

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, 2018

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

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

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

Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant; Mick LaClaire, Highway Superintendent

DEP Consent Order for Gill Elementary Well: By consensus the Selectboard signed a DEP-issued Administrative Consent Order for a water treatment system at the Gill Elementary School. However, as negotiations are in process with DEP for a reduced penalty, Ray will hold the signed documents and submit them only if DEP refuses to modify the ACO.

Timmie Smith joined the meeting at 6:08 PM. The Finance Committee was called to order at 6:10 PM.

Review of Minutes: Tupper made a motion, seconded by Timmie, to adopt the Selectboard minutes of 3/26/18 and 4/3/18 in lieu of Finance Committee minutes for the same dates. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Review of FY19 Budget Requests:

1.20 Public Safety Complex: Highway Superintendent Mick LaClaire presented an operating budget for the Public Safety Complex with a 3% increase from \$19,765 to \$20,357. The increase is attributable to a higher monthly cost for Comcast's internet service, and a \$0.20/gallon increase in the price of heating oil in FY19. As a way to decrease the monthly demand for electricity, it was suggested to purchase a new air compressor with a capacitor start and variable frequency drive motor. Timmie made a motion, seconded by Tupper, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

3.1 Trees & Forestry: LaClaire's requested budget for Trees & Forestry increased by \$180 from \$8,111 to \$8,291. The increase is for the annual dues to the Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association. Timmie made a motion, seconded by Ronnie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

3.2 Highway Department: The FY19 budget request for the Highway Department was reviewed. It was requested that in the future, specifics be provided for the actual salaries paid for each position. The request is a decrease of \$1,560, from \$249,480 to \$247,920. The requested amount for gasoline is lower because the Department no longer has access to the shared bucket truck. The budgeted amount for diesel fuel has been reduced to be more in line with actual expenses over the last several years. LaClaire explained the recent increase in expenses for road materials is being done in order to shift the cost of gravel roads out of the Chapter 90 funds and back into the Town budget, the way it used to be until the mid-year budget cuts of FY08. Tupper made a motion, seconded by Ronnie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

3.3 Snow & Ice Removal: Although \$1,000 was shifted from Fuel to Overtime/Part-time Help, the overall FY19 request is unchanged from FY18, at \$63,970. LaClaire noted the sand and salt shed is full, and ready for next winter. Timmie made a motion, seconded by Ronnie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus. LaClaire left the meeting at 7:20 PM.

1.13 Conservation Commission: The request for FY19 is \$833.00, which is a \$0.24 increase due to rounding. Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Timmie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

1.14 Agricultural Commission: The request for FY19 is level-funded at \$400. Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Timmie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

4.1 Board of Health: The request for FY19 increased by \$601.44, from \$7,778.56 to \$8,380. The \$600 increase is for a new program to provide cost-sharing funds so that Gill residents can have ticks tested for only \$15 per tick. Without the BOH's involvement in the testing program and the BOH's \$15 cost-share, the regular cost is \$50 per tick. Randy, who is also a member of the BOH, noted the \$1,250 request for training is being continued forward from FY18 to FY19 because neither he nor Doug Edson had an opportunity to take training classes this year. Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Timmie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

4.2 Council on Aging: The request for FY19 increased by \$622, from \$8,040 to \$8,662. Most of the increase is attributable to Gill's 20% share of the salary and benefits for the Senior Center Director. Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Timmie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

5.1 Library: The request for FY19 increased by \$680, from \$27,603 to \$28,283, with all of the increase due to scheduled raises for Library staff. Timmie made a motion, seconded by Ronnie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

5.3 Historical Commission: The request for FY19 increased by \$15, from \$860 to \$875. Timmie made a motion, seconded by Ronnie, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

6.1 Town Insurance: The request for FY19 increased by \$488, from \$41,668 to \$42,156, and will include approximately \$1.2 million in additional coverage for insured building values. (A similar increase in building coverage last year cost an extra \$1,588.) The Gill-Montague Regional School District is responsible for insuring the Gill Elementary School. Ray will ask for a copy of that policy so the Town can decide if the building is adequately insured. Ronnie made a motion, seconded by Tupper, to approve the budget request. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. The Selectboard approved the request by consensus.

Adjournment: The Selectboard and Finance Committee adjourned their meetings at 8:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

Signed copy on file. Approved on 06/25/2018

Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk

Adopted by the Finance Committee in lieu of separate Finance Committee minutes on 06/25/2018.