

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2013

Call to Order: The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m.

Present: John Ward, Ann Banash and Randy Crochier, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Mick LaClaire, Highway Superintendent; Kathleen Adams, Gill Elementary School Principal

Bids for Gill Elementary Paving Project: Ray reported that bids were opened at 2:00 p.m. today for the paving project at the Elementary School. Two bids were received: The Lane Construction Corporation bid \$55,600 and Barlow Paving bid \$85,000. Lane's bid noted that if awarded the contract, they would be paving on Saturday, August 24th and finishing on Monday, August 26th.

The project budget was discussed. At the Town Meeting in June, voters appropriated a total of \$50,000 for the paving project; however, the project at that time did not include a 10-foot by 110-foot expansion of the lower parking lot. The need for an expansion was new information received during the Town Meeting from residents and school staff who had experienced damage to their vehicles because the existing parking lot is too narrow. Both articles funding the project (\$5,000 transfer from FY13 Building Maintenance and \$45,000 from Free Cash) were approved by a strong majority.

Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire explained that his Department prepared the expansion on Monday and Tuesday this week. He estimated that work cost \$3,600 due to rental of a backhoe and new gravel fill. If the paving work does not happen now, he will add more gravel to the expansion to bring it level with the existing pavement, and it will remain that way until next summer when it can hopefully be paved.

If a contract is awarded tonight, then his Department will be onsite with an excavator from Renaissance Excavating first thing tomorrow morning to remove the blacktop from the front entrance and re-grade that area. He estimated that work would cost another \$1,500.

The Selectboard discussed potential sources for the estimated \$10,700 extra the project will cost above what has been specifically appropriated. Mick stated that his Highway budget could absorb the \$5,100 of site prep costs, but he could not cover the entire \$10,700. Although his budget increased by roughly \$20,000 this year, much of that has been or will be spent on needed drainage projects. Ray stated that the additional \$5,600 could be paid from the Building Maintenance budget.

The Selectboard noted that Town Meeting voters strongly supported having the paving completed before another year of wear and tear deteriorates the pavement to the point that more extensive and expensive repairs are needed. Voters' support for expanding the lower parking lot to improve safety was mentioned again.

Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to use \$5,600 from the Building Maintenance budget to pay a portion of the project costs for Lane to pave the driveway and parking lots. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. During discussion before the vote there was consensus that there should be an attempt later in the fiscal year, perhaps once Free Cash is certified, to replace the funds being spent from the Highway and Building Maintenance budgets.

Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to award the paving contract to The Lane Construction Corporation, and to authorize Ray to execute the contract and related documents on behalf of the Selectboard. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mick mentioned that he will also look at trying to improve the area around the concrete step outside the exterior door to the General Purpose room. A corner of the step is broken, and the slope of the pavement leading to the step could be better than it is.

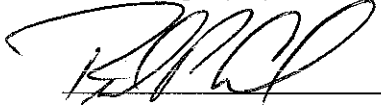
There was general discussion of other building needs at the Elementary School, including floor tiles, ceiling tiles, and attic insulation. The building may be at a point where it is more cost effective to do a building-wide renovation (with funding assistance from the State) than to tackle projects piecemeal. Randy mentioned that the Franklin County Selectmen's Association is trying to get State Treasurer Steve Grossman as a meeting speaker this fall. If that happens, Gill should try to get a private meeting with Grossman, as he is also the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Principal Kathleen Adams thanked the Selectboard for their strong support of the school and of the paving project, and stated that she gained a new appreciation for the challenges of the Town as she watched everyone tonight struggle and work cooperatively to find the funds needed to allow the paving to happen.

Kathleen also noted that the District should be emerging out from the State's "Level 4" status next week. Gill Elementary continues to be a Level 1 school, and students' performance percentages have improved in key areas in each of the last two years. There was agreement that it is important to have a strong relationship between the Town and its School, and that a strong school helps to build a strong community.

Adjournment: The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk