

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

May 31, 2018

Called to Order: The Selectboard and Finance Committee were called to order at 5:10 PM.

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

Finance Committee Members Present: Claire Chang, Sandy Brown, Tupper Brown, Peter Turban, Timmie Smith, and Ronnie LaChance Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

FY19 Budget – 1.03A Administrative Clerk: A budget for the proposed Administrative Clerk position was distributed and reviewed. The salary of \$13,750 is based upon 15 hours per week at a rate of \$17.46/hour (level 4-A on the wage scale). The budget includes \$600 for expenses. There was discussion about how the position will be shared among the departments and committees, and it was decided the position will report to Ray, who will allocate the person's time among the many needs. Some of the funding for this new position is being "found" from the Clerical Assistant salary lines within the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health, and Conservation Commission budgets.

Sandy made a motion, seconded by Tupper, to approve the requested amount. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6.1 Town Insurance: A revised budget request for Town Insurance was distributed. The quotation for FY19's coverage for Police & Fire Accident Insurance has been received, and the amount decreased from \$10,479 to \$9,936. The reduction is due to a lower headcount for part-time police officers and firefighters. Tupper made a motion, seconded by Peter, to approve the revised figure of \$41,613 for Town Insurance. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

"Big Picture" Budget: The handout for the overall FY19 budget was distributed. It was noted the lines for the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Health still include the originally budgeted amounts for the Clerical Assistant. Those amounts will be subtracted from the committees and added into the separate line for the Administrative Clerk.

There was a discussion about how to fund the FY19 payments for the Energy Bond and the related supplemental interest on the bond. In prior years the Town has "clawed back" from the GMRSD's operating assessment an amount equal to the energy savings reported in the annual measurement and verification report produced by Siemens. However, the agreement with Siemens was terminated by the Selectboard earlier this year as it was felt the energy savings being guaranteed by Siemens were not realistic (due to flawed energy data in 2011 and stagnant energy prices), and the value of the guarantee was not worth the cost of the annual contract with Siemens.

In the discussion of options for funding the Energy Bond, there was consideration given to continuing the "claw back" arrangement, splitting the Bond cost between the Town (through taxation) and the GMRSD (claw back), and shifting the financial burden solely onto the Town through taxation. There was a certain feeling of being "bamboozled" by Siemens into a bad deal, and it was felt to be unfair to put 86% of the project cost onto the taxpayers of Montague.

There was a general sense that having the Town take over the payments would be within the spirit of the Technical Panel's "Table B." Something has changed from the original assumptions about the Siemens project at the Elementary School. Town officials have revisited the situation, and are making the appropriate adjustments. Greg

made a motion, seconded by John, to have the Town take over the financial responsibility for the bond payments. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Ray will notify Joanne Blier of the decision.

FY19 Projects and Stabilization Funds: A list of capital projects was reviewed, and decisions made about dollar amounts to each project. Funded projects will appear as warrant articles for the June 19th Special Town Meeting.

- Paving at the Safety Complex - \$32,000, with \$12,000 coming from a transfer from the FY18 Snow & Ice budget, and \$20,000 from Free Cash. If approved by Town Meeting, expenditures will not be authorized until the Selectboard receives an accurate quote for the work.
- New Police Cruiser – no funds allocated, no article for the Special Town Meeting
- Repair of a Snow Plow - \$10,000 coming from a transfer from the FY18 Snow & Ice budget
- Riverside Building Hallway Painting & Flooring - \$8,000 from Free Cash
- Flooring for Police & Fire Department Office Areas - \$16,000 from Free Cash
- Second Set of Double Doors at Gill Elementary - \$20,000 from Free Cash. If approved by Town Meeting, expenditures will not be authorized until the Selectboard receives a budget and estimates for the entire project.
- Building HVAC Controls at the Turners Falls High School - \$8,000 from Free Cash
- Architect (Owner’s Project Manager and Designer) for MSBA-funded Roof Project at Gill Elementary - \$10,000 from taxation and \$10,000 from Free Cash, as a starting point, at least until the project is accepted by the MSBA for funding.
- Roof Replacement at the Riverside Building - \$5,025 from a transfer from the FY18 Building Maintenance budget, and \$14,975 from Free Cash.

Additionally, there will be \$14,495 from taxation recommended for the Education Stabilization Fund.

It was decided the June 19th Special Town Meeting will start at 6:55 PM, preceding the second half of the Annual Town Meeting, in order to allow the evening to end with the article related to investigating changes to the Massachusetts state flag and seal.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

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

John Ward, Selectboard Clerk

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