

TOWN OF GILL

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



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2009

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present

Nancy Griswold and Leland Stevens, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Town Administrator; Claire Chang, Ernie Hastings, Jim Poulsen, Ronnie LaChance, Chris Collins, Joe Williams (arrived later), Finance Committee members; Joyce Muka, Town Accountant.

Absent

Ann Banash, Selectboard member; Tupper Brown, Alden Booth, Finance Committee members.

May 1 Transfers

Tracy presented a list of requested line-item transfers as follows:

- \$200 to Town Administrator Expenses from Cemetery Erosion
- \$800 to Assessors Clerk from Fire Dept. Expenses
- \$1,200 to Legal Expenses from Fire Dept. Expenses
- \$2,300 to Town Hall Building from Cemetery Commission
- \$2,853 to Town Hall Building from Solid Waste District
- \$846 to Town Hall Building from Cemetery Erosion
- \$158.34 to Property Insurance from Fire Dept. Expenses
- \$3,000 to Garage & Public Safety Building from General Highway Expenses
- \$200 to Garage & Public Safety Building from FRCOG Assessment
- \$2,000 to Personal Insurance from Interest – Temp. Loans
- \$5,000 to Personal Insurance from Solid Waste Removal
- \$1,200 to Personal Insurance from Fire Dept. Expenses

Joe joined the meeting.

Jim made a motion for the Finance Committee to approve all of the above transfers. Ernie seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote. Lee made a motion for the Selectboard to approve all of the above transfers. Nancy seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Ronnie presented a request to transfer \$200.00 to Treasurer's Expenses from the FRCOG Assessment line. Jim made a motion for the Finance Committee to approve all of the above transfers. Ernie seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote, with the exception of Ronnie who abstained. Lee made a motion for the Selectboard to approve all of the above transfers. Nancy seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Jim and Chris left the meeting.

FY2010 Budget

Tracy presented a request from the Finance Committee to hold a joint meeting with the Selectboard to discuss the FY10 budget. The Board asked Tracy to put the FY10 budget on the 5/26 Selectboard meeting agenda so members may discuss it amongst themselves first. Then they will set a date for a joint meeting.

DOR Recommendations

Tabled until the 5/14 meeting.

Ernie, Joe, Ronnie, and Joyce left the meeting.

Franklin Land Trust

Brandon Vickery, with the Franklin Land Trust, joined the meeting. Brandon presented a request for the Board to approve an agricultural preservation restriction purchase by the Land Trust of approximately five acres of land between Main Road and Boyle Road that Harriet Tidd gifted to the Mass. Audubon Society. Mass. Audubon is planning on gifting the APR to Franklin Land Trust and selling the property to Dan Flagg. The Flaggs have been farming the land and will continue to do so. The Board unanimously approved the restriction and signed the appropriate documents.

Jackie Elliott and James Diemand joined the meeting.

Review Minutes

The Board unanimously approved minutes as written from the April 23 and 27 meetings and the executive session meetings on April 27 and May 6.

Mediation

Tracy reported that she contact The Mediation and Training Collaborative since the Board's last meeting to inquire if they had any trained mediators in Gill who might volunteer their time to assist in neighbor disputes, etc. The Collaborative recommended using someone from outside Gill instead. They agreed to contact both Mr. Tomasi and Mr. Booth regarding their disputes over the Gill Store & Tavern hours, etc. and see if both parties would be amenable to mediation and would consider paying jointly for the Collaborative's services. Tracy will also put a note in the next newsletter seeking volunteer mediators for the future.

Independence Day

Tracy surveyed the staff to see if they'd prefer to have Thursday, July 2, or Monday, July 6 off to celebrate Independence Day, which falls on a Saturday this year. Most employees indicated a preference for Monday, but Ronnie would still have to work Monday in order to get the warrant ready for the Board meeting that night.

Ronnie joined the meeting.

The Board agreed to give the staff Monday off and to meet instead on Tuesday, July 7 so that Ronnie wouldn't have to come in on Monday.

Ronnie left the meeting.

FEMA Contract

Tracy presented contract forms for the Board to sign so that the Town may receive its reimbursement from FEMA for the December ice storm.

Plexiglas on Old Bridge Abutment

Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo joined the meeting. She reported that the Plexiglas covering the mural commemorating the old red bridge and mud balls is cracked, which is allowing the mural itself to become damaged. She offered to contact FirstLight to see if they would help in replacing it. The Board asked her to follow up on that. Lynda left the meeting.

Appointment of Town Administrator

Lee made a motion to appoint Tracy as Town Administrator. Nancy seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board instructed Tracy to revise her job description and bring it to the Board for discussion.

Residents Annette Krejmas, Marlee and Donald Kaplan, and Edie Smith joined the meeting.

Delinquent Tax Notice

Ronnie joined the meeting and asked the Board for permission to put the names of residents who are delinquent in paying their taxes in the newspapers. The Board approved the move, depending on the cost. Ronnie said she'd also include a note about how people could make payment plan arrangements with her. Claire suggested putting such a note in the next newsletter. Tracy suggested putting the list of delinquent taxpayers in the newsletter, which would be free of charge. Ronnie will look into it. Ronnie left the meeting.

Riverside Municipal Building Study Committee

Tracy asked the Board how it wanted to form the study committee recommended by Ann at the annual town meeting. Lee suggested there be representatives on the committee from all sections of town, not just the Riverside section. The Board agreed on a five-member committee and instructed Tracy to put a note in the newsletter seeking members.

Tracy reported that Jenn Waldron, Claire Chang, and Pam Shoemaker have already volunteered to serve on the committee, should the Board choose to appoint them.

Some suggested tasks for the Committee would be to look into whether the Riverside Water District should be paying rent for its office space; what grants may be available; former study results; whether historic designation or grant awards restrict use of the property.

James Diemand

Town Counsel Donna MacNicol joined the meeting. Nancy recused herself and left the meeting.

Mr. Diemand stated that he had requested a meeting with both Selectmen Lee Stevens *and* Ann Banash. Tracy indicated that Ann was currently out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Diemand asked to have the meeting rescheduled for a time when Ann was available. Another meeting date was set for 5/26 5:30 p.m. provided Ann will be in attendance.

Everyone left the meeting except Claire, Lee, Nancy, and Tracy.

Moore Dam Exercise

Tracy reported that she and Emergency Management Director Gene Beaubien will attend the Moore Dam tabletop exercise on May 20.

Energy Savings Seminar

Tracy reported that the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is offering free home energy savings seminars for residents. The Board suggested Tracy try to arrange something for the early fall.

Tech School Contract Negotiations

Tracy presented a letter from the Franklin County Technical School inviting selectmen from all participating towns to attend a meeting on May 13 wherein they will elect amongst themselves one member to serve on the negotiations subcommittee regarding the teachers' contract. The Board declined to attend.

Falls River Bridge

Tracy read a brief report from Fire Chief Gene Beaubien regarding upcoming work on the bridge on Route 2 over the Falls River. Work is scheduled to begin in 2010. The bridge will be open for two lanes of traffic and pedestrians during construction. No police details will be needed except for large equipment moves and when they have to move barriers. Wide loads will be detoured onto Route 63 and I-91.

Greenfield Biomass Plant

Doug Edson and Ed Galipault, members of the Board of Health, joined the meeting. Tracy reported that she had received phone calls from five residents concerned about the effect the proposed biomass plant in Greenfield will have on Gill residents. They are

particularly concerned about emissions, noise levels, water discharge, and the potential for increased traffic on West Gill Road. Doug and Ed said they Board would research the issue and discuss it during its next meeting. Doug agreed that future calls from residents could be referred to the Board of Health. Doug and Ed left the meeting.

Verizon Letter of Authorization

Tracy presented a notification from Verizon indicating that they have hired Business Communications Management (BCM) to assist them in managing their government accounts. Verizon was requesting a letter of authorization allowing BCM to access the Town's accounts. The Board approved and Nancy signed the letter of authorization.

Claire left the meeting.

Building Committee Appointment

Tracy reported that Claire Chang requested to serve on the Building Committee. The Board refused, stating the desire for someone with building trade experience.

GMRSD Contract Negotiation Representative

Tracy reported that the Montague Selectboard voted to send Patricia Pruitt as the town representative to the Gill Montague Regional School District teacher contract negotiation committee. Montague would like to know if Gill approves of Patricia as its representative also. The Board voted unanimously to accept Patricia as Gill's representative.

Senior Center Director Hiring Committee

Tracy reported that Bev Demars, Chair of the Council on Aging, had contacted her asking if the Board would appoint a town representative to the hiring committee seeking to replace Bunny Caldwell. Bev is serving as the Council's representative. Bev recommended either Renee Jenkins or Jean Smith, neither of whom have been contacted yet to see if they'd like to serve. The Board instructed Tracy to contact them both and see who's interested.

Payroll and Bill Warrants

The Board approved payroll and bill warrant number 23.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Town Administrator.

Nancy A. Griswold, Selectboard Chair