

# TOWN OF GILL

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



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## SELECTBOARD/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

*April 9, 2009*

### Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

### Present

Nancy Griswold, Ann Banash, Leland Stevens, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant; Tupper Brown, Ronnie LaChance, Joe Williams, Claire Chang, Alden Booth, Chris Collins (arrived late) Finance Committee members; John Ward, resident; David Hastings, Chief of Police.

### Police Budget Request

Chief Hastings outlined the detailed reasoning behind his budget request for FY10. He stated that he expects a 100% cut in Community Policing funds for FY10, which is, based on an average of past years, a cut of \$45,000 (18% of the Department's budget). Typically the Department uses \$12,000 - \$14,000 per year for part-time help.

Following are some questions and answers from the discussion:

- How much fuel does the Department plan on using in FY10? *Unknown, but will try to get back to us with an estimate. Officers are driving less in FY09 to try to conserve on fuel use. They are conducting more stationary radar, etc.*
- How many cruisers is the Department running currently? *Three now; it was four in FY08.*
- Does the Town pay for fuel used on traffic details? *Yes, but the Town receives a 10% administrative fee on any detail job that is not a state job.*
- If we receive the Cops Hiring Recovery Program grant, and set aside \$12,000 into stabilization planning for that fourth year of the program, can the Department run on \$4,000 in part-time help? *It would be difficult to cover vacations, sick time, holidays, etc. with only \$4,000.*

Chris Collins joined the meeting.

- What other sources of funding does the Department have? *Governor's Highway Safety Bureau grant for motor vehicle enforcement, which is \$4,000 for labor and \$3,000 for equipment.*
- Would we need another cruiser if we hired a third full-time officer? *Yes, but he'd only consider purchasing one if the Community Policing funds came through.*

Chief Hastings, Alden Booth, and Ann Banash left the meeting.

#### Recreation Committee

Nathan Duda, Chair of the Recreation Committee, joined the meeting.

Following are some questions and answers from the discussion:

- What revenue is the Committee generating? *There will not be a Red Sox trip this year, because we missed the deadline to purchase tickets. This is unfortunate, since the trip is a revenue generator for the Committee. We did find a resident willing to provide up front funding to purchase the tickets next year. We are also researching the possibility of vending food at games to raise revenues.*
- How many children attend the summer program? *10-30 kids per week. The Committee allows families to send their children one day at a time, rather than signing up for a week at a time, which makes predicting an adequate staffing level difficult.*
- How are basketball and baseball funded? *Both programs are funded partially through fees and partially through general funds.*
- What kinds of fees does the Committee spend its funds on? *Gill Montague Regional School District charges fees for the use of their facilities, including the ball fields.*
- Do you need the original \$4,000 approved in FY09 for FY10, or is \$2,000 or \$3,000 enough? *Joe recommended keeping it at \$4,000. Lee and Nancy recommended keeping it at \$3,000.*

Lee asked to have the Committee's treasurer, Rose LeVasseur, provide the Board with a breakdown of fee-related expenses. Nancy stated that the lack of accountability for Committee funding is an issue. Nate suggested that paying Rose for her bookkeeping time might help that, but that the bookkeeping is difficult given the fact that the Committee works out of two accounts. Tracy offered to get Rose set up to make the bookkeeping simpler.

Lee left the meeting.

Claire suggested the Committee survey parents on what services they'd like to see provided.

Nathan left the meeting.

#### Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.*

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Nancy A. Griswold, Selectboard Chair