

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 27, 2016

Call to Order: The Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings were called to order at 5:37 PM.

Selectboard Members Present: John Ward, Greg Snedeker, Randy Crochier (5:48 PM)

Selectboard Members Absent: None

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

Finance Committee Members Absent:

Others Present: None

Draft 2 of the warrant for the May 9, 2016 Annual Town Meeting was reviewed.

Randy Crochier joined the meeting at 5:48 PM.

On Article 4, which proposes the Town accept and assume operations of the Riverside Cemetery, there was a question about whether the motion could be amended to include a recommendation that green burials be allowed there.

For Article 13, a parenthetical descriptor of “(omnibus budget)” will be added to help clarify the purpose of the article.

Articles 19 and 20 will remain on the warrant to allow for discussion at the Town Meeting, with the expectation that both will be passed over that night. Article 19 deals with a Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC) recommendation to purchase a new police cruiser, and Article 20 is a CIPC recommendation to purchase a used backhoe. It was felt that the Selectboard and Finance Committee need more time to discuss both matters, and that the articles could return as part of a Special Town Meeting later in May or June.

It was noted that all of the Town’s Constables will be away from June 15 – 21, which will need to be factored into the schedule for posting a Special Town Meeting.

Fred Chase and Ronnie LaChance left the meeting at 7:00 PM.

There was a general discussion of the long-range project list that was once developed by the CIPC, and the need for it to be updated. Greg, as Chair of the CIPC, indicated that the list could be freshened up for the May 9th meeting, and that he would ask the CIPC to undertake a more complete update.

There was a brief discussion about the status of a FEMA grant application to provide 20 replacement air packs for the Fire Department. To date, there has been no news about a grant award, yea or nay. Without a decision on the grant, there is no clear indication of what action the Town might need to take, and therefore there is no article about the air packs for May 9th.

Ray reported that the website that hosts the Town’s calendar for committee meetings is temporarily offline due to a malware infection, and will be permanently shut down at the end of May. He presented a proposal from Montague Webworks for setting up and temporarily hosting a new calendar for 3 months at a cost of \$390. As the online

calendar is the way the Town complies with Open Meeting Law for posting requirements, Ray will proceed with the temporary calendar using funds from the FY16 Information Technology budget.

The Montague Webworks proposal also included pricing to convert the entire Gill website to a new platform that would be modeled after ones in use by the Towns of Greenfield, Leyden, and Plainfield. As the platform (programming language) for Gill's current website is approximately 8 years old, and disruptive malware attacks on the site have become more frequent, Ray recommended adding \$2,000 to the FY17 Information Technology budget to cover the \$1,500 setup fee and \$30/month hosting fee associated with a new website.

Starstruck Design, the Gill company that designed the current website, is not interested in working on a new site for the Town. Startup costs from Virtual Towns and Schools, another municipal website provider, begin at \$4,200.

The extra request will be evaluated alongside all other requested increases when the complete Omnibus Budget is reviewed next week.

Adjournment: The Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington.

Approved on 04/19/2017. Signed copy on file.

John Ward, Selectboard Clerk

Adopted by the Finance Committee in lieu of separate Finance Committee minutes on 04/19/2017.