Year 2022 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 8: 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 flooring replacement project at Gill Elementary School including removal and disposal of asbestos floor tiles, installation of new flooring materials, asbestos abatement testing and monitoring, and other incidental or related work, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Article 9: 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 support the resurfacing of the tennis courts at the Turners Falls High School, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 10: 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 add to the account previously established to hire 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.

Article 11: 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 the purpose of conducting a building condition assessment of the Gill Elementary School and developing a 15-year capital and action plan, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Released Overlay \$4,000.00 (FOUR THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the 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 Power and an appraisal of the personal property in the Town of

Gill owned by National Grid, New England Power Company, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy; AND

Transfer from Released Overlay \$3,000.00 (THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the Board of Assessors Revaluation Account; AND

Transfer from Released Overlay \$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; AND

Transfer from Released Overlay \$15,000 to add to the legal litigation account for legal and other expenses related to the defense, appeal, or settlement of cases at the Appellate Tax Board and other courts, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to become a member in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, §5A and other applicable sections of said law; and to meet this obligation, raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to fund the annual membership fee, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 14: 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 the purchase of a new electronic vote tabulator to be used by the Town Clerk in the conduct of certain elections of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 15: 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 Animal Control services for Fiscal Year 2022 including assessments for the Regional Animal Control Officer and the Regional Dog Kennel, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 16: 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 add to the account (001-159-5846) previously established to provide for PEG Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

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

Article 18: 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 make necessary repairs to the Highway Department's 2009 Sterling dump truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to repurpose the account (001-422-5838) and the funds therein approved at the June 19, 2018 Town Meeting for the repair and refurbishment of an existing snow plow for the Highway Department, to include the purchase of a new snow plow, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 20: 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 add to the account previously established for the purpose of remediating water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Town Hall, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 21: 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 the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 22: To see if the Town will 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 and further transfer \$15,000.00 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be placed into the Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs Stabilization Fund and further transfer \$90,000.00 (NINETY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from

unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be placed into the General Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for one or more of the Stabilization Funds of the Town (Capital, Education, Energy, Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs, or General), or take any action relative thereto.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum 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 2022, or take any action relative thereto.

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 17th day of June in the year Two Thousand Twenty One (06/17/2021).

Selectboard of Gill

Gregory M. Snedeker, Chair

Randy P. Crochier, Board member

Charles J. Garbiel II, 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: _____