

# TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

*February 11, 2013*

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

Present: Randy Crochier and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Janet Masucci; David Detmold.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 1/30 and 2/5 were not ready for review.

Project Updates: Ray shared with the Board a proposal from Tognarelli to install a 14,000 BTU radiator panel in the Fire Department Meeting Room in order to address noise problems associated with the unit heater. The cost is \$2,195, but Tognarelli has discounted the work to \$1,275. Based on prior discussions of the Board, and in consultation with the Selectboard Chair and Highway Superintendent, Ray gave the go-ahead for the radiator panel last Thursday. A portion of the cost will come from the budget for the PSC Boiler project, and the balance will come from the Building Maintenance budget. Installation is expected within a week or two, but the weekend's blizzard may have created delivery delays for the panel.

Randy noted thanks and appreciation for the excellent job done by Gill's Highway Department during and after the blizzard.

FirstLight Relicensing: Ray noted that Amy Gordon and Ken Sprankle will be meeting this Wednesday to work on a draft of the Town's letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the license renewal process for FirstLight. He suggested that in addition to raising concerns about issues related to FirstLight's use and management of the Connecticut River, it would be good to mention several of the positive aspects of FirstLight's presence in the Town, including their role as a taxpayer, as an employer of Gill residents, and as the lead organizer of the annual Source To Sea river/watershed cleanup.

FRCOG DLTA Projects: The Gill Fire Department has not yet weighed in on a proposal from the Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association to use DLTA funds for a study of regionalizing fire services in the county. The Board will wait for the Fire Department's input before reconsidering Gill's prioritization of DLTA projects.

DOER Owner's Agent Grant: Ray announced that the Mass. Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has awarded Gill a \$9,340 Owner's Agent Technical Assistance grant. The grant will cover the cost to have Bales Energy Associates perform the ASHRAE Level 2 audit of the Town Hall, Library, and Riverside Municipal Building, rather than using funds from the Town's Green Community grant award. It was remarked that this was the fastest a state grant was ever awarded! The application was submitted electronically at 9:09am on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, and the award notice was received on Tuesday at 10:51am.

DOER is currently working on the grant contract, and once that is approved, work on the audit can begin.

Free Cash Certified: On February 7<sup>th</sup> the Department of Revenue certified Gill's Free Cash at \$211,047. This is significantly higher than recent years. Ray outlined the following sources that contributed to the total: \$114,058 from under estimating local receipts (\$73,500 from motor vehicle excise, \$10,000 in tax fees and interest, \$6,000 in trash sticker revenue, \$9,500 in fees, and \$15,058 in miscellaneous receipts); \$7,455 in extra/other state aid; \$25,220 in FEMA/MEMA storm reimbursements; and \$64,314 in unspent money from the FY12 budget (\$12,694 combined from Police/Highway/Fire, largely related to timing of the storm reimbursements; \$14,454 that was over-budgeted for trash removal; \$4,393 left over in the snow/ice budget; and \$32,773 combined from all other departments and categories).

The Board noted that this level of Free Cash is a good situation to have, but that much of it should be treated as one-time money, and be placed into Stabilization or spent on capital projects. The Town has worked hard in recent years to reduce the operating budget's dependence on Free Cash, and needs to continue that trend.

It was noted that the Gill-Montague School Committee will be having its public hearing on the FY14 budget on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm, although no notice or invitation was received by the Town. Also, the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the GMRSD Funding Compact was postponed to February 15<sup>th</sup> due to the blizzard.

Fire Department EMPG Contract: The Board reviewed a contract for the \$2,500 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant that was awarded to the Town. The proposed use for the funds is the purchase of a "smartboard" for the Emergency Operations Center. The Board asked Ray to get more information from the Emergency Management Director about how the device will be used, if that type of technology is a good investment, what other possible uses were considered for the grant funds and whether the grant could still be amended, and past uses of EMPG funds. The grant will be revisited at their meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Franklin Regional Retirement System COLA Vote: The Board received a notice that the Franklin Regional Retirement Board will be considering the option of voting a 3% COLA to eligible system retirees for FY14. The meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The notice explained that this year the FRRB can adopt a COLA up to 1.7% without a public hearing, but did not provide any explanation of why a 3% COLA is being considered. Ray will seek an explanation from Dale Kowacki, the Executive Director of the FRRS, and the topic will be revisited on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Legislative Breakfast: The Board received an invitation to attend any of the Massachusetts Municipal Association's spring Legislative Breakfasts, happening on 3 Fridays in March. The closest one is in Whately on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Randy and Ray thought they will attend.

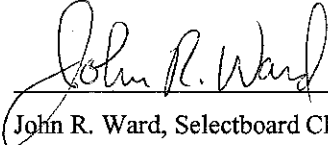
Sustainable Franklin County: The Board received an invitation from the FRCOG for an Open House on March 13<sup>th</sup> that will explain more about the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – a plan that seeks to "meet the needs of the present without impacting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

5:20pm David Detmold and Janet Masucci 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 FY 2013 warrant #17.

Adjournment: The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

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

  
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John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk

# Tognarelli

## HEATING & COOLING

85 Pierce Street - Greenfield, MA 01301

### PROPOSAL

NAME / ADDRESS
Gill Town Hall Attn: Mickey 325 Main Road Gill, MA 01354

DATE
2/6/2013

DESCRIPTION	QTY	TOTAL
Job Location: Gill Highway Garage	1	2,195.00
Price to install one 14,000 BTU panel radiator in training room to replace a section of baseboard which was requested to be removed. Radiator install will include all parts and labor to complete installation. Radiator will operate off of existing thermostat. Price will not exceed price. Work to be performed by a licensed technician.		
Discount received by vender to accommodate pre-existing orders by same customer in excess of \$30,000.00 in one calendar year.	-1	-920.00

<i>Thank you for your business.</i>	<b>TOTAL</b> <i>includes sales tax</i>	<b>\$1,275.00</b>
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## Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

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**From:** Capone, Lisa (ENE) [lisa.capone@state.ma.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:51 AM  
**To:** administrator@gillmass.org  
**Cc:** Lusardi, Meg (ENE); Barry, Jim (ENE)  
**Subject:** OATA grant application approval

Good Morning,

Thank you for your interest in DOER's Owner's Agent Technical Assistance grant opportunity. I am happy to inform you that the Green Communities Division has reviewed your grant application and determined that Gill is eligible for the grant amount requested. We will be in touch with you soon with additional details and a contract for this program.

Congratulations on your successful grant application!

Cheers,

Lisa Capone  
Deputy Director  
Green Communities Division  
MA Dept. of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge Street, 10th floor  
Boston, MA 02114  
[lisa.capone@state.ma.us](mailto:lisa.capone@state.ma.us)  
617-626-7358

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**Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard**

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**From:** recapdata@dor.state.ma.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 11:17 AM  
**To:** administrator@gillmass.org; bmorton@frcog.org; collector-treasurer@gillmass.org; recapdata@dor.state.ma.us  
**Subject:** Freecash Approval Notification for Gill

**Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services**  
*Amy Pitter, Commissioner*  
*Robert G. Nunes, Deputy Commissioner & Director of Municipal Affairs*

Thursday, February 07, 2013

Brian Morton  
Accountant  
Town of Gill

**Re: NOTIFICATION OF FREE CASH APPROVAL - Gill**

Based upon the unaudited balance sheet submitted, I hereby certify that the amount of available funds or "free cash" as of July 1, 2012 for the Town of Gill is:

General Fund      \$ 211,047

This certification is in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 59, §23, as amended.

Certification letters will be e-mailed to the mayor/manager, board of selectmen, prudential committee, finance director and treasurer immediately upon approval, provided an e-mail address is reported in DLS' Local Officials Directory. Please forward to other officials that you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,  
Gerard D. Perry  
Director of Accounts

cc: [administrator@gillmass.org](mailto:administrator@gillmass.org); [bmorton@frcog.org](mailto:bmorton@frcog.org); [collector-treasurer@gillmass.org](mailto:collector-treasurer@gillmass.org); [recapdata@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:recapdata@dor.state.ma.us)

\*\*\*\*\*  
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## Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

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**From:** frrs01@gmail.com on behalf of Dale Kowacki [ExDr@Frrsma.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:47 PM  
**To:** Dale Kowacki  
**Subject:** July 1 2013 retirees' COLA notice

Dear Administrative Representatives of the various member units of this retirement system,

As required by MGL 32 §103(i), please be informed that the retirement board, at its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 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 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](http://www.mass.gov/perac)), and this year the report states the COLA percentage to be 1.7%. Using current information, the 3% COLA would increase the monthly cost to the system approximately \$11,000. The annual cost would be approximately \$132,000. (Annual retiree payroll is approximately \$7 million.)

This email is being cc'd to your "Unit Treasurer".

Neither your attendance, nor your participation is required regarding this topic. However, your questions and comments are always considered.

Sincerely,

Dale

**Dale Kowacki**

Executive Director, Franklin Regional Retirement System

413.774.4837x4

[FRRSMA.com](http://FRRSMA.com)



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