



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

May 9, 2022

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting
bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
 (all other times are approximate)

Location: Gill Town Hall, 2nd Floor

5:30 PM Call to Order (If the meeting is being videotaped, announce that fact. If remote participation will occur, announce member & reason, & need for roll call voting)

Old Business

- Review of Minutes from 7/6/21, 3/28/22 and 4/11/22

New Business

- Invitation to Memorial Day Services – Sunday, May 29th 9:30 at Gill Church and Veterans Monuments
- Letter from Franklin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee re Ambulance Service to towns without a contract with an EMS Agency
- Review and Sign Warrant for May 23rd Town Meeting (may also be done during 6 PM joint meeting with Finance Committee)
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
 - “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day – Saturday, May 14th, 9AM-Noon
 - Gill Historical Commission presentation on Robert Darr Wert and Country Prints – Saturday, May 21st, 1-3 PM at Gill Town Hall
- Warrants
 FY22 #22 Vendors (\$115,396.21) & Payroll (\$22,303.95) – reviewed & signed on 4/25/22
 FY22 #23 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 5/9	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Gill Town Hall, 2 nd floor
Mon 5/23	TBD	Selectboard meeting	Gill Town Hall, 2 nd floor
Mon 5/23		Town Meeting	Gill Town Hall, 2 nd floor

TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 6, 2021

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Greg Snedeker, Charles Garbiel, and Randy Crochier Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Janet Masucci, and Kyle Dragon

Follow-up on Nuisance Dog: Animal Control Officer Kyle Dragon met with the Selectboard to provide an update on a nuisance dog at 91 Main Road. The dog Lucy, owned by Wes Johnson, was determined to be a nuisance at the Selectboard's April 12, 2021 meeting. As part of the conditions set by the Selectboard at that time a kennel was to be constructed on the property, and the dog was to be confined or restrained at all times when it is outside. Dragon stated the kennel was completed on May 14th, however, since that date there have been eight separate complaints of a dog running loose on Main and/or South Cross Roads where the dog was confirmed as Lucy or matched Lucy's description. Ray stated he spoke with Mr. Johnson via telephone on June 30th, informed him of this meeting, and recommended he attend.

Dragon reported the kennel has since been deconstructed and there is now a swimming pool in its place. He noted the use of the kennel also applies to the dog Mozzi, which lives at 91 Main Road, is owned by Rufus Thomas, and was determined to be a nuisance at the same April 12th meeting. Dragon asked the Selectboard to institute a seizure order for the dog Lucy. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to authorize Ray to send a letter to Mr. Johnson instructing the kennel be reconstructed and inspected within a timeframe to be specified by Dragon, and notifying Mr. Johnson his dog Lucy will be seized by the Animal Control Office if she is again found to be running at large. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Dragon left the meeting at 5:42 PM.

Review of Minutes: No minutes were ready for review and approval.

Gill Elementary School Floor: Bids for the floor replacement project will be opened on July 7th. Ray reported color selection is proceeding for the new epoxy floors.

Follow-up on Highway Truck Votes at June 26th Town Meeting: The Selectboard discussed the June 26th Town Meeting votes on purchasing a new truck for the Highway Department. The vote to purchase the new truck was made contingent on passage of a debt exclusion, and the ballot vote is scheduled for July 12th. A subsequent article approved \$30,000 that can be used by the Selectboard to repair the 2009 Sterling truck. Frustrations with the reliability and performance of the 2009 Sterling's emissions system led to the Highway Department requested a new truck. The Selectboard decided to wait until after the July 12th debt exclusion vote before making any decisions on the use of the \$30,000.

Town Hall Basement Wetness: The June 26th Town Meeting also approved adding \$20,000 to the funds set aside to address wetness in the Town Hall's basement, bringing the total available funds to \$53,418. The additional funds were suggested by the Board of Assessors as part of a multi-year plan to accumulate enough money to figure out and solve the problem. Ray stated his time to work on the project is limited, at least until the administrative clerk is hired. A newsletter article about the project was suggested as a way to drum up one or more volunteers to coordinate and champion the project.

Chapter 61 Notice of Intent to Sell: On June 21, 2021 the Town was notified by Attorney Robert Carey that his clients James and Sonja McComb have entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Mary Meyer for their 6.51-acre parcel of land on Dole Road. The parcel, identified as Lot 11.2 on the Assessors' Map 208, is currently enrolled in the Chapter 61A program. Meyer intends to construct a home on the property, which means it must be withdrawn from Chapter 61A. Taking land out of Chapter 61A triggers a "right of first refusal" by which the Town

can exercise its right to purchase the land by matching any bona fide offer, in this case, the \$162,500 offered by Meyer in the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

The right of first refusal process requires notice also be given to the Board of Assessors, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board. The Selectboard took no action in order to allow time for these other town public bodies to discuss the matter and offer their recommendations.

Special Auction Permit: Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to grant a Special Auction Permit to Jerrold Wood of Templeton, Massachusetts to conduct an auction on Saturday, July 10th at the former Green River Power Sports at 1 Main Road. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Appointments: Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles to appoint John Ward as the Selectboard's representative to the Franklin Regional Planning Board through June 30, 2022. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to re-appoint Lynda Hodsdon Mayo as Assistant Town Clerk from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Accounting Program Renewal: Charles made a motion, seconded by Greg, to approve a 3-year renewal (7/1/21 – 6/30/24) with the FRCOG for Professional Municipal Accounting Services and the accompanying accounting software use agreement. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Randy recused himself from the discussion and vote, as he is an employee of the FRCOG.

Inspection Program Renewal: Charles made a motion, seconded by Greg, to approve a 3-year renewal (7/1/21 - 6/30/22) with the FRCOG for building, plumbing & gas, and wiring inspections and zoning enforcement services. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Randy recused himself from the discussion and vote, as he is an employee of the FRCOG.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2021 warrant # 27 with totals of \$74,989.09 for vendors and \$20,767.18 for payroll, and FY 2022 warrants # 1 and 1A with totals of \$150,635.83 for vendors and \$2,757.36 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 04/11/2022

Charles Garbiel, Selectboard Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

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



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2022

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Greg Snedeker, Randy Crochier and Charles Garbiel Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Jerri Higgins, Janet Masucci, Isaac Bingham, Chris Redmond, and Bill Kimball

Re-establish Recreation Committee: Isaac Bingham of 411 Main Road met with the Selectboard to discuss his desire to re-establish the Recreation Committee. First approved by a Town Meeting vote in 1977, the Recreation Committee has come and gone over the years, mostly due to committee members joining and leaving as their school-age children age into and out of the typical K-6 grade range for recreation programs. The committee was last active around 2017. Bingham explained he has a child in 2nd grade, another in kindergarten, and a third who is not yet of school age. He and River Road resident Phil Galluzzo, who also has a child in the lower grades at Gill Elementary, want to start a Gill soccer team in the Vernon Rec program this fall for grades 1-3.

Galluzzo, who played Division III soccer in college, and Bingham would be coaches, and Bingham, his wife Sorrel Hatch, and Galluzzo would be members of the Recreation Committee. Per the 1977 vote, the Moderator, who happens to be Bingham, appoints members. Ray stated his research has found Bingham can appoint himself to the Recreation Committee. Expenses for the fall soccer program could be covered by the existing Recreation Revolving Fund, which has a balance of \$6,230. A \$1,000 appropriation for the Recreation Committee has been requested in the FY23 budget. There were no objections from the Selectboard about the use of the revolving fund.

There was a discussion of including an article for this year's Town Meeting that would update the makeup of the Recreation Committee from the current 5 members, all of whom must be Gill residents, to a range of 3 to 7 members, with non-residents allowed as members so long as residents comprise the majority of the Committee. By consensus the Selectboard approved including such an article. Bingham left the meeting at 5:42 PM.

Replacement of 2013 Police Cruiser: Randy stated he requested this topic be added to today's agenda after last week's budget meeting discussion about the Police Department's capital request to replace the 2013 cruiser. If an order for a new cruiser must wait until after Town Meeting, or after a debt exclusion vote, by then many other cities and towns will have approved their purchases and placed orders, and the lead time for our vehicle could be very long. Additionally, the prices for new vehicles are not decreasing any time soon. Police Chief Chris Redmond and part-time officer Bill Kimball were present to answer questions.

The Selectboard discussed funds available to the Selectboard without prior appropriation by a Town Meeting vote. The NMH Donation account current has a balance of approximately \$66,000, with an additional \$50,000 expected in August. There is roughly \$218,000 available from ARPA funds after paying for identified projects for the Gill Elementary School floors, a flow meter at the Riverside sewer pump station, and a photocopier for Town Hall. Greg and Charles voiced their support for getting a new cruiser on order, and noted this purchase has the support of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to authorize the purchase of a new 2022 Ford Interceptor hybrid police cruiser at a total cost not to exceed \$60,000 using a combination of NMH Donations, ARPA funds, and other funds as may become available. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

There was a short discussion about providing the 2013 cruiser to the police training academy once the new cruiser has been received. Redmond left the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Removal of Land from Chapter 61: The Selectboard received a request from Richard French and Emily Samuels to remove 1.94 acres of their land from the Chapter 61 Forest Land program to gift to their son. The request triggers the "right of first refusal" by which the Town could match a bona fide offer for the land or assign the right to a land conservation agency. Ray explained the request has also been sent to the Board of Assessors, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission, as required by the Chapter 61 law, and he recommended the Selectboard take no action on the request until the other boards have weighed in.

ARPA Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Relief Spending Plan: The Selectboard discussed potential uses for the ARPA funds that have and will be received. To date the Town has received half of its \$437,898.50 allocation, with the balance expected later this year. The Selectboard discussed ways to prioritize the use of the ARPA funds. Projects that meet capital needs of the Town and help to reduce the tax burden on residents were felt to be a priority. The "lost revenue" option, which is one of the categories of allowable ways to spend the ARPA funds, is felt to provide the Town the most flexibility and greatest ability to accomplish its priorities. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to claim the lost revenue option for 100% of the Town's ARPA funds. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Three potential projects using ARPA funds were discussed: Gill Elementary School flooring replacement, flow meter for the Riverside sewer pump station, and a photocopier for Town Hall. The flooring project at Gill Elementary School was approved by Town Meeting in June 2021, and the discussion at that time included a hope that ARPA funds could be used to avoid borrowing for the \$300,000 project. The first phase of work was completed last summer, and the second phase will take place this summer. The total project cost is currently estimated at \$260,000. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to approve the use of up to \$260,000 of ARPA funds for the Gill Elementary School flooring project, including the \$75,000 state earmark of ARPA funds. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

The existing flow meter at the Riverside sewer pump station is not accurate or reliable, as it gets air-bound and provides inaccurate readings soon after it has been calibrated. The meter provides the figures used to report the volume of sewage pumped from Riverside into Montague's sewer system for treatment. Ray noted that as part of a 2011-2012 project to replace the two pumps at the station, an income survey was conducted of the households connected to the Riverside sewer system, and the survey determined the project could be eligible for Community Development Block Grant funds because most of the residents were at low- and moderate-income levels. A meter replacement project has been estimated at approximately \$19,000 and Ray recommended increasing the total to \$25,000 to cover contingencies and inflation. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to approve the use of up to \$25,000 of ARPA funds for the meter replacement project at the Riverside sewer pump station. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

The multifunction copier/printer/scanner/fax machine at Town Hall was donated to the Town used in 2013. Recently the machine has needed service calls to repair problems with the drum motor and a dead fuser fan. Due to the age of the machine, replacement parts are scarce. Ray recommended spending up to \$10,000 to purchase either a new or used machine. In the current COVID economy, lead times for new machines can be several months, so a used, off-lease machine with a low copy count could be the best bet. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to approve the use of up to \$10,000 of ARPA funds to purchase a replacement multifunction copier/printer/scanner/fax for Town Hall. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Roads Scholar Designation: Highway Superintendent John Miner has been designated as a Roads Scholar by the Baystate Roads program. The designation is earned by attending 35 contact hours of eligible Baystate Roads courses, and signifies skills and knowledge in the technical and safety areas of roads and road maintenance, as well as training on state and national standards. The Selectboard congratulated Miner on the achievement.

Sewer Commitment: The Selectboard reviewed the sewer commitment # 2022-003 and user data for January - March 2022. Randy made a motion, seconded by Charles, to approve and sign the sewer commitment of \$46,047.61 with a bill date of April 13, 2022. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. During the discussion it was noted the reading for 1 Main Road seemed high for a closed business and vacant building, and the situation has been reported to James McMahon, the attorney for Leaf Joy, which is the future occupant of the property.

Update on Police Regionalization Talks: Randy provided an update on his discussions with area law enforcement agencies about the possibility of regionalizing police services. He and Police Chief Chris Redmond met recently with their counterparts from Erving, and it was suggested the towns seek funding from the FRCOG to assist with further exploration of regionalization.

Fire Department Purchase Order: Under “Other Business” Deputy Fire Chief Bill Kimball requested approval of a \$14,586 purchase order to Firematic Supply for the purchase of a set of electric cutters, in-vehicle battery charger, and a generator adapter. The purchase will complete the hydraulic power to electric power conversion of the Fire Department’s Jaws of Life started last year with a grant-funded purchase of an electric spreader tool. Kimball has determined funds to purchase the electric cutters are available within the Department’s FY22 budget, and the purchase will not affect the planned purchase of two sets of replacement turnout gear. The purchase order was approved by consensus.

A joint budget meeting (separate minutes) with the Selectboard and Finance Committee started at 6:30 PM. The Selectboard returned to this meeting at 8:10 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2022 warrant # 21 with totals of \$26,774.90 for vendors and \$22,768.06 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 05/09/2022

Charles Garbiel, Selectboard Clerk

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Gill Memorial Committee

Subject: Memorial Day Ceremony Invitation

Dear Board of Selectmen,

The Memorial Committee would like to extend to you this invitation to attend the Town of Gill Memorial Day services beginning at 9:30 AM, Sunday, May 29, 2022 at the Gill Church. After the service at the church, a rose ceremony will be held at the Veterans Monuments, thereby concluding our Memorial Day observance.

If you have any questions, please contact Merri Bourbeau at (413)863-8613. Thank you.

Respectively,

Gary & Merri Bourbeau 413/768-9543

Doug & Elaine Smith 863-3115

Tony Zager 413/522-6915

Gill Memorial Committee

Dear Selectboards, Town Administrators and others responsible for the provision of emergency services:

On behalf of the Franklin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee, we are writing to discuss the status of EMS in Franklin County. As EMS is not considered an essential service in Massachusetts, each EMS service is independently funded, regardless of if they are municipal or private. Under 105 CMR 170.500 (B)(1)-(5), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires each municipality to develop an EMS Service Zone Plan for their community. A Service Zone Plan identifies the responsible organization(s) which will provide EMS services.

Through our research, we have identified many communities that do not have a contracted ambulance service, which is putting a significant strain on the delivery of EMS services in Franklin County. There are direct and indirect costs associated with the delivery of EMS services. Agencies must budget operational costs to keep ambulances and the EMTs or paramedics who staff them operational and available to respond. They are, however, only able to bill for the actual transportation of a patient. Responding to a motor vehicle crash where no occupant wants to be transported to the hospital, for example, cannot be billed. This balance of availability and response has been further impacted with declining reimbursement rates, and the costs of doing business increasing every year, forcing each ambulance service to critically evaluate their budget and operational costs. There is also a disparity between the cost to a community, and ambulance service, to provide Basic Life Support (BLS), where basic EMTs transport a patient to the hospital, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services, where paramedics can provide more specific treatments and medications while on the way to a hospital.

In recognition of these challenges, and to avoid the possibility of an ambulance not showing up when requested through 911, we are reviewing the current operational structure and run cards of ambulances throughout the county. Run cards help 911 dispatchers determine the ambulance service which will respond to a community when their primary service is unavailable. For those communities who provide ambulance service, the ambulance service director will be reviewing and confirming their current EMS run cards to ensure the communities listed with our regional dispatch center are actually contracted with the listed providers.

If your community does not provide primary ambulance services, we propose two different models for continued service delivery:

Option 1: will include a fee being charged directly to municipalities which do not have a contract with an EMS agency for each response requested into their community. This fee has been proposed and agreed to by all Franklin County Ambulance Services and will initially be set at \$350 per request for service.

Option 2: would be to contract with an ambulance service to provide emergency medical response services to your community.

We welcome conversations and inquires to be directed through myself as the President of The Franklin County EMS Committee and I can assist with contacting other directors of local ambulance services, using my contact information below. You may also contact your Fire Chief/EMS Director.

Respectfully,
Matt Wolkenbreit, NRP
President – Franklin County EMS Committee
matt@community911training.org