

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES May 24, 2010

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard: Ann Banash, Randy Crochier and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Finance Committee: Claire Chang, Tupper Brown, Ronnie LaChance, Timmie Smith, Lee Stevens, Jim Poulsen

Others Present: Nancy Griswold (left meeting at 7:35pm)

Budget Discussions: A handout was distributed showing the FY11 requested expenses and expected income and the FY10 approved expenses and expected income, along with a blank column for the amount to be recommended jointly by the Selectboard and Finance Committee. The format is similar to what will be used to present the omnibus budget at Town Meeting, but has more details on department salaries and expenses.

The handout was a spreadsheet file on Ann's laptop computer, and was projected on a large screen for all to see. Categories and amounts were adjusted over the course of the meeting based on group discussion. No votes were taken and no figures were finalized; that will happen in June.

Based on the discussion, the salary line for the Administrative Assistant was increased from 40,804.02 to 43,524.29. This is not a raise, but rather the cost to fully fund the 40-hour/week position from the town budget. In FY10 and prior years, 2.5 hours/week were funded through the PEG Access account. It was also suggested to add an additional 1000 to the salary line so that the position could be moved from a Grade 6 to a Grade 7 in January 2011.

Most salary and expense figures generated little discussion. It was noted that a decision will need to be made about the amount to recommend for the salaries of the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector, but further discussion was put off to a later date. The Police Department request for an additional \$14,000 (approx.) for part-time officers was also put off to a later date, as was a decision about any COLA increase.

Ray was asked to get an explanation from the Highway Superintendent on how he calculated the FY11 requested salaries.

A recommendation was made to increase the Cemetery Commission budget from \$2500 to \$2600, in order to provide a little more help toward grounds keeping costs.

In reviewing the proposed figures for Special Articles, there was consensus to lower the \$3827 for Police Equipment to \$2227, and to add \$1600 for uniform expenses/clothing allowance into the Police Department budget.

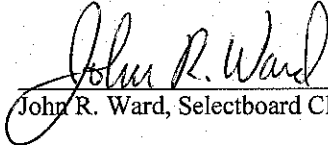
It was questioned whether there needed to be a special article to address possible issues with the vault and secure storage in Town Hall, but it was felt that more information was needed before an article could be proposed.

Also missing from the list of special articles was \$13,000 to convert the Fire Department pickup truck to a brush truck. It was suggested that this expense and the weapons & vests for the Police Department could possibly be paid for from the NMH Gift account.

The start time for the next meeting on June 9th was changed to 4:00pm, with representatives from the GMRSD joining us at 6:00pm. Ray will change the meeting posting for the Selectboard and Finance Committee. A pre-town meeting question & answer session will be held on June 15th, starting immediately after the 6:30pm public hearing on the Stretch Energy Code.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk

Claire Chang, Finance Committee Secretary