

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2010

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

Open Meeting Law Changes: Ray informed the Board about changes to the Open Meeting Law that go into effect on July 1st. The three items which impact the Selectboard most directly are 1) Saturdays no longer count toward the 48-hour posting requirement, so Monday meetings will need to be posted by the same time on Thursday; 2) Posting notices must contain "a list of topics that the Chair reasonably expects to be discussed", i.e., an agenda; 3) If a meeting is being voice or video recorded, that must be announced by the chair at the beginning of the meeting; and 4) Any document that is "used" during a public meeting becomes part of the official record for that meeting and must be preserved as such.

Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo is preparing a ring binder for the outside display case that will be used to provide public access to all notices of upcoming meetings.

Elevator Maintenance Contract: Ray made a recommendation that the Board accept a bid from Baystate Elevator Co. (as part of a collective bid by the FRCOG) to provide elevator service in FY11 for Gill's Town Hall elevator and stage lift. There is a projected savings of approximately \$1,200 annually compared with the cost of service from Garaventa, the Town's current provider. Ray noted that \$660 will need to be encumbered to pay Garaventa for a previously contracted annual state inspection for the stage lift. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to award an elevator service contract for FY11 to Baystate Elevator Co. per the terms and conditions of the FY11 FRCOG Elevator Bid, and to appoint the FRCOG to contract on the Town's behalf. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Police & Fire Accident Insurance: As previously discussed, Nationwide Insurance will no longer offer accident insurance for police and firefighters. State law mandates that the Town provide this coverage. Three quotes for FY11 were obtained from MIIA/Chubb, Trident/Argo, and Gaudette/Provident, with MIIA/Chubb the low bidder at \$9,122, which is a savings over FY10 with comparable coverage limits. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to award the police & fire accident insurance contract the MIIA/Chubb. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

CBDG Status: Ray reported that 64 income verification surveys have been returned to the Housing Authority, but that 53 more responses are needed to meet the 95% return rate that is required. Our percentage of low- and middle-income households is in the low 80s, which is promising.

Pole Hearing: The Board agreed to schedule a pole hearing on July 6th to act on Verizon & WMECO's request to place a utility pole along Center Road, near the West Gill Road end. Ray will check with Mick before then to see if there are any pole-related issues in town that we want to leverage as part of the pole permit.

Sewer Abatement: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to grant a sewer bill abatement of \$26.76 to Jeff Suprenant. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Roofing Quote for Public Safety Complex: Ray presented a quotation from Morris Roofing & Sheet Metal for a new membrane roof at the PSC. The quote was \$34,800 - \$36,000 depending on options. The Board asked that Ray and Mick take the necessary steps to develop an RFQ and to put the project out to bid.

Debt Exclusion Question: In the event that Articles 25 & 26 of the ATM warrant (Energy Savings Performance Contract financing) are passed contingent upon a debt exclusion ballot election, the Board asked Ray to prepare ballot language for the Selectboard's meeting on June 28th (preceding the continuation of ATM). The Board could vote to authorize a debt exclusion ballot election prior to Town Meeting action, and would then not have to have a special Selectboard meeting on June 29th. If the articles fail at ATM, the ballot question vote could be rescinded by the Selectboard at their next regular meeting.

The Board decided against placing non-binding referendums on the next town election ballot to ask residents about the preferred day of the week and time of month for Annual Town Meeting. They asked Ray to reserve in early January 2011 a Saturday in both May and June as potential dates for ATM, in order to avoid scheduling conflicts like we had this year.

Firefighter Appointment: In response to a recommendation from the Fire Chief, Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to appoint Nire Rugoza as a probationary firefighter, pending successful completion of a health evaluation. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

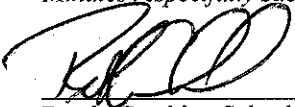
Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed warrant # 26.

Employee Matters: At 6:05pm John Miner, an employee of the Gill Highway Department, joined the meeting and asked to speak with the Selectboard about his current hourly rate, and what he believes he was promised during his hiring interview last year with Tracy Rogers (then Town Administrator) and Mick LaClaire (Highway Superintendent). John M. explained that during the interview he expressed a desire to make around \$18.00/hour after completing his 6-month probationary period. He was told that because of the way the position was advertised, he would start at \$16.71 (4-D on the wage scale), but that after 6 months he would be moved to \$17.92 (5-B). He noted that a few weeks ago the Selectboard did give him a raise to \$17.23 (5-A). He feels he has proven his talents and skills, and that this is a big difference in pay. He was looking forward to the figure quoted to him in the interview.

Ann explained that by moving his position from Grade 4 to Grade 5 on the wage scale, and starting him at the lowest step on the new grade, the town was following past precedent. John W. commented that he would like to discuss this further with Mick, and would like to hear from Tracy as well, if that is possible. John M. and Mick will be placed on the agenda for July 6th, and Tracy will be contacted and asked for her recollections.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk