Call to Order: The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

Members Present: John Ward, Randy Crochier, and Ann Banash
Members Absent: none
Others Present: Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Janet Masucci.

Minutes: The minutes from 4/22 were not ready for review.

Green Community Grant: The updated energy audits for the Town Hall, Riverside Building, and Slate Memorial Library have been received from Bales Energy Associates. The audits now include analysis of heat pump systems for each building. It was noted that there will be a warrant article at tonight's Annual Town Meeting that requests voters to put $25,000 of Free Cash toward the cost of installing heating systems at the Town Hall and Riverside Building. When combined with the existing Green Communities grant, the Town's money will be leveraged five times over.

Sewer I&I Study: Ray and Randy reported on a 5/1 meeting with Paul Nietupski of the Mass DEP and Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire. Mr. Nietupski is meeting with operators of systems like ours - which collect and pump but do not treat waste - to explain new state regulations. It was felt that the meeting went very well, and that the new regulations likely will not require any major new expenses. There are some new annual reporting requirements, and our Sewer Regulations likely need to be updated.

Safety Complex Roof: A representative from Wooliver Roofing visited the Safety Complex on 5/2. His estimate for removal of the two existing roof layers, asbestos abatement, and installation of a new tapered membrane roof was consistent with the estimate from Melanson Roofing. It is hoped that the bids come in lower than the $158,000 estimated total, which is the figure that will be used for tonight's Town Meeting. Also, Ray learned from FRCOG’s Andrea Woods that asbestos abatement is not a category of work that requires filed sub bids, which will simplify the bidding of the roof project, assuming Town Meeting passes the article and voters also approve the Debt Exclusion on May 19th.

Heating Oil Gallons for FY15: The Selectboard reviewed an updated forecast of the Town's heating oil for FY15. A decision on the number of gallons to commit to purchasing had been postponed from March in order to get a clearer sense of which heating systems might be replaced before winter with non-oil using equipment. Because of the complexity of the project and its relatively low amount of oil usage, no changes are being planned for the Library at this time. Air-to-air heat pumps are under consideration by the Energy Commission for Town Hall and the Riverside Building.

John cautioned that in periods of extreme cold, heat pump systems might not be able to keep up and provide enough heat for office or classroom environments. He suggested that keeping the oil boiler as Town Hall as a supplemental and backup heat source might make sense. For the Riverside Building, given the age and condition of that boiler, a small amount of electric baseboard could be installed to augment the heat pumps on very cold days.

It was felt it would be safe to scale back the heating oil purchase commitment from the recommended 5,200 gallons (which covers all 4 buildings) to 3,800 gallons (which is close to the typical annual use of the Library and Safety Complex). If either the Town Hall or Riverside Building continue to use oil heat in FY15, the 3,800 gallons will be used faster, and more of our deliveries will be at the daily price instead of a locked-in price. For FY14, the gallons we committed to purchase were used by early March. The other March deliveries were about 25-cents per gallon
higher than the $3.2016 locked-in price. April and May deliveries, however, were slightly lower than the locked-in price.

Randy made a motion, seconded by Ann, to commit to buying 3,800 gallons of heating oil for FY15 from Global Montello Group, and to authorize Ray to sign the necessary paperwork. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Special Permit for Four Winds School Sign: The Selectboard reviewed a notice from the Gill Zoning Board of Appeals for a May 13th public hearing on a request from the Four Winds School to remove their existing sign and install a new 4' x 5' sign. The School is the Town’s tenant at the Riverside Building, 54 French King Highway. No objections were presented.

Correspondence: Ray reported on an email he received from Riverside resident Jeff Kocsis in regards to the Main Road/Route 2 traffic lights and the “shortcut” road off the Gill-Turners Falls Bridge down onto Riverside Drive. There had been a general impression that the shortcut would be permanently closed as part of the bridge renovations. Ray learned from MassDOT’s Al Stegemann that the closure is only “temporary” (4 years!), and the shortcut will reopen at the conclusion of the bridge project. This good news has already been reported to Mr. Kocsis. Feedback about the need to improve the timing of the traffic lights has been passed on to MassDOT.

Purchase Orders: The Selectboard gave approval to a purchase order to buy a new front door and exit device (crash bar) for the Riverside Building at a cost of $983.80. The lock on the current door is beyond repair, and new hardware cannot be installed on the existing door and frame. The new door will be installed by the Highway Department. The Selectboard also approved spending $525 for Eagle Elevator to repair a belt on the inner door of the Town Hall’s elevator.

Election Warrant: The Selectboard signed the warrant for the May 19th Town Election.

MedCare Ambulance Services Agreement: Ray reported that MedCare, the soon-to-be new owners of Baystate Health Ambulance, have requested the Town sign an Ambulance Services Agreement. The proposed agreement is largely similar to the one that Baystate asked for 4 years ago, but the Town never signed due to Town Counsel’s objections with the liability and indemnification sections. Town Counsel has been asked to review this latest agreement.

Invitation to Memorial Day Ceremonies: The Selectboard received an invitation from the Memorial Committee to their May 23rd ceremonies at the Veterans’ Monument in honor of Memorial Day. The invitation will be revisited at the May 20th Selectboard meeting.

Invitation to TFHS Graduation: The Selectboard received an invitation to the Awards Night and Graduation ceremonies for the Turners Falls High School.

Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Collection: It was noted that the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District will be conducting its biannual “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Collection on Saturday, May 17th.

Warrant: The Board reviewed and signed FY 2014 warrant #23.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

Randy P. Crochier, Selectboard Clerk
The forecast for 2014/15 is based on a 3-year average of 11/12 (mild), 12/13 ("typical"), and 13/14 (cold). By setting the contracted gallons at only 80% of the forecast, it leaves room for heating-oil saving from Green Community-funded insulation work.

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If conversions to other fuel types are expected for the Library, Town Hall, or Riverside Building, the contracted gallons should be reduced accordingly.

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** ESTIMATE ** ESTIMATE ** ESTIMATE ** ESTIMATE **

TAXABLE: 0.00
NON-TAXABLE: 983.80
SUBTOTAL: 983.80
TAX AMOUNT: 0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT: 983.80

TOT WT: .00

Received By
To: Board of Selectmen

From: Memorial Committee

Subject: Memorial Day Ceremony Invitation

Dear Board of Selectmen,

The Memorial Committee would like to extend to you this invitation to attend the Town of Gill Memorial Day Ceremonies. Beginning at 10:00 AM Sunday May 25, 2014 at the Gill Congregational Church, and after services, continuing across main road at the Veterans Monuments. As in the past a brief opening statement by a Selectmen would be greatly appreciated at the Veterans Monuments. Currently the committee plans to keep everything the same which has worked out well in the past.

If you plan to speak at the Veterans Monuments, please contact Gary Bourbeau at 863-8613 for some information on the procedures for the ceremony. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Gary & Merri Bourbeau 863-8613
Doug & Elaine Smith 863-3115
Chet Kuzontkoski 863-9284

Memorial Committee
April 30, 2014

Board of Selectmen-Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA  01354

On behalf of the administration of Turners Falls High School I would like to invite you all to attend Awards Night on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 7:00 PM and Graduation on Friday, May 30, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. There will be reserved seating for Graduation for you.

Hopefully, you will be able to join the Class of 2014 in celebrating the successful completion of one phase of their young lives.

Your response is requested by May 23, 2014 so we may plan accordingly. Please respond to Sandy Bailey (863-7296).

Sincerely,

Thomas Osborn
Principal