

# TOWN OF GILL

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



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## SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES *March 28, 2016*

Call to Order: The Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings were called to order at 6:07 PM.

Selectboard Members Present: John Ward, Greg Snedeker

Selectboard Members Absent: Randy Crochier

Finance Committee Members Present: Timmie Smith, Claire Chang, Ronnie LaChance, Jacob Rau, Fred Chase

Finance Committee Members Absent: Tupper Brown, Nancy Griswold

Others Present: Chief David Hastings, Officer Billy Kimball, Mick LaClaire

Police Department Budget Request (2.1): Chief Hastings requested a level services budget for reasons of increases in longevity for full-time employees and step levels for part-time officers. He requested that \$5,000 be appropriated for step increases for part-time officers, but that amount was reduced by Finance Committee to \$1,000 after calculating the amount of expected hours and the amount of overall step level increases. The overall effect was calculated to be approximately \$750. Chief Hastings agreed that would be fine and explained the original \$5,000 dollars was suggested to him last year in anticipation of the increases.

There was discussion over the call-out and holiday pay and what the rate of holiday pay was. Holiday pay is twice the hourly rate for the Sergeant. Chief Hastings schedules the Sergeant's weekly shifts and that includes holidays. The Sergeant is not on-call, only call-out. The adjusted total budget due to the reduction of the \$5,000 to \$1,000 was \$191,064. Claire Chang requested that the Finance Committee wait to vote on this budget when the rest of the committee could be present.

Chief Hasting and Officer Kimball left at 6:38 PM.

Ronnie La Chance left at 6:50 PM.

Approval of Minutes: John Ward made a motion to accept the SB/FinCom minutes for 2/04/2016, 3/14/2016, and 3/21/2016, Greg Snedeker seconded. Vote passed – 2 yes, 1 absent.

FinCom: Fred Chase made a motion to adopt the SB/FinCom minutes for 2/04/2016, 3/14/2016, and 3/21/2016, Jacob Rau seconded. Vote passed: 4 yes, 3 absent.

Trees and Forestry Request (3.1): Mick LaClaire explained that due to the large number of trees that are dying/dead in town, an extra day of hired tree cutting service has been added to the budget. He explained that when trees are taken down and they abut residential land, those abutters may take the wood for firewood. The town in the past had taken trees down and brought them back to the highway dept. for residents to come and cut and take the wood. But, this raised concerns over liability for the town, and the practice was stopped.

Highway Budget Request (3.2): FY17 is a level funded budget, therefore, all budget lines that called for a decrease in FY17 were eliminated (column J) as requested by the SB/FinCom. The decrease in fuel expenses will be used to address deferred maintenance. One issue that might be addressed in the coming year would be to replace the air compressor within the highway garage since it is causing excessive power surges. Therefore, the highway budget will remain the same at \$251,671. Mick also asked that the Selectboard consider allocating \$3,600 from FY16 funds to chip the brush pile down by the fields at the end of River Rd.

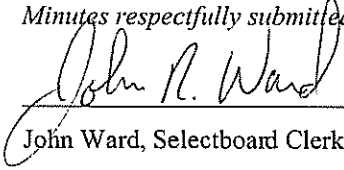
Snow and Ice Budget Request (3.3): Currently the snow and ice budget has \$34,257.13 remaining for this year, therefore there are no changes being requested. Town gravel being stored on private property was raised as a concern. Mick LaClaire responded that the gravel is being reduced. Total budget request for FY 2017 is \$63,970. This is unchanged from FY2016

Street Lighting Budget Request (3.4): There was much praise for the drop in electricity for street lighting. In FY2015, actual expenses were \$6341.19. The request for FY 2017 is \$1500, therefore a reduction of almost \$5,000. Maintenance and repair has also been reduced from \$4,300 to \$2,000. There was much praise for all of Tupper Brown's work in addition to all those on the Energy Commission.

Public Safety Complex Expenses Budget Request (1.20): Level Funded request of \$19,765. There was discussion of the need for the second boiler to engage. Mick LaClaire explained that he questioned if it was necessary. The temperature inside the Safety Complex is comfortable.

Adjournment: The Finance Committee and Selectboard adjourned at 7:40 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Greg Snedeker.*

  
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John Ward, Selectboard Clerk