

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2009

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Present

Nancy Griswold, Ann Banash, Leland Stevens, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant; Claire Chang, Finance Committee member; Mitchell (Mickey) LaClaire, Highway Superintendent; David Hastings, Police Chief.

FY09 Budget Cuts

Tracy presented a list of savings and deficits she expects may occur before the end of the fiscal year. The list was as follows:

- \$500 deficit in the assessors' clerk's salary because her STEP raise was not accounted for
- \$8,200 deficit in health insurance because Tracy overestimated the amount saved by Officer Sokoloski's departure
- \$25,793 deficit in state aid
- \$6,000 deficit in utilities for the Town Hall and Riverside Municipal Building, because the final bid price for heat was higher than estimated
- \$581 savings in the FRCOG assessment because FRCOG voluntarily reduced regional assessments by 10%
- \$1,000 savings in clerk for ZBA, Board of Health, and Planning Board because she's not putting in as many hours as estimated
- \$6,000 savings from the recycling escrow account at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
- \$15,622 in savings if the Board of Assessors releases the overlay surplus

The list totaled a deficit of \$17,290.

The Board asked Mickey if there was any way he could reduce his spending to make up for some of the deficit. He volunteered \$3,000 from the amount he estimated for catch basin cleaning, stating that he plans to work more closely with Northfield this year on the project.

Ann asked if he could give the staff compensatory time off rather than pay them overtime. Mickey responded that he didn't think that would save much and that he needs the staff working in the garage when they're not on the road.

Mickey also stated that he could reduce the amount of grading he usually does on gravel roads in the spring. This would save another \$7,000 if necessary.

The Board then asked David where the Police Department might be able to reduce its spending. David responded that there was no place he could currently cut.

The Board then discussed the method of addressing these deficits and savings. Any line that is underspent needs no permission, but any that is overspent either needs a transfer after May 1 or approval by town meeting. Transfer of the assessors' overlay surplus will need town meeting approval regardless. The Board agreed to try to handle as many transfers as possible after May 1 and plan on a special town meeting on May 4 (the date of the annual town meeting) to address any other transfers.

David and Mickey left the meeting.

Ann made a motion to request that the assessors' release the overlay surplus amount of \$15,622.02. Lee seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Addendum: At the Board of Assessors meeting later that evening, the Board voted unanimously to release the entire \$15,622.02.

Continued

Meeting was continued until 5:00 p.m.

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present

Nancy Griswold, Ann Banash, Leland Stevens, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant; Claire Chang, Joe Williams, Jim Poulsen, Ronnie LaChance, Ernie Hastings, Alden Booth, Finance Committee members; Michael Crochier, Steve Peters, Gene Beaubien, Stuart Elliott, Ken Sears, Jason Edson, Fire Department Engineers; Lissa Greenough, Library Trustee; Bev Demars, Cemetery Commissioner and Council on Aging member; Doug Smith, Planning Board member; Ray Purington, Peter Conway, assessors; Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk/Assessors' Clerk; Ray Steele, Moderator; Randy Crochier, Doug Edson, Ed Galipault, Board of Health members; John Ward, resident.

FY09 Budget Cuts

The Board explained the deficit situation and asked the group for ways the town might underspend in order to prevent a deficit.

Fire Chief Beaubien asked if the department could sell used radios on E-Bay. Tracy will look into that. He stated that the department had \$5,700 left over in the salary line in FY08 and may have that much left again in FY09, but can't be sure. The Board of Engineers meets on 2/12 and will have a better answer for the Selectboard by 2/17.

Ronnie stated that she shouldn't need any of the \$2,000 set aside for short-term interest.

Ann asked the Cemetery Commission if they needed all the funds in their line, given that there was \$1,344 carried over from FY08 to address the erosion problem at the Center Cemetery. Bev stated that the Commission could give up \$2,300.

Ann asked if the Town Clerk needed the entire \$800 in the dog fund. Lynda stated that she only needed \$100, but that any remaining funds in that line were designated for the library. Lissa stated that the library could give up that \$700.

The Historical Commission stated that they could give up \$250, but could not spare any from the \$1,000 set aside for an historical home survey.

The Zoning Board said they could most likely spare some and will discuss it at their meeting on 2/10.

The Recreation Department had no one in attendance. Tracy will ask a representative to attend the next Selectboard meeting. *Addendum: Tracy spoke by telephone with Rose LeVasseur, treasurer of the Recreation Committee. Rose volunteered a \$1,000 reduction in the Committee's line.*

The Town Clerk volunteered the \$400 set aside under "voting machine."

The final list of savings and deficits is as follows:

- \$500 deficit in the assessors' clerk's salary because her STEP raise was not accounted for
- \$8,200 deficit in health insurance because Tracy overestimated the amount saved by Officer Sokoloski's departure
- \$25,793 deficit in state aid
- \$6,000 deficit in utilities for the Town Hall and Riverside Municipal Building, because the final bid price for heat was higher than estimated
- \$581 savings in the FRCOG assessment because FRCOG voluntarily reduced regional assessments by 10%
- \$1,000 savings in clerk for ZBA, Board of Health, and Planning Board because she's not putting in as many hours as estimated
- \$6,000 savings from the recycling escrow account at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
- \$15,622 in savings if the Board of Assessors releases the overlay surplus
- \$2,000 in savings from short-term interest
- \$2,300 in savings from the Cemetery Commission

- \$700 in savings from the dog fund via the library
- \$250 in savings from the Historical Commission
- \$400 in savings from the voting machine
- \$1,000 in savings from the Recreation Committee

The list totaled a deficit of \$10,640. The remaining deficit is expected to be defrayed by a reduction in fire department expenses, ZBA expenses, and solid waste expenses to be determined.

Gene asked if the FY10 budget request at the 10% reduction level was supposed to be based on 10% less than what was approved at the January special town meeting, or on where things stand after cuts are made tonight. Ann suggested basing it on where things stand after tonight's cuts.

Gene said he was not planning on applying for grants this year, because he doesn't feel the town can afford the matching component. Ann recommended he go ahead and take the match out of the NMH gift money.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

Ann H. Banash, Selectboard Clerk