

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2011

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

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

Others Present: Rick James, David Detmold

Approval of Minutes: Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the minutes from 3/14. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

CIPC Appointment: The Finance Committee has nominated Veronica "Ronnie" LaChance to serve as its representative to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to appoint Ronnie to the CIPC for a term ending June 6/30/2012. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Fire Dept. Board of Engineers: The Fire Department has submitted its annual list of names for appointment to the Board of Engineers. Due to a conflict of interest, the matter was tabled until the April 25th Selectboard meeting, when Ann Banash will be present. Randy's son is on the list, so Randy must recuse himself.

Fire Dept. Purchase Order: The Fire Department submitted a purchase order to purchase 3 sets of firefighter turnout gear from Firematic Supply for a total of \$5,352.00, money for which is in their annual operating budget. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve and sign the purchase order. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2010 U.S. Census: Ray reported that the US Census Bureau has released the town-by-town results of the 2010 census, and Gill's population is 1,500. This is up 10% from the 2000 census population of 1,363, but the increase was expected. The 1990 population was 1,583, and Town officials have long thought that the 2000 count missed many Gill residents who live on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus. The 2010 population should have a positive impact on future Chapter 90 Highway Aid from the State, as approximately 20% of that annual allocation is based on population. Gill likely will also see increases in future assessments from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, as both of those agencies use formulas based partially on population.

PEG Access Funds: Rick James left his usual spot behind the video camera and joined the Board to discuss using PEG Access funds to pay camera operators to video meetings. Rick explained that he volunteers to run the camera and edit the video because he enjoys doing it, and it's his way of giving back to his Town. Unfortunately, it has been impossible to recruit others to learn the equipment, share the video duties, and be available as backup operators when Rick is unavailable. People he has approached seem unwilling to give up their time, and he is often asked "What's it pay?" (4:50pm Deb Loomer joined the meeting.)

Ray reported that he informally surveyed 11 other towns with PEG Access channels and found that more than ½ pay camera operators, and that two others will be starting to pay or are discussing it. The rate of pay is \$10-15 per hour or \$15-25 per meeting. Rick stated that he would like to see Gill pay its camera operators. John noted that he saw a need for another camera "volunteer", if only to ease some of the time obligations these meetings place on Rick. If it means paying the operator, so be it. It was suggested that perhaps a compromise solution is to pay camera operators,

including Rick, but not pay for the time spent editing the video. Jonathon Chappell, a Gill resident, was mentioned as being the person who coordinates the video program at Turners Falls High School, and perhaps he would have ideas for getting operators. No formal action was taken on the issue of paying camera operators.

The discussion shifted to equipment needs for the future, including the possibility of adding permanent camera mountings in the upstairs of Town Hall, creating a studio-like meeting space. Rick added that he would someday like to be able to work with Gill Elementary students on video projects, and would like to see more Gill-produced programs that could be broadcast on a Gill cable access channel. John encouraged Rick to put together a vision of what he'd like to see, and how it might grow, and bring it back to the Selectboard.

Recreation Committee Update: Deb Loomer met with the Board to provide an update on Rec Committee activities. Plans are underway to order and install a scoreboard for the softball field at Gill Elementary. As approved by the 2010 Town Meeting, the scoreboard will be dedicated in memory of Jasmin Edson. The ceremony is tentatively planned for May 20th, and the Rec Committee hopes to make it a community event. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to waive any Inspection Program fees associated with the scoreboard. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The scoreboard is expected to cost around \$800, and will be paid for from the Ballfield Donations account. Deb will coordinate the installation with Rita Detweiler (principal) and Steve Roberto (facilities manager).

Deb also explained that the Committee would like to purchase bleachers for the softball field, probably a 2-row set, 15 feet long and 30 inches tall. Costs and funding is still being researched. (5:15pm Denise Andrews joined the meeting.)

There could be a large impact on next year's Rec budget because of a new rental fee schedule established by the GM School District. Currently it is \$15 when the Rec uses the TF High School gym for 3 hours for their Saturday morning basketball games. Under the new schedule it will be \$30/hour rental plus \$25/hour to have custodian staff present during the event. Deb noted that the gyms at NMH are not available on Saturdays, and that Sundays are out, as the Rec league plays all its games on Saturdays. The Board asked that the School Committee be contacted and asked the reason behind the drastic increase and why a town recreation program must pay such high rates for a facility that is already being funded and supported by taxpayers.

FRCOG "Sustainable Development" Committee: The Board discussed an invitation from the FRCOG to appoint a representative to a committee that is forming to create a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development in Franklin County. Both Board members expressed an interest in the topic, but each felt overextended on other commitments. John has some names in mind as possibilities, and will ask around.

Water Well at Gill Elementary School: Ray presented an invoice from Safewaters in the amount of \$1,082.50 for a MPA test (microscopic particulate analysis) that was conducted in November/December 2010. This test is believed to be part of the follow-up testing required by the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection after the 2009 positive test for coliform at the school. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the payment of the invoice contingent upon confirmation there was a valid reason for the test. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. (It was later confirmed the test was part of the DEP requirements.)

Representative Denise Andrews: John welcomed Representative Andrews to Gill, and congratulated her on her victory in the November 2010 election. Denise noted that her committee appointments in the House of Representatives are Election Law, Labor & Workforce Development, and Revenue. There was a general discussion of the status of the State's FY12 budget ("tough sledding for a long time"), economic development needs for the region, energy and the green economy, and a number of other topics. Representative Andrews will hold office hours in Gill tonight from 6:30-7:30pm, and has scheduled future visits in November and June 2012. (6:25pm Rep. Andrews, David Detmold, and Rick James left the meeting.)

Warrant: Randy's son Michael, a Gill firefighter, appears on the payroll warrant for this week. Due to the conflict of interest, Randy would normally abstain from signing the warrant. However, since two signatures are required to approve the warrant, the Board invoked the Rule of Necessity, which permitted Randy's participation and allowed the Board to act upon the warrant. The Board reviewed and signed FY11 Warrant #20.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAC', is written above a horizontal line.

Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



March 14, 2011

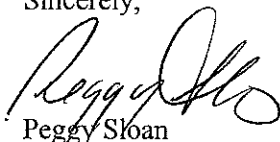
Dear Municipal Official:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), in collaboration with our Consortium Members, is pleased to announce the start-up of the planning process for the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for Franklin County. This project is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. The Plan will identify short and long term policies to support sustainable development and redevelopment in Franklin County through a collaborative visioning and outreach process. A special emphasis will be placed on public outreach and input, particularly with respect to disadvantaged populations. The planning process will identify impediments to fair housing, strategies to increase jobs with living wages, infrastructure improvements needed to support sustainable development patterns, suitable locations for development and redevelopment, critical natural resources requiring protection and ways to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

A successful planning process depends on your support and input and we invite you to serve on the Project Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will meet 8 times over the next 18-20 months and will oversee the planning process. This includes the goal setting and scenario planning events and the creation of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. Our first meeting will be held on April 5, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank's Community Room in Turners Falls (see attached agenda). Please respond to this invitation with the name, mailing address, and e-mail of the person representing your board and e-mail this information to mpraus@frcog.org.

We look forward to working with you to plan for the sustainable future of Franklin County. Please call me if you have any questions (413-774-1194 x105).

Sincerely,



Peggy Sloan

Director of Planning and Development

Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for Franklin County

Consortium Members:

Franklin Regional Council of Governments

*Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority • Community Action
North Quabbin Community Coalition • Franklin County Community Development Corporation
Town of Deerfield • Town of Greenfield • Town of Montague • Town of Orange*

2010 Census — Franklin County Towns

Town	1960 Census	1970 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2000-2010 Change	1960-2010 Difference	1960-2010 Change
Ashfield	1,131	1,274	1,458	1,715	1,800	1,737	-4%	606	54%
Barnardston	1,370	1,659	1,750	2,048	2,155	2,129	-1%	759	55%
Buckland	1,664	1,892	1,864	1,928	1,991	1,902	-4%	238	14%
Charlemont	897	897	1,149	1,249	1,358	1,266	-7%	369	41%
Colrain	1,426	1,420	1,552	1,757	1,813	1,671	-8%	245	17%
Conway	875	998	1,213	1,529	1,809	1,897	5%	1,022	117%
Deerfield	3,338	3,873	4,517	5,018	4,750	5,125	8%	1,787	54%
Erving	1,272	1,260	1,326	1,372	1,467	1,800	23%	528	42%
Gill	1,203	1,100	1,253	1,583	1,363	1,500	10%	297	25%
Greenfield	17,690	18,116	18,436	18,666	18,168	17,456	-4%	-234	-1%
Hawley	251	224	280	317	336	337	0%	86	34%
Heath	304	383	482	716	805	706	-12%	402	132%
Leverett	914	1,005	1,471	1,785	1,663	1,851	11%	937	103%
Leyden	343	376	498	682	772	711	-8%	368	107%
Monroe	210	216	179	115	93	121	30%	-89	-42%
Montague	7,836	8,451	8,011	8,316	8,489	8,437	-1%	601	8%
New Salem	397	474	688	802	929	990	7%	593	149%
Northfield	2,320	2,631	2,386	2,838	2,951	3,032	3%	712	31%
Orange	6,154	6,104	6,844	7,312	7,518	7,839	4%	1,685	27%
Rowe	231	277	336	378	351	393	12%	162	70%
Shelburne	1,739	1,836	2,002	2,012	2,058	1,893	-8%	154	9%
Shutesbury	265	489	1,049	1,561	1,810	1,771	-2%	1,506	568%
Sunderland	1,279	2,236	2,929	3,399	3,777	3,694	-2%	2,405	188%
Warwick	426	492	603	740	750	780	4%	354	83%
Wendell	292	405	694	890	986	848	-14%	556	190%
Whately	1,037	1,145	1,341	1,375	1,573	1,496	-5%	459	44%
Franklin County	54,864	59,233	64,317	70,092	71,535	71,372	0%	16,508	30%
Massachusetts	5,148,578	5,689,377	5,737,037	6,016,425	6,349,097	6,547,629	3%	1,399,051	27%