

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 6, 2024

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, 325 Main Road in said Town on Monday, the Sixth day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Four (05/06/2024) at 7:00 PM then and there to act on the following articles.

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 2025 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation; 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 2025, 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 have its elected Treasurer become an appointed Treasurer of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41 Section 1B, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to have its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41 Section 1B, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 Section 54(b) to allow trust funds held in the custody of the Town to be invested in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 203C, the so-called "Prudent Investor Rule," or take any action relative thereto.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 37A which will increase from \$437.50 to \$500.00 the annual real estate tax exemption provided to legally blind persons, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to recommend the Selectboard support a petition by the Northfield Mount Hermon School to the Executive Committee of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments requesting the discontinuance of Mount Hermon Road, which is a county road of approximately seven tenths of a mile in length beginning and ending at its intersections with Main Road and which is abutted on both sides for its entire length by land owned by the School and which only provides access to the School and its facilities and programs, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024 for the revolving funds established in town by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, or take any other action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fiscal Year 2025 Spending Limit
Oil Burner Inspections	Fire Chief	\$2,000.00
Energy Commission Programs	Energy Commission	1,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	ZBA, Administrative Clerk	3,000.00

Dog	Town Clerk, Selectboard	8,000.00
Conservation Commission Project Review	Conservation Commission	10,000.00
Cemetery Opening Fees	Cemetery Commission	2,000.00
Agricultural Commission Programs	Agricultural Commission	500.00
Solid Waste & Recycling	Board of Health, Town Administrator	5,000.00
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station	Selectboard, Town Administrator	4,000.00

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*A motion to continue the meeting until Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall is anticipated at this point. The additional time will allow the Town to complete the budget process for Fiscal Year 2025.*

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Article 8: 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	\$22.00
*Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$152.00
*Special Town Meeting, Each	\$28.00
*Selectboard Chair	\$2,778.00
*2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,525.00
*Board of Assessors Chair	\$3,374.00
*2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$3,067.00
*Board of Health Chair	\$1,522.00
*2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,393.00
Town Clerk	\$25,642.00
Tax Collector	\$28,876.00
Additional As Sewer Fee Collector	\$814.00
Treasurer	\$26,038.00
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$69.00
Town Clerk, as Chair	\$112.00

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation a sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all appointed Town employees and certain elected officials, 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 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town (the “Omnibus budget”) for Fiscal Year 2025, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$1,769,126.00 to provide \$1,761,646.00 for its Fiscal Year 2025 operating assessment and \$7,480.00 for its Fiscal Year 2025 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from Released Overlay to add to the account to be used toward the costs associated with an 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 a sum or sums of money from Released Overlay to add to the Board of Assessors Revaluation Account (001-142-5801), or take any action relative thereto.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (account 256) a sum or sums of money to add to the account (001-159-5846) previously established to provide for Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses, 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 to be used by the Highway Department for the repair and maintenance of the various roads of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation a sum or sums of money to be used for the data conversion and annual license and cloud hosting fees for the accounting software used by the Town Accountant, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation a sum or sums of money for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) or other available funds and place said amounts into one or more of the following stabilization funds: Capital Stabilization Fund, Education Stabilization Fund, Energy Stabilization Fund, Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs Stabilization Fund, and General Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 18: 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 2025, 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 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 22nd day of April in the year Two Thousand Twenty Four (04/22/2024).

Selectboard of Gill

Randy P. Crochier Sr., Chair

Gregory M. Snedeker, Board member

Charles J. Garbiel II, Board member

A true copy Attest:

Doreen J. Stevens, Town Clerk

Date: April 23, 2024

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; The Gill Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, seven days before the date hereof, as within directed.

Fred O. Chase III, Constable of Gill

Date: