

TOWN OF GILL

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



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2017

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

Members Present: Randy Crochier (6:45 PM), Greg Snedeker, John Ward Members Absent: none

Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant; Janet Masucci, Gene Beaubien

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2018 warrant #6.

Randy Crochier joined the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Fire Department – Update on Vehicles: Greg and Fire Chief Gene Beaubien reported on discussions from the 8/24/17 meeting of the Board of Engineers related to plans to purchase a new fire truck. In light of several significant repairs in the last month to the Rescue Van and Engine 3, there is a new consensus among the Engineers that it makes more sense to plan to purchase two smaller pieces of equipment (a rescue truck and a pumper-tanker), rather than one large fire truck. Most of the Engineers feel that replacing the Rescue Van is the highest priority, although it has been pointed out that a rescue truck cannot be used to fight a fire.

The current thinking about replacement vehicles is to simultaneously look for a used rescue truck and a used pumper-tanker, both no more than 5 years old. The Engineers will be searching websites and other sources of used fire equipment, gathering examples of pricing for the kinds of vehicles that suit our needs.

There was also consensus among the Engineers to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for funds to replace Engine 1, which is 30 years old. Engine 1 is considered an “open cab” design because two firefighters ride on the outside of the cab. Removing open cab firetrucks from service has been one of the priorities of the AFG program.

In their discussion, the Selectboard was supportive of this new approach toward updating the Town’s aging fleet of fire vehicles. It was pointed out that in order to be able to make a deposit to hold and then purchase good condition used vehicles, the Town will need to have funds already in place. Also, the budget for the purchases will need to include funds for travel to inspect vehicles, in case they are not located within a reasonable distance from Gill.

Recognition of Service: The Selectboard recognized and thanked Chief Beaubien for 25 years of “Exemplary Service as a Firefighter, Engineer and Chief of the Gill Fire Department and [his] many valuable contributions to Fire Services and Emergency Management in our Town.”

Firefighter Departures: Beaubien informed the Selectboard that Firefighters Tyler Richardson and Cameron Tucker have left the Department, and that Engineer Paul Sweeney will be leaving soon. All are leaving for reasons related to other employment opportunities. Beaubien left the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Review of Minutes: Greg made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of 8/15/17 and 8/21/17. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Sewer I&I Study: Nothing to report.

Gill Elementary Well: Kudos were given to Mick LaClaire and John Miner from the Highway Department for a fine job installing the settling tank and leach field for the water treatment system. Thanks were also given to Doug and Corwin Edson for their assistance on the project. Ray reported that DEP expects to review the treatment system application sometime this month.

Mariamante Property/Community Solar: Nothing to report.

Annual Reports: Nothing to report.

French King Bridge Cameras: Erving gained temporary access to the camera system on 9/1/17, and is working to get a permanent account set up and to establish access for Gill.

Highway Department Updates: Ray reported that there have been no developments on two matters involving the Highway Department – speed bumps on Mount Hermon Road, and a cost estimate to open the “Road to Scott Place.” Parts have been ordered for the repairs to the New Holland roadside mower.

Riverside Building Ramp: The Selectboard discussed progress in the construction of the new handicap ramp at the Riverside Building. The work is being done by Eddie Ambo of the Highway Department, with assistance from Mike Hastings as a temporary laborer. There were positive comments about how it looks so far, and it was decided to not install lattice to enclose the area beneath the ramp, as it looks better without the lattice and will be easier to maintain. The end of the ramp in the parking lot will need to be backfilled in order to provide the correct grade on the approach to the ramp. Ray also noted that the two classroom windows that were refurbished this summer have been reinstalled, with a small amount of touch-up painting yet to be done.

Gill's 225th Anniversary: Randy reported that five people have volunteered to assist in the planning of events to celebrate the Town's 225th anniversary. The Franklin County Boat Club has also expressed interest in an anniversary event held in conjunction with their annual Christmas in July celebration. A first meeting has been tentatively scheduled for 9/14/17 (later rescheduled to 9/26/17). The Town was incorporated on September 28, 1793.

Clerical Resignation: Ray reported that Natty Hussey, the Clerical Assistant to the ZBA, Planning Board, Board of Health, and Conservation Commission, has given notice of his intent to resign from the position, citing increased time demands due to starting grad school this fall. Hussey has offered to work during the search for his replacement. The Selectboard authorized Ray to start the process to hire a new Clerical Assistant.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Update: The Town will be receiving assistance from the FRCOG to update the 2011 Open Space & Recreation Plan. Ray will send out an email and newspaper blurb seeking volunteers to help with the update. An online poll will be used to establish the date of the first work session.

CDBG Public Hearing: It was noted there will be a public hearing for a status report on the FY2016 Bernardston/Gill/Rowe CDBG Projects. The meeting will be September 13th at 6:05 PM in the Bernardston Town Hall. There are still housing rehabilitation funds available for Gill residents through this grant, and interested residents are encouraged to sign up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

Signed copy on file. Approved on 09/18/2017

Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk