

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2013

Call to Order: The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Present: Ann Banash (remote), Randy Crochier, and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Police Chief David Hastings, Claire Chang, Nancy Griswold, Janet Masucci, and David Detmold.

Randy stated that he received a request from Ann Banash to participate remotely in today's meeting for reasons of geographic distance (Florida). It was noted that meetings with a remote participant must use roll call for all votes.

Police Cruiser Marking/Unmarking: The Police Chief attended the meeting to provide more information about the costs associated with unmarking the 2005 Crown Vic and marking the 2013 Interceptor. He explained that the additional equipment needed if the Interceptor is marked (push bumper, window bars, prisoner cage, prisoner seat w/ barrier) are items that would have typically been ordered if that car was going to be primarily used by officers other than the Chief. When asked why his cruiser doesn't have these items, the Chief explained that he chooses to set up his vehicle differently than other officers.

The Interceptor was equipped primarily the same way as the vehicle it is replacing – the unmarked 2004 Explorer. The Explorer was the next cruiser due to be replaced, and the new cruiser was similarly equipped. It was noted that before the Explorer was the Blazer, and before that, the Bravado. All were vehicles primarily used by the Chief, and none were equipped with the types of additional equipment previously mentioned (see above).

John questioned if officers using the Interceptor will be less safe, due to the omitted equipment. He pointed out that during the selection of the cruiser, the safety of the officers was paramount.

The Chief explained that he might be anywhere in Franklin County while on call for Gill, and he would prefer that the cruiser he uses not be marked. The Chief gave additional reasons for the Town to have one unmarked cruiser: police cannot transport children in a police wagon (interpreted by the law enforcement community to mean "marked cruiser"); for use conducting surveillance or internal investigations; for ride sharing with other police chiefs; and for responding to domestic situations that need discretion and sensitivity.

Claire Chang stated that having a marked cruiser parked in a yard (while the Chief was visiting, but also on call), would likely prevent crime with the visual proximity.

Ann commented that the Chief has always driven an unmarked cruiser, and that she has no problem keeping it that way.

John made a motion to authorize and direct the Chief to mark the 2013 Interceptor. Ann stated she would not second the motion. Randy explained that he would not second the motion. More people have contacted him on this marking issue than on any other issue, and the majority of them are adamantly opposed to marking the cruiser. There was a back-and-forth exchange between Claire and Randy regarding residents providing feedback to Selectboard members.

There being no second, the motion failed.

The Chief left the meeting at 4:17pm.

Minutes: John made a motion, seconded by Ann, to approve the minutes of 4/8. John – aye. Randy – aye. Ann – abstained. The motion passed 2-0.

Town Hall Roof: Ray provided an update on the roof replacement project. The building permit has been issued, and as far as he knows, the project is still on track for a May 1 start.

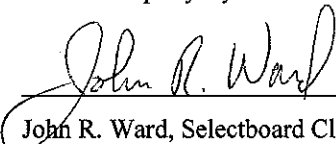
G-M Bridge Update: Ray gave an update on expedited construction on the Gill-Montague Bridge. An additional \$327,000 of state and federal funding has been allocated to the project, and will allow alternating two-way traffic on the bridge by late summer, and full two-way traffic by the end of November. Project completion, including the final top coat of pavement, is still scheduled for April 2014.

John left the meeting at 4:22pm. Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned.

Ray provided public service announcements on an upcoming rabies vaccination clinic, drug take back collection, and spring bulky waste collection.

(Note: Randy and John reviewed and signed FY 2013 warrant #22 prior to the 6pm budget meeting with the Finance Committee. Signing a warrant is not required to be performed as part of an open meeting. 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 Rule of Necessity was invoked, which permitted Randy's signature on the warrant.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk

Gill Police Department

David W. Hastings
Chief of Police
196B Main Rd
Gill MA 01354

Emergency 911

Station (413) 863-9398

Dispatch (413) 625-8200

Fax (413) 863-0157

Email GillPolice@aol.com

Mar 27, 2013

2005 CV removal of Lettering	\$ 200
• Paint decided after removal	
Total-Sub	\$ 200

2013 Utility Interceptor Lettering	\$ 530
Push Bumper	\$ 275
Window Bars	\$ 195
Prisoner cage w/gun rack	\$ 895
Rear Prisoner Seat w/barrier	\$ 795
Total-Sub	\$ 2690

Total: \$2890

Transfer of confidential Plate from 2013 to 2005 Cruiser

Transfer rear seat from 2008 cruiser to 2005 cruiser
Removal of cage from 2005

Explorer: Not ready for Town wide use as Blue Lights are still in the unit.

Explorer: Sharing at question as Fire and Hwy were already looking to use during a crossover time.

Working in Partnership with the Community

Explorer may not be readily available for Police Dept.

Explorer: Gas card and repairs will be assigned to who?

Common practice that the Chief operates a unmarked unit due to being on-call.