

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

April 4, 2016

Call to Order: The Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings were called to order at 6:49 PM.

Selectboard Members Present: John Ward, Greg Snedeker, Randy Crochier

Selectboard Members Absent: None

Finance Committee Members Present: Timmie Smith, Tupper Brown, Ronnie LaChance, Jacob Rau, Fred Chase

Finance Committee Members Absent: Claire Chang, Nancy Griswold

Others Present: None

Approval of Minutes: Randy Crochier made a motion, seconded by Greg Snedeker, to accept the SB/FinCom minutes for 3/28/16. Vote passed – 2 yes, 1 abstention by Crochier.

FinCom: Fred Chase made a motion, seconded by Jacob Rau, to adopt the SB/FinCom minutes for 3/28/16 in lieu of separate FinCom minutes. Vote passed: 4 yes, 1 abstention by Tupper Brown.

Mariamante Loan Budget Request (6.2): The FY17 request is to pay down another \$13,700 of principal, with interest of \$827.56. Ronnie LaChance suggested paying down more principal if finances allow. The low interest rate, 0.68% APR, was felt by many to be a reason to keep the payments as they are.

Health Insurance & OPEB Budget Request (6.6): Health insurance rates are increasing by 6.6% for FY17, the first increase in 5 years. The OPEB contribution will be revisited once the total budget picture is better defined. The plan is to contribute at least \$2,500 for FY17, and hopefully repeat FY16's \$6,534 for FY17.

Ronnie La Chance left at 7:10 PM.

FRCOG Budget Request (7.0): Crochier disclosed that he is employed by the FRCOG, but his salary is not part of any of the assessments being discussed. There was minimal discussion, as the assessments are largely viewed as fixed costs. Crochier explained that the Cooperative Public Health Services provides assistance and services for septic systems, housing issues, food inspections, pool permits, and public health nursing.

Education (8.0): Timmie Smith disclosed that she is an elected representative of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee. Tupper Brown disclosed that he is married an elected representative of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee.

There was minimal discussion of the GMRSD and Franklin County Technical School budget requests. Gill's assessment from the GMRSD is up \$8,963 (0.6%) and is generally felt to be "affordable." The assessment from Tech increased from \$62,411 to \$126,096, which is in line with Gill's enrollment doubling from 5 to 10 students. There was discussion about the future of charter schools, and the impact that an expanded number of charter schools will have on regular public schools.

Administrative Assistant Budget Request (1.03): No changes to the expenses for FY17.

Board of Assessors Budget Request (1.06): There is a step increase in FY17 for the Assessors' Clerk. The expenses are down \$470, mostly due to a lower cost from the consultant used for the revaluation process. It was noted that

FY17 is the Triennial Revaluation year. The Assessors are again requesting funds be added to the accounts for the Triennial Revaluation (\$1,500) and the FirstLight Appraisal (\$1,500).

Energy Commission Budget Request (1.17): No change to the expenses for FY17.

Cemetery Commission (3.7): No change to the expenses for FY17. There was discussion of what might happen if the Riverside Cemetery Association dissolves and turns that cemetery over to the Town. It appears that if that happens, the Town will receive enough funds from the Association to cover maintenance during FY17, and that extra money doesn't need to be added to the Cemetery Commission's budget at this time.

Library Budget Request (5.1): Most of the \$812 increase for the Library budget in FY17 is for step increases for the Library Director, Assistant Director, and Custodian, totaling \$671. Expenses for books and magazine subscriptions are up \$141. There was a general question about how the current hours are working at the Library, and whether the Town should be considering an increase in hours for FY18. The question will be passed on to the Library Director and the Trustees.

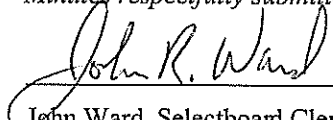
Meeting Schedule: It was decided that no additional budget meetings need to be added to the planned schedule of meetings.

Fin Com Adjournment: The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2016 warrant #21.

Selectboard Adjournment: The Selectboard adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington.



John Ward, Selectboard Clerk