

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

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

Others Present: Rick James and David Detmold

Approval of Minutes: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the minutes from 12/20. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

FRCOG Local Technical Assistance Priorities: The Board reviewed a Gill-focused list of possible projects for the FRCOG's next round of Local Technical Assistance funding. The list was first presented on 12/20, and since then was tentatively prioritized. The Board agreed with the suggested priorities, and the list will be sent to the FRCOG.

French/Samuels Conservation Restriction: Ray updated the Board on the status of the Conservation Restriction that they approved on 12/1. The CR document has been reviewed by the Division of Conservation Services and was returned with a number of recommended changes. The marked up copy is now in the hands of the donors, Dick French and Emily Samuels, for their review and their decision on the next step they want to take. Because of the nature of the suggested changes to the CR, it is likely that the Conservation Commission and Selectboard will need to re-vote their acceptance and approval.

Letter to Mass. DOT: The Board discussed a letter to the Mass. Department of Transportation which requests the DOT assume the roughly \$480 annual cost for lights on the Gill-Montague Bridge beginning in FY12. Currently Gill and Montague pay those costs, even though it is a state-owned bridge. It was pointed out that the towns of Sunderland and Deerfield do not pay for lights on the Route 116 Bridge, a bridge that is also state-owned. The Board felt this request should be made out of a matter of fairness, and signed the letter.

Small-group Meetings with Departments: As discussed during the 12/6 joint meeting with the Finance Committee, the FY12 budget process will include two FinCom members and one Selectperson meeting with each of the "big three" departments, police, fire, and highway to get a better understanding of the workings and needs of the department. The Board decided that Ann would meet with Fire, Randy with Highway, and John with Police. It is likely they will rotate the assignments next year.

Sewer Abatement: The Board, acting as Sewer Commissioner, granted an abatement to Jeff Suprenant for \$17.50 in sewer charges related to metered water used for filling a hot tub.

2011 Auto License: The Board reviewed and signed an annual Class I auto license for Green River Honda.

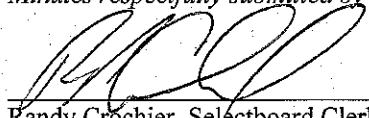
Announcements: Ray noted that Town offices will be closed Monday 1/17 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. There is an opening on the Cultural Council; interested residents should apply by 1/10. The Board of Assessors has received preliminary certification from DOR on the FY11 property values; these values are on display at the Town Hall, and public comment will be accepted until 1/10.

5:55PM David Detmold and Rick James left the meeting.

Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY11 Warrant #14.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

1/3/11 Town of Gill prioritized list of ideas for FRCOG's Local Technical Assistance funds

Rank	Final Rank	Idea Source	Idea
1		Gill / FRCOG	Assistance to update our Open Space & Recreation Plan from 2005 / Update expiring Open Space and Recreation Plans.
2		FRCOG	Continue to pursue sub/regional animal control facilities and/or officers.
3 (tie)		Gill / FRCOG	Additional assistance in implementing/becoming designated as a Green Community / Provide technical assistance for the Green Communities Act.
3 (tie)		Gill	Assistance to the Planning Board to update a "build out" plan that identifies where future building pressures will be in town
5		FRCOG	Continue providing technical assistance to communities involved in the Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting Program.
6		FRCOG	Expand cooperative purchasing opportunities to include capital equipment, janitorial supplies, computers and software, service contracts, etc.
7		FRCOG	Develop zoning bylaws for open space residential design, low impact development, affordable/work force housing, clean energy or telecommunications facilities.
8		Gill	Exploration of creating a green cemetery/green burials (might be a good regional topic too).
9		FRCOG	Prepare Master Plan chapters.
10		FRCOG	Provide administrative oversight to and ensure broad public information dissemination of the Regional Dispatch Services Feasibility Study – a study being funded by grant funds from the State 911 Department of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.
11		FRCOG	Conduct an ambulance service needs assessment for the county and/or assess the feasibility and mechanics of establishing sub-regional ambulance services.
12		FRCOG	Examine how the alarm system being built into the Franklin County Emergency Communication System can be used by municipalities for alarm box and safety system alert notification.

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December 3, 2010

Ms. Sue Bristol, Controller
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Ten Park Plaza, Room 5483
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Mass. DOT Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Hearing

Dear Ms. Bristol:

The Town of Gill respectfully asks that the Department of Transportation assume responsibility for the monthly utility bills related to streetlights located on the Gill-Montague Bridge, effective July 1, 2011.

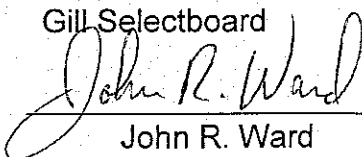
In all ways except for the lighting, the state provides for the operation and maintenance of this structure. For the nine lights on the bridge, Gill pays for three, and Montague pays for six. However, for the Route 116 Bridge between Deerfield and Sunderland, those two towns pay nothing for the lights; the state pays the electric bill.

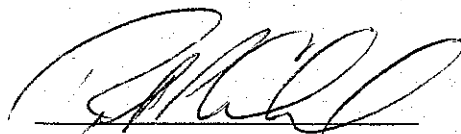
While we recognize that the state budget is as tight as that of our town, we make this request as a matter of fairness. The annual expense for the Town of Gill is approximately \$480. We would like to transfer this expense to the Department of Transportation, without any repercussion to our FY12 General State Aid or Chapter 90 Aid.

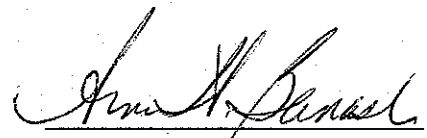
Thank you for your attention to this request. Questions on the matter should be directed to Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, 413-863-9347, administrator@gillmass.org.

Sincerely,

Gill Selectboard


John R. Ward


Randy P. Crochier


Ann H. Banash

Cc: Al Stegemann, DOT, District 2 Highway Director
Representative Denise Andrews
Mick LaClaire, Gill Highway Superintendent