



THE

# Gill Newsletter

September 2008 Issue

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## Town Hall News

### Intradistrict Budget Meeting September 17, 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Fall High School

The Selectboard has requested a special issue of the Newsletter to get out the word about the intradistrict budget meeting on September 17. As most of you know, the towns of Montague and Gill and the Gill Montague Regional School District School Committee have not yet settled on a budget for the school for the current fiscal year. This is the same situation we were in last fall and we are heading for an intradistrict meeting at the high school the same way we did last fall.

The difference is, there is no way the town can possibly meet the request from the school this year. After last year's intradistrict meeting, the town faced a small deficit. You may recall we had scheduled an override vote for February of 2008 in order to close the budget gap, but cancelled it at the last minute when we heard from the Department of Revenue that the increase in our new growth number for FY08 would save the day. We can't count on that again this year.

This year, if the school district were to receive its full request, the town faces a \$320,000 deficit. Knowing that residents cannot afford an override of that magnitude, the Selectboard is bracing for potential budget cuts. It has instituted a spending freeze on all discretionary spending until the budget

with the school is settled. Departments have been told not to fill any vacant positions, not to run vehicles unnecessarily, to consolidate forty hours of staff time into four days per week to save on building energy costs, etc. We are doing our best to minimize the impact of these potential budget cuts.

The vote taken on September 17 will BIND both towns to a budget figure for FY09. To ensure that those attending the meeting are fully informed, I'd like to let you know of some of the proposals you may hear during the intradistrict meeting, and the impact it will have on your tax rate and town services.

1. If both towns agreed to maintain the amount appropriate at town meeting last spring, that means a \$168,000 override for Gill. That would add approximately \$1.07 to the tax rate, or \$227 per year for the average homeowner. If the override failed at the polls, possible cuts to town services include:

- a. Eliminate stipends for town boards and committees (moderator, select-

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

- Harry van Baaren  
HvB Imaging
- Lynn Nichols
- Dorri Beaubien
- Bev Demars
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- Gloria Holmes
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- Dot Underwood
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Check in with the  
Gill Website  
**www.gillmass.org**  
for up to date news,  
announcements and  
contact information!



board, board of health, board of assessors.)

- b. Eliminate the position of animal control officer
- c. No cost of living increases for any town employees
- d. Defer the \$15,000 pump repair for the fire engine
- e. No funds to set aside for future increases in building inspector fees.
- f. Reduce town hall staff hours by 20%
- g. Reduce the police force by 0.6 of a full-time position
- h. Eliminate the part-time position of clerk for the board of health, zoning board of appeals, and planning board

2. If both towns agreed to fund the district at the level the Commissioner of Education has set (known as the "1/12 Budget"), that means a \$279,000 override for Gill. That would add approximately \$1.78 to the tax rate, or \$378 per year for the average homeowner. If the override failed at the polls, possible cuts to town services include what's listed in #1 plus:

- a. Reduce the police force by another 0.4 full-time position (eliminating one full-time officer)
- b. Reduce the highway department by 1 full-time position
- c. Close the Slate Memorial Library
- d. No funds for the council on aging, meaning no funds toward

the Gill-Montague Senior Center Director's position

e. No funds for the memorial committee, historical commission, or recreation commission

3. If both towns agreed to fully fund the school committee's budget request, that means a \$320,000 override for Gill. That would add approximately \$2.03 on the tax rate, or \$431 per year for the average homeowner. If the override failed at the polls, possible cuts to town services include what's listed in #1 and #2 plus:

- a. Reduce the amount of highway department materials (asphalt, stone, sand, salt, etc.) purchased by 27%

**Once again, THE VOTE TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 17 WILL BIND BOTH TOWNS TO A BUDGET FIGURE FOR FY09.**

If an override fails after the meeting, town services will be cut to allow for the town to pay the school assessment. The Selectboard urges ALL registered voters to attend the intradistrict meeting on September 17. Voters must make their intentions known that night. It is imperative that all who are able to attend do so. If you are currently not registered to vote, you may register with the Town Clerk by September 16 in order to vote on September 17.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org or the Chair of the Selectboard,

Nancy Griswold, at 863-8271. You may contact the Town Clerk, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, with question about voter registration at 863-8103 or townclerk@gillmass.org.

**Taxes Due October 1**

The Tax Collector would like to remind folks that the first half payment of their FY09 taxes is due October 1. FY08 tax bills were mailed out last March and due May 1. Then, under our new preliminary tax system tax bills for the first half of FY09 were mailed out in July and are due October 1. Early payment is always appreciated. Please contact the Tax Collector, Ronnie LaChance, at 863-2105 or collector-treasurer@gillmass.org if you have any questions.

**Looking for Volunteers**

Several Gill boards and committees currently have openings including the Planning Board, Recreation Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Cable Access Committee. Meetings are generally once a month and no experience is necessary. For more information, please contact the Selectboard's office at (413) 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org. Interested residents are asked to submit an "Interest in Appointment to a Town Committee" form, which is available at Town Hall or online at [www.gillmass.org/committees.html](http://www.gillmass.org/committees.html).



# HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**Saturday, September 13, 2008**

9 am – 1 pm (Pre-registration required)



MONTAGUE HIGHWAY GARAGE  
ORANGE TRANSFER STATION  
RT. 2 PARK AND RIDE, CHARLEMONT



## PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 5

**Register online at: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org)**

Registration forms also available at town halls, transfer stations, and in local newspapers.

**For residents and businesses of the following towns:** Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill\*, Hawley, Heath, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

This collection event is free for residents. **\*Gill residents must pay to participate in the 2008 collection.** Businesses will be charged for disposal costs. Call (413) 772-2438 for business registration information.

## WHAT TO BRING

**Any substance labeled: CAUSTIC, TOXIC, CORROSIVE, POISON, FLAMMABLE, WARNING, DANGER, CAUTION**

### FROM YOUR YARD

Pesticides  
Insect sprays  
Fungicides  
Flea powder  
Herbicides  
Root killers  
Rodent killers  
Muriatic acid  
No-Pest strips  
Pool chemicals  
Lighter fluid

### FROM YOUR GARAGE

Used motor oil  
Engine degreaser  
Gas treatments  
Gasoline  
Kerosene  
Solvents  
Automobile batteries  
Brake fluid  
Carburetor cleaner  
Creosote sealer  
Asphalt sealer  
Refrigerants  
Antifreeze  
Transmission fluid  
Radiator flusher

### FROM YOUR WORKSHOP

Roofing tar  
Solvents  
Varnish  
Sealants  
Wood strippers  
Rust inhibitors  
Paint thinners  
Degreasers  
Wood preservatives  
Wood strippers  
Stains  
Lead & oil-based paints  
(No latex paint)  
Photo chemicals

### FROM YOUR HOME

Oven cleaners  
Furniture polish  
Upholstery cleaner  
Metal polish  
Mothballs  
Spot remover  
Drain cleaners  
Toilet cleaners  
Fluorescent light bulbs  
Mercury thermometers  
Mercury thermostats  
Chemistry kits  
Arts & crafts supplies  
Button batteries  
Rechargeable batteries

## WHAT NOT TO BRING

**LATEX PAINT, EMPTY CONTAINERS FROM HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS (PUT THOSE IN TRASH, NOT RECYCLING), ASBESTOS, GAS CYLINDERS, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, EXPLOSIVES, AMMUNITION, FIREWORKS.**



## Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$50.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$50.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

## Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

## Next Newsletter Deadline

The Deadline for the October Issue will be September 15th.

Gill Fire Dept.  
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Gill, MA 01354

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