

# TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

*July 19, 2010*

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m.

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

Others Present: David Detmold, Rick James, John Duda

Approval of Minutes: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the minutes of 6/7, 6/21, 6/28, 7/6, and 7/15. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

BOH Biomass Letter: The Board of Health's letter relating to biomass plants, first discussed at the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be presented at a future meeting.

Boat Ramp Correspondence: Ray informed the Board that he has responded in writing to David Manning regarding the concerns Mr. Manning raised in his letters of 6/29, 7/1, and 7/2. The response addressed the Gill Police Department's ability to respond to Boat Ramp complaints, the scope of Gill's Noise Bylaw, the unlikelihood that the Boat Ramp gate will be locked during the night, and the possibility that the temporary status of the nighttime closure of the Boat Ramp parking area will be considered for permanent status.

CDBG/Sewer District Survey: Ray reported that 88 of a possible 133 income verification surveys have been returned to the Housing Redevelopment Authority. It is believed that 120 surveys are needed to achieve the required response rate. The percentage of low- and moderate-income households is at 76%, which is still well above the 51% threshold need to be eligible for CDBG funding.

Shelburne Falls Dispatch Center Letter: The Board reviewed a proposed letter to be sent to the State 9-1-1 Department asking its Executive Director to support the so-called Redundancy Project, which would make infrastructure improvements to emergency dispatch centers in order to increase their readiness and reliability. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to sign the proposed letter. The vote passed unanimously, and the letter was signed.

Fire Department Purchase Orders: Four routine purchase orders, all greater than \$500, were submitted by the Fire Department for approval. Randy made a motion, seconded by Ann, to approve the following purchase orders: FRCOG – radio maintenance contract, \$1,179.96; NFPA – code update, \$810.00; High Pressure Systems – annual service on SCBA refill compressor, \$700.00; and ACS Software Systems – annual software contract, \$625.00. The motion carried unanimously. The Board asked Ray to send a memo to the Police and Highway Departments encouraging them to use a list format rather than individual forms for routine POs that are in excess of \$500.

FRCOG Contract Renewals: The Board reviewed renewal contracts for the following FRCOG services: Regional Health Inspection, Town Accounting, Fundware Software, and Building Inspection. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve and sign the four contracts as presented. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and the contracts were signed. (The Regional Health Inspection contract also requires the approval and signature of the Board of Health.)

NMH PILOT Contribution: The Board reviewed and approved a letter to NMH School requesting their annual \$10,000 donation to the Town, and asking to set up a meeting to discuss a possible increase to the donation. The Board discussed the history of the annual NMH gift and that the money is often used as the Town's matching contribution toward police and fire safety grants. It was suggested that an increase to the annual donation might somehow be related to the number of students on campus, number of NMH-related children attending Gill Elementary, number and size of buildings on campus, and a review of police and fire logs.

State Primary Election: The Board signed 5 copies of the warrant for the September 14<sup>th</sup> State Primary Election.

Farmers Market: The Board reviewed and approved a request from the Agricultural Commission to hold a Farmers Market on the grounds of the Riverside Municipal Building on August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. It was asked that the restrooms be limited to vendors' use, and was suggested that any vendor that needs a food service permit should get it ahead of time.

RMB Committee Resignation: The Board accepted Leland Stevens' resignation from the Riverside Municipal Building Use Study Committee. Ray was asked to place a notice in the next newsletter asking for volunteers to serve on that committee, and on others with vacancies. It was suggested that the RMB committee should make a report to the Town at the next Special Town Meeting.

MunEnergy Program: Ray shared with the Board an invitation from Mass. Municipal Association and Constellation Energy to attend a seminar on their MunEnergy energy-purchasing program. Ray will attend if time permits. It was noted that the Town has been purchasing its electricity through the Hampshire Council of Governments for several years, and generally has done quite well with prices.

Regionalization Conference: The Board reviewed the schedule for the Second Annual Regionalization Tool Kit conference to be held in Worcester on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The deadline to register is August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Report from Regional Agreement Study Committee: Dorothy Storrow joined the meeting at 5:20pm to present an update on her committee's activities from the past year. She explained that they have focused on 3 areas of the current district agreement – apportionment of capital costs, local control of schools, and election of school committee representatives. It was noted that this committee's work is about clarifying and improving the district agreement, and not about leaving the Gill-Montague district.

For capital costs, it was noted that the concern arose because of the population shift at Gill Elementary School. A significant percentage of students there come from in-district and out-of-district school choice, yet 100% of the capital costs at the school are borne by the Town of Gill. The committee has developed a formula for apportioning capital costs that would be used once the out-of-town enrollment at a community/town school reaches a certain percentage.

The issue of increased local control of a school is being discussed because there seems to be a growing trend that parents want their children to attend schools where the parents can have a greater say in how the school operates. Changing the district agreement to allow more local control is a way to have a greater say in planning for the future of our school and the potential of our children/students.

Dorothy highlighted the fact that they are a 3-person committee, and really need more members in order to function effectively. None of the members have children currently in the school system, and to have a new member who is a parent is important. It was suggested that there might be parents on the Gill School Council who would be willing to serve. The Principal and Secretary at Gill Elementary will be contacted to see if they know of anyone who might be willing to join the committee. A request for volunteers will also go in the next Gill newsletter.

The Selectboard will send a letter to the committee asking that it report on its progress at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

Warrants: The Board reviewed and signed FY10 Warrant #28 and FY11 Warrant #2.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.*

*John R. Ward, Chair*  
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Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk