

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

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 1/19. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Unpaid Sewer Bills: Tax Collector Ronnie LaChance joined the meeting to ask the Selectboard, as Sewer Commissioners, to request the Board of Assessors to place 12 unpaid sewer bills as sewer liens on the FY11 real estate tax bills. The bills total \$5,005.97. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to request the Assessors to commit the delinquent sewer bills as sewer liens on the FY11 real estate tax bills. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Ronnie left the meeting.

FY12 COLA Recommendation: Ann reported that the Personnel Committee met on 1/26 and discussed the COLA for FY12. The Committee recommends 1.3%, an amount suggested by the Consumer Price Index table referenced in the Town's Personnel Policy. The Committee also recommended that, to the extent possible, each department find the COLA increase within its own budget. The Selectboard discussed the recommendation, but declined to take immediate action. For the next meeting Ray was requested to research how FY11 COLAs were budgeted, and to prepare projections for FY12 revenues.

Franklin Regional Retirement System: The Board reviewed a letter from the Franklin Regional Retirement System concerning a possible vote on February 23rd on a 3% COLA for eligible retirees of the system. The Board noted that most COLA indexes are coming in between 1.0 and 1.6%, and that Social Security did not increase last year or this year, and may not increase next year. By consensus Ray was asked to send a letter to the Director of the FRRS that states the Board supports no more than a 1.5% COLA increase that is in line with other indexes.

Bart Bales, Special Municipal Employee: Ray explained a request from Gill resident Bart Bales to be designated as a Special Municipal Employee in conjunction with a consultant project he is doing for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. An Ethics Commission representative suggested that Bart should seek the designation. Town Counsel has advised that while it doesn't appear to be necessary (the District is a separate legal entity from the Town of Gill), there is no harm in it, either. Designations are made for the position, however, not the person in the position. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, that the Town designate the Turners Falls High School swimming pool energy efficiency consultant as a Special Municipal Employee in accordance with MGL Chapter 268A Section 1(n), and permit personal or private employment during normal working hours. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A letter will be sent to Bart and the Town Clerk informing them of the designation.

2010 Quintus Allen Fund: Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to accept a \$1,700.00 distribution from the Quintus Allen Fund for 2010. The vote passed 2-0. Ann abstained from the vote because she is a trustee of the Fund.

4:50 pm Joan Pillsbury and Judith Lorei joined the meeting.

Energy Committee Resignation: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to accept with deep regret the resignation of Joe Lafleur from the Energy Commission, and to send a letter of thanks and appreciation. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The open seat on the Commission will be posted on the website and announced in newspapers.

Winserts Workshop: Ray announced that the Energy Commission is sponsoring a free workshop on February 26th at the Town Hall for people interested in learning how to make insulating window inserts.

Regional Emergency Planning Council: The Board reviewed a status report from the REPC, and noted that beginning in FY12 the REPC will charge municipal dues of \$100 per member community.

Green Burials: Joan Pillsbury and Judith Lorei, members of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts, made a presentation to the Board about "green" burials in Massachusetts. Green burial is a burial without the use of embalming fluids and without a vault. It was noted that similar presentations have been made to Gill's Conservation Commission and Cemetery Commission. FCAWM proposes that some portion of any new cemetery in Gill be planned and designated for green burials.

There are currently 30 green or natural cemeteries in the United States. It was noted that burial regulations are set by local cemetery bylaws, not by any state requirements. Because natural burial allows decomposition of the body, green plots need to be larger than plots in traditional cemeteries, a difference of 150 green plots per acre versus 1000 per acre for traditional plots. Joan also explained that land already protected by a Conservation Restriction would not be allowed to be used for green burials unless that use is explicitly mentioned in the existing CR. This would rule out the use of the Town forest on Hoe Shop Road.

It was the consensus of the Board that they would like to send a letter to the Cemetery Commission endorsing the concept of green burial, and encouraging the Commission to explore ways to include green burial as an option for future cemetery land in Gill. As a next step, Joan will follow-up with the Commission in early spring. 5:20pm Joan and Judith left the meeting.

Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY11 Warrant #16. Randy did not sign the payroll warrant.

5:30pm Sally Shaw and Bart Bales joined the meeting.

Safe & Green Campaign: On behalf of the Safe and Green Campaign, Sally Shaw presented the Selectboard with a sample letter which outlines concerns with the upcoming closure of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon, VT. Selectboards of towns within 20 miles of the plant are being asked to sign the letter, which requests the plant's owners take a series of actions designed to minimize the negative impacts of the plant's closure on its workers, local residents, and the environment. The Board read and discussed the sample letter, and asked Sally to adjust the wording on two of the bullet points. Sally will make the changes and send the revised letter to Ray to distribute at the Board's meeting on February 14th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.


Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

January 27, 2011

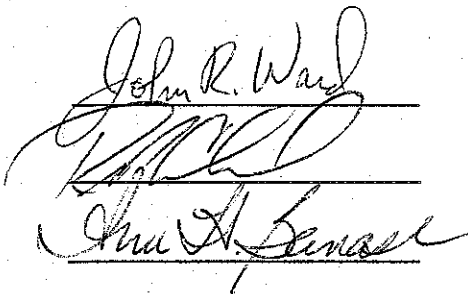
To: Board of Sewer Commissioners
From: Veronica A. LaChance, Collector-Treasurer
Subject: Unpaid Sewer Use Charges

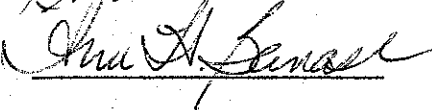
I would like the Board of Sewer Commissioners to request that the Board of Assessors place the Amounts listed below as Sewer Liens on the fiscal year 2011 Real Estate Tax Bills.

<u>Owner Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Lien Amount</u>
Apple Candy	61 French King Hwy	\$ 542.81
Blanchard, Alan	46 French King Hwy	311.63
Gibson, Kevin	7 Grove Street	1,168.32
Franseen, Elizabeth	41 Riverview Drive	99.42
Newton, E. Taylor	33 Riverview Drive	219.96
Smail, Gary	3 Myrtle Street	394.22
Stone, Jeffrey	65 French King Hwy	783.07
Vaughn, Charlene	3 Walnut Street	36.74
Waldron, Scott	15 Oak Street	732.75
Wolfram, Jeremy	23 Oak Street	637.83
Hwu Ying Sheue	7 Oak Street	70.02
Hwu Ying Sheue	9 Oak Street	9.20

GRAND TOTAL:

\$ 5,005.97





BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard [administrator@gillmass.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 5:39 PM
To: Ann Banash (ahbanash@crocker.com); johnrward@hotmail.com; Randy Crochier (hxydad77@yahoo.com); Alden Booth; clairech@crocker.com; Colleen Sculley (cesculley@gmail.com); Jacob Rau (jrau@gillmass.org); jpoulsen@nmhschool.org; Ronnie LaChance (collector-treasurer@gillmass.org); Tupper Brown (atbrown345@hotmail.com); Valeria Smith (timmiesmith@yahoo.com)
Cc: chief@gillmass.org; kristie@tognarelliheating.com; Paul Nowill (pnowill@yahoo.com)
Subject: FY12 COLA recommendation from Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met on January 26th to discuss and make its annual recommendation for the COLA increase for Town employees.

The Committee reviewed the Consumer Price Index table that is referenced in the Town's Personnel Policy. The CPI figures indicate a 1.3% increase for FY12. It was noted that the just-ratified GMRSD teachers' contract includes 0% for FY11, 0.75% for FY12, and 1.50-1.75% for FY13. The FRCOG is proposing an increase between 1.5 and 1.6%. The towns of Orange and Montague are reportedly looking at 0% COLAs for FY12. It was also pointed out that Gill's health and dental insurances are increasing by 3% and 9% respectively.

The Committee discussed the financial and political pros and cons of 0%, 1% and 1.3% COLAs for Gill employees. With total salaries of roughly \$467,000, a 1% COLA is \$4,670 and a 1.3% COLA is \$6,071. The Committee also discussed whether COLA should be excluded from departments' budgets for next year, or if departments should prepare level-funded and 10%-cut budgets that incorporate COLAs.

By consensus the Committee decided to recommend to the Selectboard and Finance Committee a 1.3% Cost of Living Allowance for employees for FY12, and that the COLA amounts are absorbed within each department's budget to the maximum extent possible.

Ray Purington
Administrative Assistant
Town of Gill
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Gill, MA 01354
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Sandra Hanks
Board Chair

Herbert Sanderson
Board Vice Chairman

Paul Mokrzecki
Appointed Board
Member

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
278 MAIN STREET, SUITE 311
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01301-3230

David Gendron
Elected Board Member

Patricia Auchard
Elected Board Member

Dale Kowacki
Executive Director

January 21, 2010

Selectboard
Town of Gill
325 Main St.
Gill, MA 01354

Re: Fiscal Year 2012 Retiree C.O.L.A.

Dear Selectboard:

As required by MGL 32 §103(i), please be informed that the retirement board, at its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 8:00 am, in the meeting room in Suite 311 at 278 Main Street, Greenfield, will contemplate the option of voting a 3% cost-of-living allowance, C.O.L.A., to eligible retirees of this system.

In the past, the board has voted the C.O.L.A., but this year, because of the limits set by law, the board must do so at a public meeting, and must notify the towns 30 days in advance of the meeting.

MGL 32 §103 (i) "Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c) to the contrary, the board of any system may, by accepting the provisions of this as hereinafter provided, elect annually to pay a cost-of-living increase greater than the percentage increase, as recommended in the report prepared in accordance with paragraph (f) of subdivision (3) of section 21 for that year, but not greater than 3 per cent. The board shall conduct such election in a public meeting, properly posted, called specifically for such election. The board shall also notify each legislative body at least 30 days before such election."

The report referred to in the above comes to us in the form of a memo from PERAC (which can be found in the "Memos" section at: www.mass.gov/perac), and this year the report states the COLA percentage to be 0.0%. Using current information, the 3% COLA would increase the monthly cost to the system approximately \$10,000. The annual cost would be approximately \$120,000. (Annual retiree payroll is approximately \$5.9 million.)

As I said above, the board has supported the 3% COLA in the past. (See "Letter Explaining Importance of Granting Retiree COLA annually" at: www.frrsma.com/local-officials.) This special meeting is simply a requirement when the announced COLA is less than 3%.

Sincerely,
Dale Kowacki
Executive Director