

TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2018

Called to Order: The Selectboard was called to order at 6:05 PM. The Finance Committee was called to order at 6:08 PM.

Selectboard Members Present: Randy Crochier, John Ward, Greg Snedeker Members Absent: None

Finance Committee Members Present: Sandy Brown, Timmie Smith, Ronnie LaChance, Tupper Brown (6:08 PM)
Members Absent: Claire Chang

Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Review of Minutes: There were no minutes ready for review.

Review of FY19 Budget Requests:

1.10 Information Technology – The FY19 budget request of \$4,260 is a \$40 increase from FY18. While the FY18 budget includes \$1,200 of one-time website costs that will not be repeated in FY19, the savings is offset by the need to move the Town’s email hosting to a more comprehensive and expensive service. Currently email is hosted by Readyhosting for \$49.50 per year for an unlimited number of email accounts. There have been several multi-day service interruptions in the past year, and getting the problems resolved was an overly technical process and very time consuming for Ray. Additionally, Readyhosting does not save archived copies of all received emails, which is required if the Town is to be in full compliance with the Public Records Law.

Ray recommended switching the email to Montague WebWorks, which will host the email and provide email archiving for \$3 per month per email address. There are currently 35 active email accounts, and the \$1,440 requested in the FY19 budget will provide funds for up to 40 accounts. There was a question about the stability of the \$3/month pricing, and Ray will ask Montague WebWorks if they can give estimated pricing over a 3-5 year time frame.

Tupper made a motion, seconded by Sandy, to support the request as presented. The Finance Committee voted 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, and 1 absent. Greg made a motion, seconded by John, to support the request as presented. The Selectboard voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

1.19 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance: \$18,250 is requested for FY19, which is an increase of \$250 over the current year. Ray explained the increase is intended to keep up with inflation, and is not for any particular project. There was a discussion of the best practices for “replacement reserves”, and whether the Town ought to be budgeting more than a half percent (0.5%) per year for maintenance of its buildings. There was interest in finding out the cost to have a maintenance survey performed on all the town buildings. Tupper will ask for information from the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which recently had this sort of evaluation performed on their property.

3.6 Sewer: Ray distributed an excerpt from the Montague Reporter’s 3/1/18 issue’s coverage of a Montague Selectboard’s discussion of that town’s rising sewer rates. Due to the closure of the Southworth paper mill and the loss of revenue from treating sludge from other towns’ treatment plants, the sewer rate is expected to increase by more than 45% this fall. While it is too soon to predict the impact on Gill’s sewer rates, the gravity of the situation prompted the suggestion of an article about sewer rates in the upcoming issue of the Gill Newsletter, in order to forewarn Riverside Sewer System customers and begin conversations about what can be done.

The Finance Committee and Selectboard adjourned their meetings at 7:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

Signed copy on file. Approved on 04/09/2018

Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk

Adopted by the Finance Committee in lieu of separate Finance Committee minutes on 04/19/2018.