

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 19, 2016

Call to Order: The Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings were called to order at 6:30 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, Claire Chang

Finance Committee Members Absent: Nancy Griswold

Others Present: Janet Masucci, Nick Stevens

PEG Access Budget Request (5.4): It was explained that this is a new budget for FY17 due to changes in regulations put out by the Department of Revenue (DOR). Currently the Town receives revenue from Comcast as part of the cable television license granted by the Town to Comcast. The revenue is to be spent on PEG (Public, Educational, and Governmental) Access programming and related expenses. The Town places the money into a "special revenue fund" and it is spent under the direction of the Cable Committee and Selectboard on PEG Access uses.

Starting with FY17, unless a town adopts MGL Ch. 44 Sect. 53F ¾ to establish a "PEG Access and Cable Related Fund," the DOR not allow the special revenue fund. All money in that fund would have to be closed out to Free Cash, and any new receipts from Comcast would have to go into the General Fund, without any designation that they be used for PEG purposes. There will be several articles on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting related to this issue, in order to make sure that the accumulated PEG Access money is preserved for PEG uses.

The Cable Committee is currently negotiating a 10-year cable television license renewal with Comcast. A focus for the Committee is getting service expanded to roads without cable and internet service. Under the proposed license, Comcast will expand their lines to cover part of Ben Hale Road, most of Route 2 (out to Chase Road), several of the side roads south of Route 2, Atherton Road, and to the last houses on Camp, Pisgah Mountain, and Barney Hale Roads.

Janet Masucci presented the \$10,750 budget request for PEG Access for FY17. It is hoped to not need to spend all of it, but since the cameras and other electronics could be expensive to repair or replace, the budget was built to cover most of those possible expenses. The budget would be funded with a transfer from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, and not from taxation.

Janet Masucci left the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Recreation Committee Budget Request (5.2): Nick Stevens, Chair of the Recreation Committee, presented their \$3,600 budget request for FY17. The Rec programs were re-started in the fall of 2015 and funded during the first year using money from the Recreation Revolving Fund. Stevens explained that the FY17 request includes funds for baseball & softball and soccer programs, but that the Committee isn't ready to start a basketball program yet. The Fall 2015 soccer program had 42 children participate. It was suggested that it would be nice if the Rec could find ways to use the "little diamond" (baseball field) behind the Riverside Building. Most Rec events and offerings are posted or published through the Gill Elementary newsletter. The Committee will try to do more using the Town's website, newsletter, and Facebook pages. Nick Stevens left at 7:30 PM.

Selectboard Budget Request (1.02): The expense budget request is up by \$1,718.06, with the majority (\$1,690) to cover printing costs of 3 years' worth of Annual Reports.

Solid Waste & Recycling / FCSWMD (3.5): FY17 will be the first year of a new two-year contract with Alternative Recycling Systems for curbside collection, hauling, and disposal of trash and recycling. The contract is up 0.5% from FY16, and the price is the same for both years. Because of a sharp decline in the revenue the Town receives for its recyclables (paper and containers), the percentage of the annual assessment for membership in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District that's included in the Town's operating budget will increase from 25% to 50%. In the past, when recyclables generated higher revenue, 100% of the assessment was covered by the revenue deposited into the Solid Waste & Recycling Revolving Fund.

Capital Projects: A request by the Highway Department for a used backhoe was reviewed. The request has been recommended by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee for an amount up to \$60,000. Much of the funding for it could come from funds left over in this year's Snow & Ice budget, as it's been a mild, easy winter. Additional funds could come from what's already in the Highway budget to pay for renting a backhoe. Besides long term savings from no longer needing to rent a backhoe, the other major advantage to owning a backhoe would be as a second piece of equipment with a front bucket, besides the loader. The loader is currently the Town's only piece of equipment capable of filling the plow trucks with sand.

A request from the Police Department to replace the 2005 Crown Vic was also recommended by the CIPC, although it was noted that the recommendation was not unanimous. A hybrid cruiser was considered during the CIPC's discussions, but ultimately it was felt that hybrid cruisers that meet Gill's needs aren't yet available.

There was discussion among the Selectboard and Finance Committee about the condition of the 2005 cruiser ("worn out" said one member), and that if a new cruiser is purchased, it needs to be fully marked with a top-mounted light bar. There was discussion about whether the CIPC recommended a sedan or utility model of the Ford Interceptor. The sedan would be somewhat of a like-for-like replacement of the Crown Vic sedan, while the utility would be largely identical to the 2013 Interceptor primarily driven by the Police Chief. Clarification on sedan vs utility will be sought from the CIPC and Police Chief.

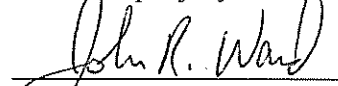
Fred Chase left at 8:45 PM.

Fin Com Adjournment: The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2016 warrant #22.

Selectboard Adjournment: The Selectboard adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington.



John Ward, Selectboard Clerk