

# TOWN OF GILL

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



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

*February 8, 2016*

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

Members Present: Greg Snedeker, John Ward, and Randy Crochier      Members Absent: none

Others Present: Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Janet Masucci, Aidan Belanger

Green Community Grant: The window inserts for the library have been ordered, but a delivery date has not been assigned. The mini-tank electric water heater has been installed at the Town Hall, but still needs to be filled and tested.

Sewer I&I Study: Nothing to report.

Town Hall Well: Ray reported that on January 28<sup>th</sup> the water well at the Town Hall developed a large crack in a plastic fitting on the outside of the well casing at the joint between the pitless adapter and the water line. The fitting was replaced with a stainless steel fitting on February 4<sup>th</sup> by Lynde Well Drilling at a cost of \$1,163.37. As part of the repair, a new well cap was installed, to allow a proper connection where the electrical conduit enters the well.

Safety Complex Roof/ Wall Insulation: With the well repair complete, there is \$10,723 remaining in the Building Maintenance budget, which is enough to cover the \$6,352 insulation project at the Safety Complex, and still leave funds for other projects between now and the end of the year. John made a motion, seconded by Randy, to proceed with the insulation project using Building Maintenance funds. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Gill Elementary Well: There was a conference call on February 4<sup>th</sup> with the two engineers from Wright-Pierce to discuss smaller-scale options for treating the well water at the school. Ray, Glen Ayers (health agent), Jim Huber (GMRSD Facilities Manager), and Mike Leach (Mass. Rural Water Association) also participated in the conference call.

The treatment option proposed by the engineers is a system that will remove manganese and iron from all of the well water that enters the building, and then pass all of the water through a UV light to treat for any coliform bacteria that may be present. Ayers suggested checking with the Dept. of Environmental Protection to see if DEP will approve a system that treats all water with the UV light, but uses point-of-use devices to remove iron and manganese anywhere water might be used for drinking or cooking. He felt that the scaled-back approach would be less costly to install and operate. The engineers and Ayers will independently discuss the idea with contacts at DEP and report back.

Mariamante/Community Solar: Nothing to report.

Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP): John reported that he attended the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of MCAP. The Towns of Montague and Lenox have been granted status as intervenors in the Mass. Dept. of Public Utilities' hearings on the natural gas supply contract between Berkshire Gas and Tennessee Gas Pipeline. At the meeting, a representative from Montague asked other towns to consider providing financial assistance toward the costs of legal fees and expert witnesses. It has been suggested that supply contract hearings are one of the few pieces of evidence to which the FERC gives any weight when reviewing and deciding on gas pipeline applications. There has been no decision by the FERC on granting Gill's request to intervene in Tennessee Gas Pipeline's application.

Heating Oil for FY17: Ray reported that the Town has locked in 3,800 gallons of heating oil for FY17 at a delivered price of \$1.5554/gallon. The Town is paying \$2.606 in FY16.

Special Town Meeting & Tax Rate Classification Hearing: Ray explained that the Dept. of Revenue will allow the Selectboard to hold the tax rate classification hearing for FY16 prior to the February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 PM Special Town Meeting. If the votes at the STM alter the figures presented at the classification hearing, then the hearing will need to be redone. The Selectboard scheduled the classification hearing for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:45 PM.

The Selectboard discussed Article 4 of the STM warrant, which asks voters to appropriate an unspecified amount of money for legal representation, technical assistance, and other uses related to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline. Randy described Gill as one the towns that “aren’t having the ground moved” by the pipeline, as opposed to towns along the route of the buried pipeline that will have ground moved during its installation. He said this distinction has been helpful in discussions about impacts of the pipeline, and that some impacts will be felt even in towns where the ground isn’t getting moved.

There was discussion about how to decide upon a dollar amount to put in the motion for Article 4. Greg volunteered to research what finances other towns are putting toward the pipeline effort/opposition. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to authorize Greg to decide on the dollar amount that will appear in the motion. The motion passed by a 2-0 vote, with Greg abstaining from the vote.

COLA Recommendation for FY17: At its January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Personnel Committee recommended a 1.0% COLA for all town employees for FY17. Although Social Security is providing no increase this year, and a 0.4% COLA is suggested by the Consumer Price Index that the Town uses, the two committee members voting in favor felt that true inflation is understated by Social Security and that employees deserve some kind of increase. Randy, who is the Selectboard representative to the Personnel Committee, voted against the 1.0% COLA, as he felt that the Committee has followed Social Security for the last three years, and he saw no convincing evidence to change course. During the Selectboard meeting, Randy indicated that as a voter at Town Meeting, he could support a COLA.

The Selectboard advised Ray to build the FY17 budget using the 1.0% COLA, but to alert departments that there is uncertain support for it, and that there will be further discussion as the budget moves forward. The Selectboard took no votes in support or in opposition to the 1.0% COLA.

Retirement System COLA: The Selectboard reviewed a memo from Dale Kowacki, the Executive Director of the Franklin Regional Retirement System. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Retirement Board will be discussing and voting on a possible 3% COLA on the first \$16,000 of benefits received by eligible retirees. The Selectboard raised objections that the COLA is unduly inflating the cost base for the retirement system, and that it creates a bad perception to lockstep adopt a 3% COLA year after year, without consideration of what area towns are doing for their employees and what area retirees are receiving from Social Security. Ray will send a letter to Kowacki outlining the Selectboard’s objections.

Farm Field Lease Renewals: Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to renew the Town’s leases with Brian Peila for 2016 for the Mariamante field (\$200) and the Boyle Lot (\$125). The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

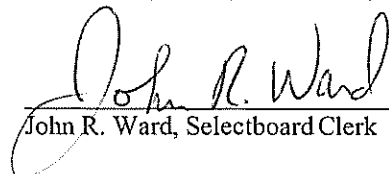
Ag Com Resignation: Steve Damon has announced his resignation from the Agricultural Commission effective February 29, 2016. Damon has been on the AgCom since the spring of 2009 and has been its Chair since he joined. Noting that he will be severely missed, the Selectboard accepted the resignation with deep regret, and asked that a letter of thanks be sent.

Aidan Belanger left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2016 warrant #17.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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

  
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John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk

# Invoice

**LYNDE WELL DRILLING, INC.**  
 5345 HINESBURG ROAD  
 GUILFORD, VT 05301-8103  
 (800) 242-5516

DATE	INVOICE #
2/5/2016	15723

**BILL TO:**

Town of Gill  
 Ray Purington  
 325 Main Road  
 Gill, MA 01354

Bldg Maint 11,866.54  
 - 1,163.37  
 -----  
 10,723.17  
 Energia 6,352.00  
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 4,371.17

P.O. NUMBER	TERMS	PROJECT
S-41-16	Net 15	325 Main St Gill

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
3	1 SS Male Adapter	13.92	41.76
1	Heat Shrink Splice Kit #10/#12 Wire	6.76	6.76
1	1 SS Check Valve	35.02	35.02
2	Backhoe Per Hour	80.00	160.00
1	Welding Charge	45.00	45.00
1.5	Steel Well Casing @ \$ 16.00 PER FT	16.00	24.00
1	Roll Tape 3/4"	2.49	2.49
10	1 Rigid Pex Tubing	1.86	18.60
1	1 SS Insert Coupling	9.20	9.20
1	3/4X90 Pex Elbow CrimpX Sweat	8.82	8.82
1	3/4X90 Pex Elbow CrimpXCrimp	3.87	3.87
1	3/4 Crimp X MPT Pex Adapter	6.93	6.93
4	3/4" Pex SS Cinch Clamp	0.82	3.28
2	1 SS Coupling	7.14	14.28
1	1X3/4 SS Bushing	4.40	4.40
1	6X1 Submersible Sanitary Well Seal ABS	35.00	35.00
1	1X4 SS Nipple	8.96	8.96
10.5	Labor on 1/28/16 and 2/4/16	70.00	735.00

Interest charged at 18% a.p.r. on unpaid balances  
 over 30 days past due.  
 VT Sales Tax

6.00% 0.00

We offer water testing and install water treatment systems. Call us for an appointment.

**TOTAL** \$1,163.37

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: FEBRUARY 22, 2016

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 22nd day of February, in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen (02/22/2016) at 7:00 PM then and there to act on the following articles:

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$15,017.20 (Fifteen Thousand Seventeen and 20/100 Dollars) from Free Cash to the Sewer Use Fees account (a.k.a. WWTP Fund, account number 610) or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$15,017.20 (Fifteen Thousand Seventeen and 20/100 Dollars) from Free Cash to the Sewer Use Fees account (a.k.a. WWTP Fund, account number 610).

*\$15,017.20 is the amount that remained unspent in the operating budget for the Riverside sewer system when FY15 ended on June 30, 2015. Normally this leftover money would be returned to the Sewer Fund, but that step was accidentally overlooked, and it became part of the Town's Free Cash that was certified by the Department of Revenue in October. Because the operating budget for the sewer system comes from the Sewer Fund, this money needs to be transferred back to the Sewer Fund.*

*The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.*

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$18,000.00 (Eighteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) in addition to the \$50,000 previously appropriated to purchase and set up a used single-axle dump truck with an all-season body, plow, wing plow, and related accessories for the Highway Department, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$18,000.00 (Eighteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the amount (\$50,000) previously appropriated to purchase and set up a used single-axle dump truck with an all-season body, plow, wing plow, and related accessories for the Highway Department.

*Town Meeting approved \$50,000 last June to purchase, equip, and make-ready a used 2009 Sterling highway truck. After paying for the truck and some initial repairs, there is \$10,078 left in the budget. However, we still need to pay a vendor for some extensive winter-ready repairs (\$15,350), a new plow (\$9,800), and automatic chains (\$2,812 – the ones it came with couldn't be repaired). That's \$27,962 of known expenses against \$10,078 of funds – a shortfall of \$17,884.*

*The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.*

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,000.00 (Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) in addition to the \$13,141 previously appropriated to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,000.00 (Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the amount (\$13,141) previously appropriated to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library.

*Town Meeting approved \$13,141 last June to fund a project that will remove excess moisture from the Library's basement. The approved amount was the exact amount of the vendor's quote, and did not*

include any extra funds for contingencies that might come up. The project was not able to be started last year, and the vendor has since notified us of a \$704 increase. Some electrical wiring is necessary for the new pump system, and air filter/dehumidifier. The additional funds will cover the price increase and wiring, plus provide some extra for the unexpected things that often come up during work in an old basement.

The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

**Article 4:** 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 fund legal representation and technical assistance related to the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU), and in related legal and permit proceedings, or other uses as deemed appropriate by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00 ( \_\_\_\_\_ and 00/100 Dollars) to fund legal representation and technical assistance related to the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU), and related legal and permit proceedings, or other uses as deemed appropriate by the Selectboard.

*Northeast Energy Direct (NED) is a large natural gas pipeline expansion project first proposed in 2014 by Kinder Morgan Energy's subsidiary, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. As currently proposed, the 30-inch diameter, 321-mile long pipeline will pass through eight Franklin County towns – Ashfield, Conway, Shelburne, Deerfield, Montague, Erving, Northfield, and Warwick – on its route from the gas fields in Pennsylvania to a transmission hub in Dracut, MA, north of Lowell. The NED's formal application to FERC was made on November 20, 2015.*

*On December 23, 2015 the Selectboard filed a Motion to Intervene with the FERC in the Tennessee Gas Pipeline's application. If intervenor status is granted, the Town would have legal standing in the application proceedings. In its Motion to Intervene, the Town expressed concerns regarding the environmental, safety, and socioeconomic impacts of the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project, and the short- and long-term impacts that the proposed pipeline project could have in our community. There has been no cost to the Town for these actions.*

*The Town did not file for intervenor status in the Mass. DPU proceedings as that process was expected to cost money, and no funds have so far been appropriated for pipeline-related expenses. The Selectboard believes when it comes to spending the Town's money on this issue, it is important for Town Meeting voters to first take a stance on the matter.*

*The Selectboard and Finance Committee took no votes on this article. Both agreed that if voters approve any amount in this article, the same amount should be subtracted from what is proposed to go into Stabilization in Article 5.*

**Article 5:** 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, Energy, or General), or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$28,000 (Twenty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the General Stabilization Fund. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

*A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.*

*There is currently \$208,470 in the General Stabilization Fund. If any of the other four articles are amended or defeated, the Selectboard anticipates adjusting the amount in this article accordingly.*

*The balances in the Town's other stabilization funds are \$138,823 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$48,252 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$4,867 in the Energy Stabilization Fund.*

*The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.*

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 fourteen 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.

Given under our hand this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year Two Thousand Sixteen.

**Selectboard of Gill**

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_, Board member  
\_\_\_\_\_, Board member

A true copy Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals who may need auxiliary aids for effective communication for this meeting should call the Gill Town Hall at (413) 863-9347 or MA Relay System at (800) 439-2370.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Gill by posting up attested copies of the same at Town Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; Gill Store & Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, fourteen days before the date hereof, as within directed.

\_\_\_\_\_, Constable of Gill                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ronnie LaChance

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**From:** frs01@gmail.com on behalf of Dale Kowacki [ExDr@frsma.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 4:01 PM  
**To:** Dale Kowacki  
**Subject:** July 1, 2016 Retirees' COLA

Greetings All;

As required by MGL 32 §103(i), please be informed that the retirement board, at its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 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: <http://www.mass.gov/perac/forms-pubs/memos/memorandum-04-2016.html>), and this year the report states the COLA percentage to be 0.0%.

The 3% COLA has been budgeted in the valuation and assessments. At 3%, the average monthly COLA would be \$28; the average annual would be \$336. At 0%, the average monthly would be \$0, as would the average annual. The average annual retirement benefit in the COLA calculation is \$11,200\*. Average annual benefit overall is \$15,479.

Neither your attendance, nor your participation is required regarding this topic. However, your questions and comments are always considered.

\*COLA is limited to 3% of the first \$16,000 of annual retirement benefit.