

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2010

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Present

Ann Banash, Nancy Griswold, and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Interim Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Tupper Brown, Claire Chang, Leland Stevens, Ronnie LaChance, and Timmie Smith, Finance Committee; David Detmold, Montague Reporter; Rick James, MCTV

Town Hall Use Request

The agenda item for the Cultural Council's use the Town Hall for a performance was withdrawn at Steve Damon's request.

Rough Draft Agenda for 2/3 Meeting with DESE

There will be a meeting on February 3rd with representatives from DESE to discuss development of a process to achieve long-term financial stability of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, and by extension, its member towns. The Gill and Montague Selectboards and Finance Committees are invited to attend, as is the School Committee. Local legislators or their representatives are expected to attend.

Tupper presented an agenda that was developed for the DESE meeting, and asked for comments, questions, and suggestions from the Board and the Finance Committee. Timmie asked if the meeting when the agenda was created had been posted. Ann answered that it had not, as there was not a quorum of any public body, that no decisions were made, and that the product of the meeting (the agenda) was being discussed at posted meeting of the five town and school boards and committees. There were no other comments about the agenda.

At 5:50 p.m. the Finance Committee adjourned their meeting, and Tupper, Lee, and Timmie left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nancy, seconded by John, to approve the minutes from 1/4. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Appointment of Administrative Assistant

Ann reported on the hiring process. There were 15 applicants, from which the Board selected four for first interviews. After completing those interviews, the Board felt they had adequate information and a well-qualified candidate, and decided against second interviews.

A motion was made by John, seconded by Nancy, to appoint Ray Purington as the Administrative Assistant effective immediately. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Ray accepted the position, and said he was honored to be chosen.

Financial Audit

Ray reported that he has contacted Scanlon & Associates to discuss the contract and schedule for the FY09 financial audit, but is waiting to hear back from them.

SmartPower Memorandum of Understanding

Ray reported the Energy Commission reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and SmartPower/Western Mass Saves, and had voted to recommend the Selectboard sign it.

A motion was made by Nancy, seconded by John, to authorize Ann to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Town of Gill. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Health Insurance Rates for FY11

Ronnie reported that the Hampshire County Group Insurance rates for FY11 will be increasing 5.9%. This is a slightly lower increase from the 7% that had been the norm for the past several years.

Ronnie also reported that she has turned over three town-owned properties to Douglas Auctioneers to sell at auction. The properties are ones the town has taken for nonpayment of taxes, and are known as the Kochinski, Robertson, and Dawson properties.

Hampshire Power Profit Share

Hampshire Power, the electricity program of the Hampshire Council of Governments, has notified the Town that its share of the FY2009 Profit Share Rate Plan is \$1,234.83.

Schuetzen Verein Liquor License

Ray reported that the ABCC has determined that the TF Schuetzen Verein Athletic Association needs to have both a Club license and a Season Restaurant license, but not the Restaurant license approved by the Board in December. Ray will find out from the ABCC the steps necessary to make this happen.

MMA Legislative Breakfast

All three members of the Board indicated they would like to be registered for the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Legislative Breakfast to be held on March 5 at the Montague Town Hall.

FRCOG Corridor Management Plan

Ray reported that Town Hall now has several copies of the FRCOG's *Corridor Management Plan for the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway Eastern Section – Athol to Greenfield*, which includes Gill's section of Route 2. Anyone is welcome to review the plan.

SAFE Grant

Gill's Fire Department was awarded an additional \$1,908 in the second round of funding for the Student Awareness of Fire Education grants. Our total for FY10 is \$3,400.

Letter from Mr. Adie

Ray briefly summarized, and Ann read aloud portions of a letter from Allen Adie Sr., which included a copy of a letter he wrote to *The Recorder*, but was declined for publication. The letter begins with "I love Gill!!" and goes on to praise a number of Gill and Turners Falls businesses.

Bucket Truck Proposal from Highway Superintendent

Ann read a memo from Mitchell LaClaire Sr., Highway Superintendent that requests permission to explore a joint-purchase with Northfield of a small bucket truck, similar to that used by telephone and cable companies. The need for the truck is driven by concerns for the safety of the Highway Department employees. The practice of trimming trees while perched in the bucket of the front-end loader is unsafe, and will not be allowed. The tree warden approves of the idea of a bucket truck as well.

A dealer in Exeter, Rhode Island has such a truck for sale, and Mickey would like permission to travel there on 1/20 with highway personnel from Northfield and Vernon, VT. The truck is offered for \$3,900, but he expects it can be purchased for less than that, as it is known to need new king pins. Vernon would not be sharing in the purchase of the vehicle, but would pay for the annual inspection of the boom. The funds to pay for Gill's half are available from the Tree & Forestry Expenses account.

The Board praised Mickey for his concern for our employees' safety, and for his initiative. On the proposed shared purchase, there is support for the idea, but concern that the price may be too good to be true. It was questioned whether the bucket truck would add to our insurance costs.

John made a motion, seconded by Nancy, to authorize purchase of a used bucket truck up to a maximum of \$2,000 for the Town's share, subject to the truck receiving a clean bill of health during an inspection by an independent mechanic who is familiar with that type of vehicle. The mechanic's fee is included in the \$2,000. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

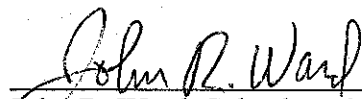
Warrant #15

The Board reviewed and signed Warrant #15.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Ward



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk