

TOWN OF GILL  
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
*February 10, 2014*

Call to Order: The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Members Present: John Ward, Randy Crochier, and Ann Banash (remote)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Janet Masucci, David Detmold, Kathleen Adams, Timmie Smith, Jocelyn Castro-Santos.

John 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.

Minutes: Randy made a motion, seconded by Ann, to accept the minutes from 1/27. Randy – yes; John – yes; Ann – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates: There were no new developments on the Sewer I&I Study and Community Shared Solar. The Highway Superintendent is still waiting for local estimates on repairing roof leak damage and replacing the roof at the Safety Complex. A meeting between Gill and Montague staff to discuss snow removal from the Gill-TF Bridge sidewalk has been rescheduled to tomorrow. The new fixed-price electricity contract with HCOG is still being reviewed by Town Counsel; signing it can wait until March.

Annual Town Meeting: The date for this year's Annual Town Meeting was discussed, and set for Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Ray will send out a notice.

Quintus Allen Fund Request: Kathleen Adams, Principal of Gill Elementary School, and Jocelyn Castro-Santos, Gill artist, parent, and library director, met with the Selectboard to present a request for an allocation of money from the Quintus Allen Fund. The request is for \$2,005 to conduct a school-wide clay tile mural project this spring. There would be three permanently mounted murals, one inside the building, and two others located on the gable ends of the roofs over the front door and the side entrance to the All Purpose Room.

The project will involve all students grades K-6. It was felt that a permanent and local art installation would be beneficial to the students, the community, and the building. The project costs include \$505 for materials and \$1,500 for an artist-in-residence stipend to Jocelyn.

Randy made a motion, seconded by Ann, to approve the request as presented. Randy – yes; John – yes; Ann – abstained, as she is a trustee of the Quintus Allen Fund. The motion passed. Kathleen and Jocelyn left the meeting at 5:46 PM.

FY15 Budget Meeting Schedule: Timmie Smith reported that at tonight's Finance Committee meeting, she was elected as the new Chair, and that Jacob Rau was elected as their representative to the Personnel Committee. A draft schedule for budget meetings was accepted with changes to two meeting dates/times. The updated schedule will be emailed to the Selectboard and Finance Committee.

Selectboard Meetings: Noting that he will be out of town from February 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>, John named Randy as Acting Chair in his absence. Due to the lack of a quorum, there will not be regular Selectboard meetings on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. The vendor and payroll warrants for both dates will be reviewed by Randy and the Town Clerk. Timmie Smith left the meeting.

Claire Chang joined the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Franklin Regional Retirement System COLA: The Selectboard reviewed a memo from the Franklin Regional Retirement System advising of a February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting at which the Retirement Board will contemplate adopting a COLA of up to 3% for all eligible retirees of the system. The COLA would apply only to the first \$14,000 of a retiree's pension. As required by state law, the minimum COLA that will be granted is 1.5%, the same as was granted by Social Security.

Ann expressed her feeling that she would have no objection to a 1.5% COLA applied to a retiree's entire pension, but that she has a problem with the 3% COLA, especially when Town employees in the area will most likely only receive a 1.5% COLA. John noted that while the FRRS memo alludes to excellent investment returns, investments don't always perform this well, and he is concerned that the 3% COLA will add to the future pension base for all years, whether the investment return is good or bad.

The Selectboard asked Ray to draft a letter to the Retirement Board outlining these concerns. The letter will be reviewed and signed at the February 18<sup>th</sup> budget meeting.

Green Community Projects Update: Claire Chang, Chair of the Energy Commission, updated the Selectboard on recent discussions by the Energy Commission on proposed heating systems for the Town Hall, Library, and Riverside Building. Based upon last year's energy audit of all three buildings, insulation and new propane-fired boilers/furnace had been recommended to be done this year using the Town's Green Community grant.

Based on some new research, the Commission feels it is now more imperative to use the grant in ways that will set an example of how non-fossil fuel heating systems are a possibility and a reality that work. They are recommending the Town continue to move forward with insulation projects at the three buildings, but revisit the heating systems.

One idea being considered is a ground source heat pump, or something along those lines. However, further expertise is needed. Claire is contacting several people with experience in such systems. The Olver Transportation Center and the Montague Safety Complex are both believed to be heated using geothermal systems.

Fossil fuel heat, like propane, may be a regrettable necessity at the Library (due to building size) and the Riverside Building (due to the limited use of its total space). Because of the age and poor condition of the oil-fired steam boiler at Riverside, it was suggested that a propane-fired boiler replacement project should still proceed there this year.

Claire and Ray will contact DOER to discuss repurposing some of the Green Community grant to fund an energy audit specific to geothermal and/or ground source heat pumps. They will also continue to move forward with project summaries on the insulation work, so that DOER can approve those and the work can be put out to bid.

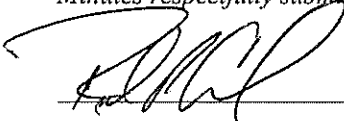
Letter to FRTA on Route Change Process: The Selectboard reviewed a draft of a letter to the FRTA Advisory Board that encourages that Board to adopt a more open and inclusive process for considering changes to its public transportation fixed routes. The letter is based on one being considered by the Montague Selectboard. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to authorize John to sign the letter on behalf of the Selectboard. Randy – yes; John – yes; Ann – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

David Detmold and Ann Banash left the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY 2014 warrant #17.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

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



Randy P. Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

# GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

48 Boyle Rd.  
Gill, MA 01354

Principal Kathleen Adams

Phone: (413)863-3255 Fax: (413) 863-3268  
Email: kathleen.adams@gmrdsd.org

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*Inspiring And Nurturing Curiosity, Compassion And Perseverance In Each Student*

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February 4, 2013

Dear Gill Selectboard,

I am writing on behalf of the students and staff of Gill Elementary School to request an allocation of money from the Quintus Allen Fund. We would like to engage Gill resident, Jocelyn Castro-Santos in a school wide mural project this spring. As the Quintus Allen funds are to benefit the entire population, the students would be engaged in three projects. The first is an interior mural created with clay tiles designed by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the second involves two exterior murals made from clay tiles designed by the grades K-4 to fill in the triangular spaces over the entrances to the school. These two exterior arches have remained empty since the school's construction.

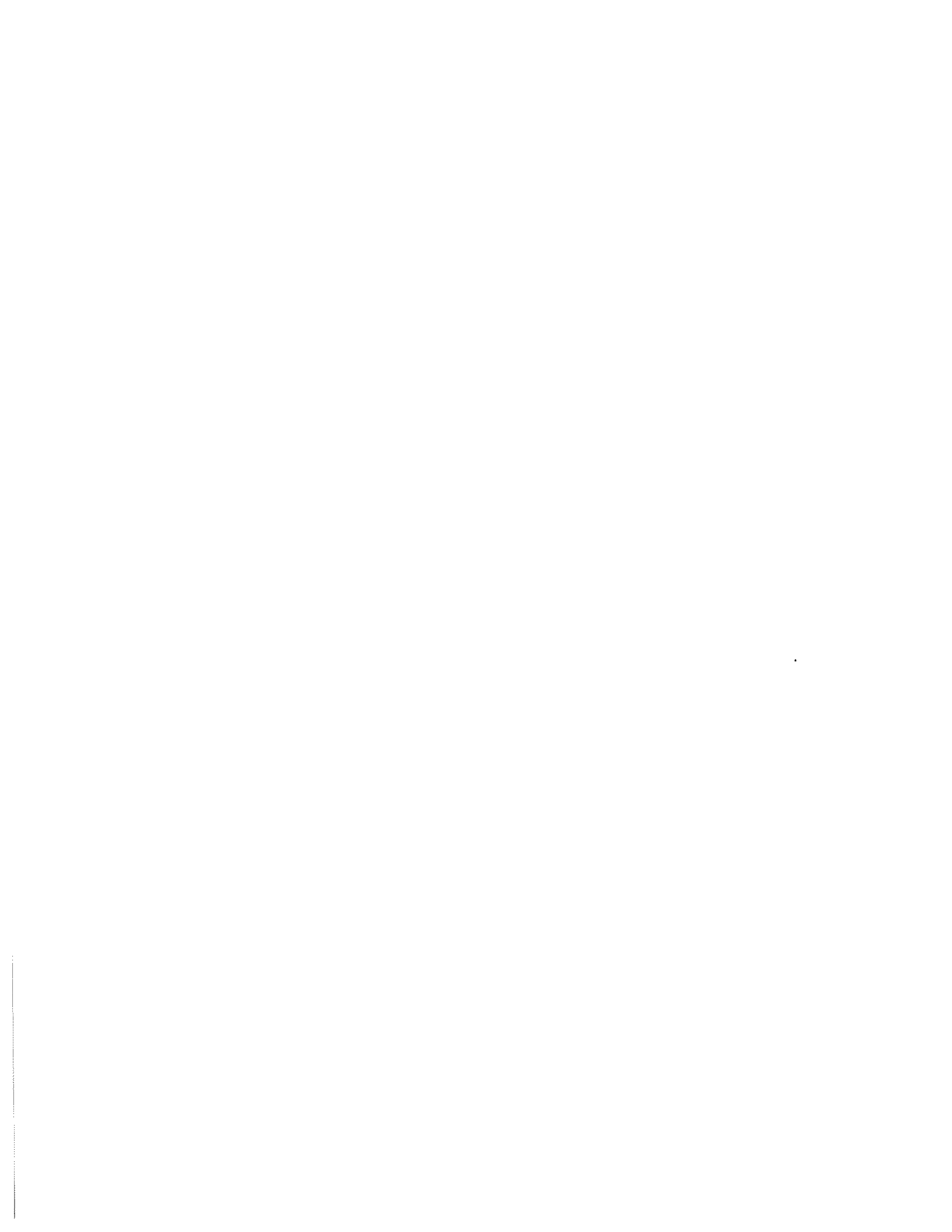
Jocelyn Castro-Santos is a Gill resident, exhibiting visual artist, parent of Gill Elementary School and a substitute art teacher at Gill Elementary for many years. As an artist who works in clay it is her hope to put her skills to use in her community. It is my vision as a principal to enrich our students' lives with artistic opportunities and provide a beautiful, artistically pleasing environment in which to learn and grow. I have attached a full proposal from Jocelyn, her resume and a visual example of a clay mural to give you details about the project. Jocelyn has already created two large scale murals which currently adorn the art room and show exquisite planning and execution.

The project costs include materials totaling \$505 and an artist-in-residence stipend of \$1,500 which includes planning, teaching, firing and installation. I am requesting an allocation of funds from the Quintus Allen Fund of \$2,005 to cover the cost of this project. Having a permanent art installation in the school designed and created by the Gill Elementary students will be a treasure for years to come.

We hope you will consider our request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Adams, Principal



Artist Residency  
Gill School Mural

Student Participants: All Grades

Project 1: Grades 5 & 6

Project 2: Grades K-4

Project 1

6"x 6" Tiles = 70 Tiles (7 across by 10 down)

(42" x 60") plus border 48" x 66" Completed Mural: Based on the Gill School theme of Curiosity, Perseverance and Compassion.

Project 2

Multiple tiles designed by the lower grades to fit into the triangular concrete exterior space (measures 6' x 3') over the entrances to the school. Main entrance design will be created by 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Side entrance will be designed by K -2 grade students.

I am an exhibiting visual artist, parent of a Gill Elementary student and have worked as a substitute art teacher at Gill Elementary for many years. As an artist who works in clay it is my hope to put my skills to work in my community. After discussions with Kathleen Adams about how best to use my strengths, how to provide an enriching visual arts curriculum and how to create a project based on visual arts concepts and student collaboration, we came up with the idea of creating a series of beautiful tile murals for Gill Elementary.

Students will learn about the properties of clay as well as methods and materials used in creating art with this medium. Students will learn relief sculpture concepts. Relief sculptures found in tile making involve images raised or recessed to various levels such as intaglio, sunk, low and high relief. Children can learn to add clay, model and use perspective (background, middle ground, and foreground) in clay relief sculptures.

Students will explore the idea of mural making and discuss examples from art history as well as murals found in their surrounding communities. Students will then work together to generate a theme and create a series of drawings in preparation for their mural.

This project meets the Massachusetts Visual Arts standards. It covers methods and materials and techniques, elements and principles of design, drafting, revising and exhibiting, as well as critical response. However, a mural is not just an art project, or an activity to meet a state standard, murals are expressions of childhood that will not be forgotten. A beautiful mural reflects students pride and belief in the importance of their learning environment, as well as students' pride in themselves and their abilities.

2.Goals for learners: Students will learn visual art concepts, art history, and how to collaborate on a large scale visual arts project. Students will learn the process of making tiles from clay construction through bisque and glaze firings.

3.Students will be able to explain the process of creating the mural to other students at Gill Elementary as well as faculty and staff. All students will complete at least 1 hand sculpted tiles as part of the project, with 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> graders creating multiple tiles as part of their project. The murals will be

presented to the community at the end of the year art event in June at Gill Elementary.

**Cost:**

White Earthenware Clay (Amherst Potters Supply) 5- 25lb. Bags \$60 (Each bag makes 30 tiles)

Slab Cutter: \$40

Glaze \$200

Brushes \$30

Ready Set Tile Adhesive \$50

Tile Spacers \$10

Grout \$40

Hardiebacker mounting board \$50

Pine Frame \$25

**Total Cost for Materials: \$505**

Classroom time: 3 sessions with each grade (1: drawing/planning, 2: Clay tile construction 3: Glazing)

Extra classroom time may be necessary due to student absences, unfinished pieces, etc.

Estimated classroom time 23 hours at \$30/hour + additional 27 hours for firing and installation at \$30/hour **\$1,500 Artist Fee**

**Total Project Cost: \$2,005**

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DRAFT - FY15 Budget Timeline - DRAFT  
(Last revised Feb 6, 2014)

Tues, Feb 18 SB & FinCom – Distribute budget binders, Review revenue projections, Review schedule of meetings — 6:30

Mon, Mar 17 Dept meeting

Wed, Mar 19 Dept meeting

Mon, Mar 24 SB Regular meeting (Dept meeting after SB meeting?)

Wed, Mar 26 Dept meeting

Mon, Mar 31 Dept meeting / Budget discussion

Wed, Apr 2 Dept meeting / Budget discussion

Thu, Apr 3 Warrant articles due

Mon, Apr 7 SB Regular meeting

Wed, Apr 9 Budget/warrant discussion

Mon, Apr 14 Budget/warrant discussion — Tues 4/14/15, later - 6:30

Wed, Apr 16 Budget/warrant discussion

Tue, Apr 22 SB Regular Meeting – Sign Warrant? (Monday = Patriot's Day)

Wed, Apr 23 Budget discussion

Mon, Apr 28 Last day to Post ATM Warrant & Town Election Warrant

Mon, Apr 28 Finalize budget, vote recommendations

Wed, Apr 30 Finalize budget, vote recommendations

May 5 ~~or 6~~ Annual Town Meeting

Mon, May 19 Town Election (& Override/Debt Exclusion votes, if needed)

Tue, May 20 SB Regular Meeting





## Ronnie LaChance

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**From:** frrs01@gmail.com on behalf of Dale Kowacki [ExDr@Frrsma.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 4:32 PM  
**To:** Dale Kowacki  
**Subject:** Re: July 1 2014 retirees' COLA notice

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

A few of you have asked for some perspective on why the retirement board feels compelled to grant a 3% COLA to retirees in a year when Social Security is giving a 1.5% COLA, and while I can give many reasons, by far the most compelling is that we have harvested lots of good investment return from "Wall Street" **and we would like to add it to the local economy.**

In 2012 we brought in over \$11,000,000 from investments. 2013 will be even better. A 3% COLA will only cost \$70,000 more than a 1.5% COLA. I know it's not much compared to the \$11 million, but we can't give more than the 3% - but the nice thing is - like I said, we're bringing home "Wall Street" money and spending it locally.

I'd be surprised if we need to discuss it further - but I'm all ears.

Warm regards,

Dale

### **Dale Kowacki**

Executive Director, Franklin Regional Retirement System

413.774.4837x4

[ExDr@FRRSMA.com](mailto:ExDr@FRRSMA.com)

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



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On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 5:08 PM, Dale Kowacki <[ExDr@frrsma.com](mailto:ExDr@frrsma.com)> wrote:

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 26, 2014 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



## Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

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**From:** frs01@gmail.com on behalf of Dale Kowacki [ExDr@Frrsma.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:08 PM  
**To:** Dale Kowacki  
**Subject:** July 1 2014 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 26, 2014 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 1.5%. Using current information, the 3% COLA would increase the monthly cost to the system approximately \$11,700. The annual cost would be approximately \$141,000. (Annual retiree payroll is approximately \$7 million.)

*are/must do 1.5%*

*3% is on the first \$14,000*

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



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February 10, 2014

FRTA Advisory Board  
Ms. Tina Cote, Administrator  
12 Olive Street, Suite 1  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Dear Advisory Board Members and Ms. Cote:

The Gill Selectboard supports the effort to review existing fixed routes in the Franklin Regional Transit Authority's service territory. Mindful of existing budgetary constraints, we support expanded access to public transportation, both for those without automobiles and for the many local residents with cars who wish to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Based on the experience of the past year we request:

1. An open and inclusive planning process to consider future fixed route changes. This process would include involvement by town officials and key stakeholders, including town planners and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, before a final proposal is presented to the FRTA Advisory Board. The goal would be to develop a strong consensus in the region.
2. The process will consider a variety of route options proposed by stakeholders. There will be cost estimates and estimates of the impact of route changes on local assessments. This will require a clear explanation of how local assessments are calculated, an explanation we understand the FRTA administration is currently developing.
3. The process will include and encourage collaboration and coordination with other regional transit authorities, as well as with cities and towns that are not part of the FRTA but are impacted by the FRTA's decisions.

We suggest a meeting as soon as possible with town officials and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to discuss such a process.

Sincerely,

The Gill Selectboard

John R. Ward, Chair and FRTA Advisory Board Member

Cc: Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG  
Montague Selectboard

Telephone 413-863-9347

325 Main Road, Gill MA 01354  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fax 413-863-7775

