

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2014

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

Members Present: John Ward, Randy Crochier, and Ann Banash

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Janet Masucci, Mike Jackson

Minutes: Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the minutes of 4/7. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Green Community Grant: Ray reported that the contract has been signed with Bales Energy Associates to update the energy audits to include heat pump systems. The completed reports for the Town Hall, Riverside Building, and Slate Memorial Library are expected within three weeks.

Sewer I&I Study: Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire spent time on 4/17 with Dave Kaczinski from the Mass. Rural Water Association running a camera in the sewer lines coming down Main Road. Ray has not yet received a report of their findings, if any.

Safety Complex Roof: On 4/23 a representative from Environmental Compliance Services will take samples from the Safety Complex roof to be analyzed for asbestos. Results are expected in 48 hours, which should allow that possible complication to be factored into the budget for the project. Ray was asked to find out from Melanson Roofing if there would be any savings to their estimate if only the existing membrane roof and cork fiber insulation were removed, and the remnants of the original tar & stone roof were again left in place.

Municipal Aggregation of Electricity: Although no one from Gill was able to attend the 4/15 Department of Public Utilities public hearing on the HCOG's municipal aggregation plan for Gill and 35 other communities, feedback from people who did attend was positive. State Representative Denise Andrews testified in support of the plan, and a letter of support from Senator Rosenberg, Representative Andrews, and seven other state elected officials from the area was entered into the hearing record.

May 5th Meeting Time: The May 5th Selectboard meeting will be held at 4:30 PM, to allow for plenty of time before the 6:30 PM start of Annual Town Meeting.

Review of Town Meeting Warrant: A second draft of the warrant for Town Meeting was reviewed. Several articles were re-sequenced, and an article seeking funding for a heating system at the Riverside Building was edited to also include the Town Hall and Slate Memorial Library. Ray will make the changes so that the warrant can be signed at tomorrow's budget meeting.

Lawn Mowing Bids: Ray reported on the results of the bid opening for this year's lawn mowing services. The low bid was from Snow & Sons Landscaping, with a typical per mowing cost of \$178.00. Two other bids were received. Randy disclosed that his brother-in-law, Alex Urgiel, was one of the other bidders. Randy made a motion, seconded by Ann, to award the lawn mowing contract to Snow & Sons. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mariamante Hayfield Bid: There was only one bidder for the use of the Mariamante property as a hayfield this year. Brian Peila, who operates the Zak farm on Main Road, bid \$200. Peila also bid \$200 each for the Town-option second and third years of the bid. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to award the use of the Mariamante property to Brian Peila for \$200. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Part-Time Police Officer Holiday Pay: Ray reported that the Personnel Committee met on 4/8 and voted 5-0 to “highly recommend” to the Selectboard that the personnel policies be changed to provide time-and-a-half pay to part-time police officers who work on a holiday. There was discussion among the Selectboard that making this change might encourage our part-time officers to work more of our holiday shifts. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to direct the Administrative Assistant to proceed with wording the new policy and to present it for Town Counsel’s review. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Custodian Resignation: Paul Fahey has tendered his resignation as Custodian effective 5/3. The resignation was accepted with regret, and a letter will be sent to Paul thanking him for his service to the Town. Ray will advertise the position in the Recorder and Montague Reporter, on the Town website and Craigslist, and with the Franklin-Hampshire Career Center.

Winter Rapid Recovery Road Program: As part of a state-wide program, MassDOT has issued a one-time contract to Gill in the amount of \$22,639 for the “reimbursement of specific purpose road and road facility repairs resulting from this harsh winter.” Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to accept the funds from MassDOT and to authorize John to sign the contract. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Noting that MassDOT must be informed of the Town’s uses for this money by June 30th, the Selectboard asked to receive a project list from the Highway Superintendent at their May 20th meeting.

Election Constable: Acting on a request from the Town Clerk, Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to appoint Doreen Stevens as Election Constable for the May 19th Town Election. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. There was discussion about making the appointment extend beyond the one election, but it was felt that there should first be some type of publicity about the available position.

Website Problems: Ray reported that the Town’s website was hacked over the weekend of April 12-13, and was taken offline by our hosting site. Don Kruger of Starstruck Design provided valuable assistance getting the site repaired and restored by April 16th. Given the age of the site, Don recommends that the Town think about upgrading it in the next year or so.

SMRP Grant: Ray provided a letter to Mass DEP requesting reimbursement of \$500.00 for the Town’s eligible expenses from its Small-Scale Initiative grant under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The Town used the grant to purchase 61 kitchen compost pails and 42 recycling bins to be given away to residents. Ann made a motion, seconded by Randy, to authorize John to sign the letter. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Janet Masucci reported on a recent workshop on composting that was sponsored by the Energy Commission and was attended by 30 people. A workshop teaching ways to convert a bicycle to electric power will be held on May 4th.

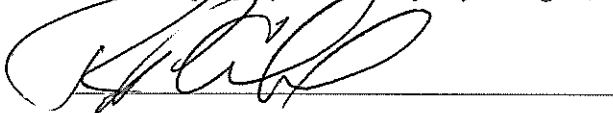
Free Tick Testing: The Board received an informational handout from the Tick-Borne Disease Network about free tick testing that is available for Gill residents and residents of other Cooperative Public Health Service member towns. The testing is funded by a Community Innovation Challenge grant. Ray will add information about tick testing to the Town’s website.

Mike Jackson and Janet Masucci left the meeting at 7:15 PM.

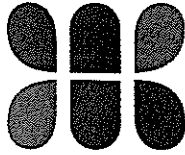
Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY 2014 warrant #22.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Randy P. Crochier, Selectboard Clerk



HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS

ELECTRICITY

April 16, 2014

Hon. Denise Andrews
State House, Room 443
Boston, MA 02133

On behalf of the Hampshire Council of Governments and the participating communities, I would like to thank you for testimony in person and your letter of support at yesterday's Department of Public Utilities Public Hearing on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) of electricity for residents and businesses. The Towns of Belchertown, Gill, Warwick, and Wendell are among 36 communities seeking state approval for additional choices and greater control over their energy prices. Your continuing support helps show state authorities that legislative support for the law remains strong, 17 years after its passage.

We will keep you informed on the progress of these efforts.

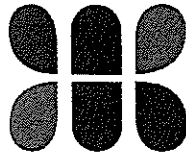
Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Todd Ford
Executive Director
tford@hampshirecog.org
413-584-1300 x-121

cc. Town of Belchertown
Town of Gill
Town of Warwick
Town of Wendell





HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS

ELECTRICITY

April 16, 2014

Hon. Stanley C. Rosenberg
State House, Room 333
Boston, MA 02133

On behalf of the Hampshire Council of Governments and the participating communities, I would like to thank you for testimony and your letter of support at yesterday's Department of Public Utilities Public Hearing on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) of electricity for residents and businesses. The City of Northampton and the Towns of Deerfield, Gill, Hadley, Hatfield, Leverett, Montague, Northfield, Pelham, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately are among 36 communities seeking state approval for additional choices and greater control over their energy prices. Your continuing support helps show state authorities that legislative support for the law remains strong, 17 years after its passage.

We will keep you informed on the progress of these efforts.

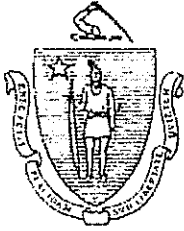
Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Todd Ford
Executive Director
tford@hampshirecog.org
413-584-1300 x-121

cc. City of Northampton
Town of Deerfield
Town of Gill
Town of Hadley
Town of Hatfield
Town of Leverett
Town of Montague
Town of Northfield
Town of Pelham
Town of Warwick
Town of Wendell
Town of Whately





COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

April 15, 2014

Ms. Ann Berwick, Chair
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Hampshire County's Municipal Aggregation Plans

Dear Chairwoman Berwick:

We are writing, as members of the Hampshire County Legislative Delegation, on behalf of the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG), as well as the 38 municipalities represented by the HCOG in support of their petitions for municipal aggregation of electricity for residential and business customers.


We believe the municipal aggregations plans are a unique opportunity to offer our approximately 150,000 constituents lower electricity costs. These lower costs will enhance economic development efforts by attracting businesses to our communities. The HCOG, who has ample experience as an energy supplier through the Hampshire Power program, is well suited to help guide the 38 communities to achieve their goal. Additionally, the plans will allow individual households and small businesses to opt out of aggregation at any time without penalty. For these reasons, we write in strong support and ask for your timely review and thorough consultation of the aggregation plans.


Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance during your review.

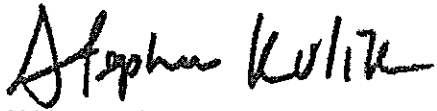
Sincerely,


BENJAMIN B. DOWNING, *State Senator*
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden


STAN ROSENBERG, *State Senator*
Hampshire, Franklin & Worcester


GALE CANDARAS, *State Senator*
First Hampden and Hampshire


MICHAEL MOORE, *State Senator*
Second Worcester



STEPHEN KULIK, *State Representative*
First Franklin District



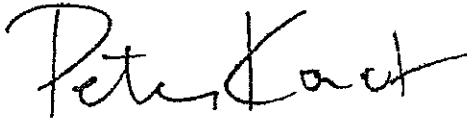
JOHN SCIBAK, *State Representative*
Second Hampshire



DENISE ANDREWS, *State Representative*
Second Franklin



PAUL MARK, *State Representative*
Second Berkshire



PETER KOCOT, *State Representative*
First Hampshire District

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 5, 2014

To any of the Constables of the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Gill Town Hall in said Town on Monday, the Fifth day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen (5/5/2014) at 6:30 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2014 Unemployment Insurance Account (number 913) to the Unemployment Trust Fund (number 814), or take any action relative thereto.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to create an Energy Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding any energy conservation related project, including equipment, vehicles, renovations, feasibility studies, audits, or debt-service, bond, and payments related thereto, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or take other action relative thereto.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$14,711.00 (Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2014 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to the Energy Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2014 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to be used to purchase and install materials and equipment to make code compliance repairs and upgrades to the kitchen at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2014 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to the Education Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Article 6: To hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 6A: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money to provide clerical assistance and printing costs necessary to compile and publish Annual Reports for Fiscal Years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 7: To elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2015 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and to

authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement or take any action relative thereto.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to adjust the exemption eligibility factor for qualifying for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, to be increased from \$13,000.00 maximum, if the applicant is single and \$15,000.00 maximum if married, to \$15,000.00 if single and \$20,000.00 if married, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to name the Gill Historical Collection in the Riverside Municipal Building the "Allan D. Adie, Sr. Historical Collection," in honor of Mr. Adie's vision and hours of dedication in preserving the history of Gill, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to create a special unpaid committee to be known as a regional school district planning committee, to consist of three members, including one member of the school committee, to be appointed by the Moderator, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2015, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following revolving funds per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which revenues will be deposited into the funds and expended to pay related costs under the authorization of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed below, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year, or take any action relative thereto:

Dept. Spend	Authorized to	Types of Receipts Credited	Program/Purpose for which Funds may be Expended	Maximum Annual Expenditures
Fire Dept.		Oil Burner Inspection Fees	Inspector & Etc.	\$2,000.00
Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer		Dog Fees & Fines	Licenses, Dog Care & Control, & Etc.	4,000.00
Cemetery Commission		Opening Fees	Cemeteries & Caretaking	2,000.00
Conservation Commission		Consultant Fees	Project Review	10,000.00
Agricultural Commission		Farmers' Market & Ag Event Fees	Ag Programs	500.00
Energy Commission		Workshop and Program Fees	Energy Programs	1,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals		ZBA Fees	Hearings & Expenses	2,000.00
Board of Health, Administrative Assistant		Recycling Program Revenue	Solid waste & recycling programs, Solid Waste District membership, recycled-content office products	5,000.00

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$
Selectboard Chair	\$
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$
Board of Assessors Chair	\$
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$
Board of Health Chair	\$
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$
Town Clerk	\$

Tax Collector	\$
Additional As Sewer Collector	\$
Treasurer	\$
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$
Town Clerk	\$

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$1,458,438.00 (One Million Four Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,441,328.00 for its Fiscal Year 2015 operating assessment and \$17,110.00 for its Fiscal Year 2015 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$9,589.00 (Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Nine and 00/100 Dollars) to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, and to pay for an annual energy performance audit, all relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install a roof and perform related maintenance to the roof of the Public Safety Complex (Police, Fire, and Highway Departments) located at 196 Main Road, including design, compliance, and asbestos remediation costs, and including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Article 20A: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install a heating system for the Riverside Municipal Building, including design, compliance, removal of obsolete equipment, and asbestos remediation costs, and including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a triennial appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the Board of Assessors Triennial Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) for the Town Audit Account to be used toward a portion of the cost to conduct an independent financial audit of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, or take any other action relative thereto.

Chapter 32B, Section 20. (a) A city, town, district, county or municipal lighting plant that accepts this section may establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, and may appropriate amounts to be credited to the fund. Any interest or other income generated by the fund shall be added to and become part of the fund. Amounts that a governmental unit receives as a sponsor of a qualified retiree prescription drug plan under 42 U.S.C. section 1395w-132 may be added to and become part of the fund. All monies held in the fund shall be segregated from other funds and shall not be subject to the claims of any general creditor of the city, town, district, county or municipal lighting plant.

(b) The custodian of the fund shall be (i) a designee appointed by the board of a municipal lighting plant; (ii) the treasurer of any other governmental unit; or (iii) if designated by the city, town, district, county or municipal lighting plant in the same manner as acceptance prescribed in this section, the Health Care Security Trust board of trustees established in section 4 of chapter 29D, provided that the board of trustees accepts the designation. The custodian may employ an outside custodial service to hold the monies in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be invested and reinvested by the custodian consistent with the prudent investor rule established in chapter 203C and may, with the approval of the Health Care Security Trust board of trustees, be invested in the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund established in section 24 of chapter 32A.

(c) This section may be accepted in a city having a Plan D or Plan E charter, by vote of the city council; in any other city, by vote of the city council and approval of the mayor; in a town, by vote of the town at a town meeting; in a district, by vote of the governing board; in a municipal lighting plant, by vote of the board; and in a county, by vote of the county commissioners.

(d) Every city, town, district, county and municipal lighting plant shall annually submit to the public employee retirement administration commission, on or before December 31, a summary of its other post-employment benefits cost and obligations and all related information required under Government Accounting Standards Board standard 45, in this subsection called "GASB 45", covering the last fiscal or calendar year for which this information is available. On or before June 30 of the following year, the public employee retirement administration commission shall notify any entity submitting this summary of any concerns that the commission may have or any areas in which the summary does not conform to the requirements of GASB 45 or other standards that the commission may establish. The public employee retirement administration commission shall file a summary report of the information received under this subsection with the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, the secretary of administration and finance and the board of trustees of the Health Care Security Trust.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for one or more of the Stabilization Funds of the Town (Capital, Education, or General), or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money or sums of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) or other available funds to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2015, or take any action relative thereto.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

And, you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; The Gill Store & Tavern, Main Road; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, in said Town seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.

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



www.gillmass.org

April 30, 2014

Emily Martin
MassDEP- Consumer Programs
1 Winter Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Martin:

The **Town of Gill** is requesting reimbursement for eligible costs, as designated in our signed Grant Agreement, under the Small-Scale Initiative grant program of MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

We understand that the Town of Gill can submit only one request for reimbursement under this program and that unused funds, if any, will be forfeited.

The Town of Gill requests reimbursement in the amount of \$500.00 representing expenses incurred through April 30, 2014. Attached please find eligible invoices as detailed below.

Compost Pails	\$244.00
<u>Recycling Bins</u>	<u>\$256.20</u>
TOTAL Spent:	\$500.20

Sincerely,

John R. Ward
Chair, Board of Selectmen

61 pails
42 bins