

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2013

Call to Order: The joint meeting of the Selectboard and Finance Committee was called to order at 6:08pm at the Gill Town Hall. The Finance Committee did not have a quorum.

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

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

Others Present: Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire

Minutes: In the minutes from 4/1, John asked to add a new second sentence to the paragraph about the \$14,357 for part-time officers: "He (the Chief) stated that he had no preference whether the \$14,357 was included within his omnibus budget or funded by a special article." John made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Highway Department FY14 Budget Request: Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire explained his budget request for FY14, noting that the figures presented tonight are still preliminary, as he is waiting for FRCOG bid results for many of his FY14 purchased materials (gravel, blacktop, oil & stone, etc). He noted that the Highway budget has been under-funded for two years, a situation that was created in FY12 when the Snow & Ice budget was split off from the Highway budget.

Before FY12, Highway and Snow & Ice were combined in a single budget, and Mick believes that when the two were split, the figure for Snow & Ice was set too high. Near the end of FY12, Town Meeting transferred \$19,300 of unused Snow & Ice funds into the Highway budget to avoid a year-end deficit. This transfer covered normal, routine highway operations; no out-of-the-ordinary projects created the shortfall in the Highway budget. He expects a similar shortfall again in FY13, but because of the heavier winter, only \$10,999 remains in Snow & Ice for Town Meeting to transfer.

It was noted that the Town could opt to reduce the FY14 appropriation for Snow & Ice, and redirect some of that money back to the Highway budget. But, if that is done, the Department of Revenue would not allow the Town to deficit-spend from Snow & Ice during FY14.

As the presented budget worksheet had no information in the "Projected Expenses" column, time was spent filling in current estimates. Based on the figures discussed, it appeared that projected expenses could reach \$99,745, although that figure is very rough.

Mick is re-examining his projected expenses for FY13, and is evaluating if there is work that can be skipped or delayed into FY14, and is looking at using Chapter 90 funds to cover Highway labor spent performing Chapter 90 roadwork. (This use of Chapter 90 funds is allowed by the State and was past practice of the Town, but has not been done for a number of years.) He estimated that up to \$15,000 of Highway Dept. payroll could come from Chapter 90. Some of the routine work that might be able to be skipped or delayed includes cleaning catch basins and grading of certain gravel roads.

It was agreed that the various Highway budgets still need more work, both on projected expenses and on justifications for increases requested for FY14. Projected expenses that could be funded from Chapter 90 will be identified, and any Snow & Ice fuel expenses still in this year's Highway budget will be corrected. Mick will be rescheduled to return at the end of April or early May.

Meeting Schedule: Ray explained that the Gill Elementary School had State and local police conduct a site security assessment today. The formal recommendations are still being compiled, but Principal Kathleen Adams indicated that upgrades to the classroom locks & doors will very likely be tops on the list.

Because the locks & doors project has met with mixed reactions during the last two budget cycles, Principal Adams requested the Selectboard, Finance Committee, and Capital Improvement Planning Committee hold a joint meeting at the School to discuss that project as well as any other recommendations that may have a financial impact. She will plan on inviting Gill's School Committee reps and members of the School Council, as well as the officers involved in the assessment.

As a budget meeting is already scheduled for 6:00pm on Monday, May 6th, that date was chosen for the school meeting. Ray will discuss it with members of the CIPC at their meeting on April 17th. He noted that Principal Adams had also raised concerns about the conditions of the tile floors and the pavement on the driveway and basketball court. Some sections of the floor need to be replaced this summer, and the pavement will need attention soon. The District's new Facility Manager is working on capital improvement request forms for some of this.

Noting a conflict for Randy, the May 6th 3:00pm meeting to discuss solar programs with the Hampshire COG will be rescheduled for another date. It was decided to add another budget meeting for May 8th at 6:00pm.

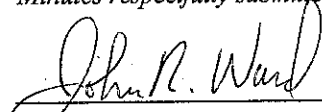
The Selectboard will meet at 5:45pm on April 16th, 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled budget meeting with the Finance Committee, in order to appoint Fire Department Engineers for the coming year, and to meet with Police Sergeant Redmond to discuss a plan to purchase i-Pad computers for the three police cruisers.

Police Cruiser – '04 Explorer: Mick brought the '04 Explorer to tonight's meeting to allow the Selectboard and others to inspect the condition of the vehicle. At a previous meeting it was reported that the vehicle requires almost \$5,000 of body work to correct an extreme amount of rust damage. John stated that based on his work experience with auto body and repairs, he believes the Explorer can be repaired for substantially less money, and could last another 3-4 years as a "runaround" vehicle. In its current condition, the Explorer is not unsafe to drive.

Mick will get another estimate for the repairs, and will contact the Auto Body program at the Franklin County Technical School to see if it is a project they could do this spring or fall. Mick noted that his budget for FY13 is already strapped and doesn't include funds for any substantial repair bills for the Explorer.

Adjournment: The Selectboard adjourned at 7:25pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk