

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2013

Call to Order: The joint meeting of the Selectboard and Finance Committee was called to order at 6:10pm at the Gill Town Hall.

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

Finance Committee Present: Alden Booth, Claire Chang, Timmie Smith, and Jacob Rau.

Others Present: David Detmold

Minutes: The minutes from 4/1 were passed over until April 10th.

Council on Aging: Ray reported on answers he received from Montague Senior Center Director Roberta Potter. She has renegotiated phone expenses with Verizon, and expects future bills to be \$65-70 monthly. The Senior Center has three phone lines, two funded by Montague, and one she pays for using Gill's funds. The bill includes phone, long distance, and internet.

Budget Review: FY14 budget requests for the Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Assessors, and Agricultural Commission were reviewed. Ray was asked to get pricing on an update/upgrade for the Town's website. The Assessors were asked to complete their actual expenses for the Salary section of the budget worksheet. It was noted that the two new "Right To Farm" signs were recently installed, and that next year's Ag Com budget will probably go toward updating their brochure of Gill farms.

The budget for Solid Waste Removal and the assessment for the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District were discussed. It was explained that the District's FY14 assessment will be paid using a revolving fund that will be established at the Annual Town Meeting, and funded by proceeds from an escrow account the District is holding for the Town and by future receipts from the sale of the Town's recyclables.

7:02pm Fire Chief Gene Beaubien, Fire Engineers Greg Parody and Ken Sears, and Firefighter Billy Kimball joined the meeting.

Fire Department FY14 Budget Request: Chief Beaubien explained that FY13 has been an "interesting" year for vehicle-related expenses for the Fire Department. This year the Department started using Rose Ledge Co. for vehicle maintenance, and they have been finding and correcting problems that were missed in other years. Most recently, Engine 3 had a battery box and 3 of its 6 batteries replaced.

All three fire engines have had their pumps tested and serviced. This is the first time in 5 years that the pumps were serviced; in prior years only the test was performed. Miscellaneous repairs were needed on all three pumps (valves, seals, primer on Engine 3, a tank fill-gauge), but all three passed the test.

The Fire Department presently has approximately \$4,900 remaining in their expense line, and still has \$8,000 left in its labor line. The budget is a single-line budget, so the Chief and Engineers can shift funds between expenses and labor as needed. The Chief stated that he does not favor having Town Meeting vote two separate budgets for the Department's expenses and labor. Timmie Smith raised a concern that with the cost of all the vehicle repairs, it appears that turnout gear will not be purchased again this year, and cautioned that protective gear for the firefighters must be a priority. Fire Engineer Steve Connell joined the meeting at 7:20pm.

Chief Beaubien noted that using the Selectboard's \$5,000 allocation from the NMH Donation account, 1,000 feet of 4-inch hose and a couple lengths of attack line have been ordered and should be delivered soon. He also reminded everyone that the Fire Department was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Mass. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

(DCR) to be used to purchase special pants and shirts for use fighting brush fires. This grant requires a Town match, which will come from the NMH Donation account.

The FY14 budget will include funds for testing the Department's ladders – an annual requirement that hasn't been done for many years. The Fire Chief is still gathering information on testing costs and prices of replacement ladders. The budget also includes money to beef up the repair and maintenance-related lines.

The budget does not include any funding to continue replacing fire hoses. Another allocation from the NMH Donation account will be needed, or the Town will need to add extra funds to the Department's budget.

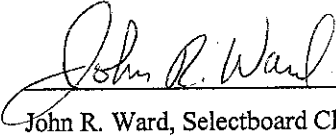
The Department currently has 16 members on its roster, and has two potential new members. If the two new members join the department, there are still several levels of training and certification required before "current" turnout gear would be issued. Until a firefighter has achieved the necessary certifications, he/she is not allowed inside burning buildings, and therefore can participate in fire scenes wearing "outdated" gear.

Members of the Fire Department left at 8:05pm. David Detmold left at 8:05pm.

Other Budgets: Budget requests for the Memorial Committee, Veterans Services, Veterans Benefits, and the Historical Commission were reviewed.

Adjournment: The Selectboard adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk