



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

November 4, 2024

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

Location: Riverside Municipal Building, classroom, 54 French King Highway, Gill

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: 8/29/22, 9/12/22, 10/11/22, 11/21/22, 12/5/22, 12/19/22, 1/30/23, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/28, 3/30, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/20, 7/3, 9/11, 9/25, 11/06, 11/27, 12/4, 1/2, 2/12, 2/26, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, 5/21, 6/3, 6/17, 7/1, 7/15, 8/12, 10/21
- Digital Equity Open House – summary of comments and suggestions re: internet affordability, device access, digital literacy, internet security, etc

New Business

- Review and approve Green Communities annual report for FY24
- Appoint 2 Members of the Sewer Commission
 - 2-year term expiring June 30, 2026:
 - 3-year term expiring June 30, 2027:
- Gill Elementary School – Roof Replacement Project
 - Invited to participate in the Mass School Building Authority’s “Accelerated Repair” program
 - MSBA’s share is 77.47% of all eligible costs; Gill’s is 22.53%
 - 3 months to appropriate funds for schematic design; \$48,439 already set aside; estimated cost of schematic design TBD; will need a Special Town Meeting to appropriate the rest
 - GMRSD will be forming a building committee for the project – volunteers wanted
 - Many more details to follow
- CPHS Regional Opioid Settlement Projects for FY25 & FY26 – Gill’s share = \$394/year
 - Special Town Meeting article to transfer funds from Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund
- Riverside Municipal Building – ideas for ways to use the space, types of tenants
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
- Warrants
FY25 #09 Vendors (\$101,615.31) & Payroll (\$36,698.81) – reviewed/signed on 10/21/24
FY25 #09A and #10 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 11/11		Veterans’ Day Holiday	
Mon 11/18	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

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



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2024

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

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

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Kate Savage, Tim Batchelder, Bill Kimball, Gene Beaubien, Dan Flagg, Walter Huston, John Richardson, Vicky Jenkins, and Jan Ameen

Tires for new brush truck: Deputy Fire Chief Bill Kimball updated the Selectboard on the purchase order for off-road tires for the new brush truck, which was first requested at the September 23, 2024 meeting. He was unable to find anything to document the truck had been ordered with off-road tires and has concluded the truck vendor supplied tires in accordance with our order. Several days after the September 23rd meeting the Fire Department was approached by Doug Smith of Doug's Auto Body, who offered to donate the labor and material to paint red the six tire rims. Kimball explained the net cost for the new tires, after the credit for trading in the tires supplied with the truck, would still be within the total budget approved for the truck. Once the rims are painted and the new tires are installed, there will be a \$40 per tire expense to balance the tires, which will be paid from the Fire Department's budget. The purchase order for the tires was approved by consensus.

Kimball and Fire Chief Gene Beaubien reported the new fire truck, a Pierce Responder, is scheduled to arrive Wednesday, October 23rd. Beaubien, Kimball, and Richardson left the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Quintus Allen Fund request: Gill Elementary School Principal Walter Huston met with the Selectboard to request funding from the Town's Quintus Allen Fund to purchase a gaga ball pit with a rubber floor mat for the playground at the school. The quote for the equipment, which includes free delivery, is \$4,900 from Noah's Parks & Playgrounds. Huston explained the ball pit will be especially popular with the older students who have outgrown many of the other play structures at the school. The Selectboard was very supportive of the request. Purington noted the Fund has a current balance of \$15,771. Noting there may be unanticipated costs associated with setting up the ball pit, Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to authorize spending up to \$5,400 from the Quintus Allen Fund for the purchase, installation, and related costs of a gaga ball pit for the Gill Elementary School. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Huston left the meeting at 5:44 PM.

Compost Program update: Jan Ameen, Executive Director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and Vicky Jenkins, the Town's representative to the District, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Town's compost collection program that was launched at the beginning of September. Roughly 50 households signed up after the program flyer was mailed to about a third of Gill's postal addresses. A second mailing to the rest of the addresses was completed last week, and signups now total 62 households. The three collection carts are picked up every Thursday from the compost cage at the Riverside Building. Typically, each cart has been about half full. Ameen has received numerous positive comments about the program. In the coming weeks Ameen plans to add corrugated plastic sheets to the bottom of the cage to act as a knee wall to help keep snow out of the cage. The Selectboard thanked Ameen and Jenkins for all of their work to make this new program successful and problem-free. Ameen and Jenkins left the meeting at 5:51 PM.

Review of Minutes: Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to approve the minutes of 10/07/24. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Building repairs: Ray Steele asked the Selectboard about forming a "gray-haired" group of volunteers who could address basic building maintenance needs, starting with the Riverside Building. A recent visit to that building found a number of areas needing love and attention, including metal doors with holes to be repaired, a loose handrail, and loose and missing wood railings on the ramp. Volunteers would sign a liability waiver form similar to the one used for Town Forest volunteers and recreation program participants. The Selectboard voiced support for the idea, but asked Purington to research if any action is needed to protect the volunteers from any personal liability for their work. Steele left the meeting at 6:03 PM.

Appointments: Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to appoint Adam Elie and Alexander Tirrell as Firefighters through June 30, 2025 contingent upon receipt of satisfactory results from a recent medical evaluation. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to appoint Kyle MacLeay as a Firefighter through June 30, 2025. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to authorize Purington to extend an offer of employment as the part-time Administrative Clerk to Nona LaGrenade contingent upon satisfactory results from the various pre-employment checks. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Digital Equity Open House: Purington announced there will be a drop-in open house at the Slate Memorial Library on Wednesday, October 30th from 4 – 6 PM for residents and other interested parties to weigh in on digital equity in Gill. Feedback is sought on topics such as internet affordability, device access, digital literacy, internet security, etc., and will be used to develop Gill's Digital Equity Plan. Based on the needs and ideas in the plan, the Town will be able to apply to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for implementation funds. The open house will be hosted by staff members from the FRCOG who are assisting with creating the Digital Equity Plan.

Update to fee schedule for Zoning Board of Appeals: Purington, who is a member of Gill's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), presented a request from the ZBA to adjust the fees charged for six types of applications handled by the ZBA. The fee schedule was last updated in August 2009, and the fees being charged no longer cover the Town's costs for legal advertisements and postage related to the required public hearings. It was requested to increase from \$150 to \$250 the fees for an appeal of a decision of the building inspector, a special permit application, and a variance application. It was requested to decrease the fee for a site plan review from \$300 to \$250, increase the fee for a site plan modification or extension from \$200 to \$250, and change the fee for a common driveway special permit from \$200 per lot serviced to a flat \$250. Crochier made a motion, seconded Garbiel, to approve the changes as requested with an effective date of November 1, 2024. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Sewer Commitment: The Selectboard reviewed the sewer commitment # 2025-002 and user data for July – September 2024. Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to approve and sign the sewer commitment of \$55,712.84 with a bill date of October 17, 2024. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

November 4th Meeting: To avoid interfering with the Town Clerk's preparations for the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election, the Selectboard decided to hold their November 4th meeting at the Riverside Municipal Building at 5:30 PM.

Savage, Flagg, and Batchelder left the meeting at 6:18 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2025 warrant # 9 with totals of \$101,615.31 for vendors and \$36,698.81 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 11/04/2024

Charles Garbiel, Selectboard Clerk

Green Communities Annual Report Summary FY2024

Date of Annual Report Preparation: 10/16/2024 11:45:12AM

Prepared by: Ray Purington

Title of Preparer: Town Administrator

Green Community Information

Municipality: [Gill](#)

Baseline Fiscal Year: [2010](#)

Criterion 1: As-of-Right Siting

Criterion 1 is met by a municipality passing zoning in designated locations for the as-of-right siting of renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, research and development facilities, or manufacturing facilities.

Type of as-of-right siting approval received: [Solar PV](#)

Have any significant changes been made to the zoning district(s) for which the community received Green Communities designation? [No](#)

Criterion 2: Expedited Permitting

Criterion 2 is met by a municipality adopting an expedited permitting process of one year at most, under which facilities interested in locating their facility in a designated renewable zone may be sited within the municipality.

Type of expedited permitting approval received: [Local](#)

Clean Energy Project Permitting

This table shows any changes made in FY2024 to clean energy projects on record that have been accepted for approval under the zoning for which the community received Green Community Designation.

Name	Type	Description	Status	Decision Date
{none}				

Criterion 3: Energy Use Baseline & Energy Use Reduction Plan

To demonstrate compliance with Criterion 3, municipalities must:

- Establish an energy use baseline inventory for municipal buildings and facilities (which can include schools, water, wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations, and open space), street and traffic lighting, and vehicles; and
- Adopt an Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) demonstrating a reduction of 20 percent of energy use after five years of implementation.

Community Baseline Year: **FY2010**

Energy Reduction Progress

Category	Baseline (FY2010)	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Building Use (MMBTU)	2,955	2,812	2,175	2,418
%Diff from Baseline		-4.86%	-26.42%	-18.17%
Street/Traffic Lights Use (MMBTU)	80	20	20	20
%Diff from Baseline		-75.57%	-75.13%	-74.97%
Vehicle Use (MMBTU)	1,319	1,120	1,038	1,037
%Diff from Baseline		-15.12%	-21.30%	-21.39%
Water/Sewer Use (MMBTU)	26	26	22	24
%Diff from Baseline		1.15%	-15.02%	-6.31%
Adjustments				
Building Stock Changes	0	0	0	0
Regional School Districts				
Totals	4,380	3,977	3,254	3,499
% Diff from Baseline		-9.2%	-25.7%	-20.1%

Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs)

Changes made to the community's ECM record for FY2024

Location	ECM Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
Gill Gill Elementary School	Ceiling/Attic Insulation	Planned	7/1/2027	
Public Safety Complex	Electric Service Upgrade	Planned	7/1/2026	
Public Safety Complex	LED lighting conversion	Planned	7/1/2025	
Public Safety Complex	Insulation	Complete	5/5/2023	8/10/2023
Riverside Municipal Building	Roof & Solar Feasibility Study	Planned	7/1/2025	
Riverside Municipal Building	LED lighting conversion	Planned	7/1/2025	
Town Hall	LED lighting conversion	Planned	7/1/2025	

Top 5 Buildings per Energy Use

In FY2024, municipal operations used 3,499 MMBtu of energy. The five buildings below accounted for 69% of the community's overall energy use.

Building Name	Energy Consumption MMBtu (% of overall energy use)
1. Gill Elementary School	1,741 (50%)
2. Public Safety Complex	492 (14%)
3. Town Hall	98 (3%)
4. Riverside Municipal Building	63 (2%)
5. Slate Memorial Library	25 (1%)

Top 5 Buildings per Emissions

In FY2024, there were 254 MTCO₂e emitted from municipal operations. The five buildings below accounted for 69% of the community's overall emissions.

Building Name	Emissions MTCO ₂ e (% of overall emissions)
1. Gill Elementary School	127 (50%)
2. Public Safety Complex	36 (14%)
3. Town Hall	7 (3%)
4. Riverside Municipal Building	4 (2%)
5. Slate Memorial Library	2 (1%)

Top 5 Buildings per Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

Energy Use Intensity (EUI) is calculated by dividing the total energy consumed by the building in a year by the building's square footage. EUI is a measure of a building's energy efficiency – like miles per gallon for cars – and can be a good indicator of buildings needing efficiency upgrades.

Building Name	Size (Square Feet)	Energy Consumption MMBtu	EUI (kBtu per ft ²)
1. Gill Elementary School	17,000	1,741	102
2. Town Hall	1,700	98	58
3. Public Safety Complex	12,600	492	39
4. Slate Memorial Library	961	25	26
5. Riverside Municipal Building	3,200	63	20

Energy Narrative:

Energy use by our vehicles (gasoline and diesel fuel) was virtually unchanged from FY23 to FY24. Energy use at our buildings was fairly consistent from FY23 to FY24 with the exception of the Elementary School, which had a 22% increase in oil use (due to timing of oil deliveries, which is our only way to measure usage) We have six energy conservation projects in the "Planned" stage, but all of those will require staff availability, technical assistance grants, Green Communities competitive grants, generous utility incentives, and a change in Green Communities attitude toward funding fluorescent-to-LED conversions.

We anticipate energy usage at the Riverside Municipal Building will decrease for FY25 because our tenant left at the end of June 2024, and a new tenant has not been found as of this report. Our top 3 energy-using buildings are our elementary school (102 EUI), town hall (58 EUI), and public safety complex (39 EUI), and this ranking is unchanged from FY23. The next major reduction in energy use for our buildings will happen, hopefully, as part of a MSBA-funded roof replacement at the Elementary School. The attic space of that building has horrifically inadequate insulation, and we would like to partner with MSBA and Green Communities to address this need. We implemented a weatherization project at the Public Safety Complex in the early part of FY24, but with only one winter under our belts, it is too early to

determine what energy savings have been realized.

Criterion 4: Fuel Efficient Vehicles

Fleet Changes for FY2024

Criterion 4 requires all departments within a Green Community to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use, whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

Status	Model Year	Make	Model	Trim
Added +	2022	International	CV515	

Has the municipality transferred any vehicles from one department to another? **No**

Criterion 5: Stretch Code Adoption

Criterion 5 requires that municipalities minimize the life-cycle cost of all newly constructed homes and buildings. DOER recommends communities do this by adopting the Stretch Code (225 CMR 22 and 23).

Is Stretch Code still in effect? **Yes**

Has the community adopted the Specialized Opt-in Stretch Code? **No**

How many occupancy permits were issued for new commercial construction over 100,000 sq.ft.? **0**

Stretch Code Narrative:

DOER, Green Communities, and others that are advocating for the Municipal Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code need to provide more data that will answer concerns about 1) super-tight houses causing respiratory problems and/or needing additional mechanical ventilation to ensure healthy air quality but simultaneously increasing the construction costs and making the house more complicated to operate/maintain; and 2) not all people building new houses can afford to pay for a lifetime of energy savings up front.

Other Notes

Additional Measures Narrative:

No additional measures have been undertaken by our community.

We noticed during the preparation of this report that mid-year changes by Eversource to their billing account numbers impacted the way electricity data was uploaded to the MassEnergyInsight website. Missing data and corrections to duplicate Eversource data were manually entered in order to have accurate data for this report. Once this report has been approved the manual entries will be removed and we will work with the MEI team and Eversource to get the correct data uploaded directly from Eversource.

Renewable Energy Narrative:

All of the Town of Gill municipal electricity accounts are enrolled in the Town's municipal energy aggregation plan's "Standard" offering (Massachusetts minimum renewable energy requirement plus an additional 25% Massachusetts Class I renewable energy certificates).

The report must be signed by the community's Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer is defined as the manager in any city having a manager and in any town having a city form of government, the mayor in any other city, and the board of selectmen in any other town unless some other officer or body is designated to perform the functions of a chief executive officer under the provisions of a local charter or laws having the force of a charter. Any signatures of designees will be considered an attestation that the signatory has been designated the designee by the municipality.

I confirm that I have reviewed this report and verify all information is true.

Print Name

Title

Signature

Date

CPHS Regional Opioid Settlement Projects



10/324

Phoebe Walker,
Director of
Community Health
walker@frcog.org

How do the settlements work?

And why is the process so slow?

- Attorneys General negotiated with pharmacies and drug makers
- \$900 million coming to MA
- 60% to the state to be sent out in grants
- 40% to cities and towns
- All has to be spent on prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs.

Until recently, spending the funds was quite difficult – but most towns have now moved the funds from **stabilization accounts** into **special purpose revenue funds**, where they can begin to be spent in FY25.

Categories of Allowable Expenses for Municipal Settlement Funds

Support for Criminal-Justice-Involved People with OUD

Support for Pregnant and Parenting People with OUD, including babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Prevent Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education

Connections to Care

Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

Harm Reduction

Supporting People in Recovery

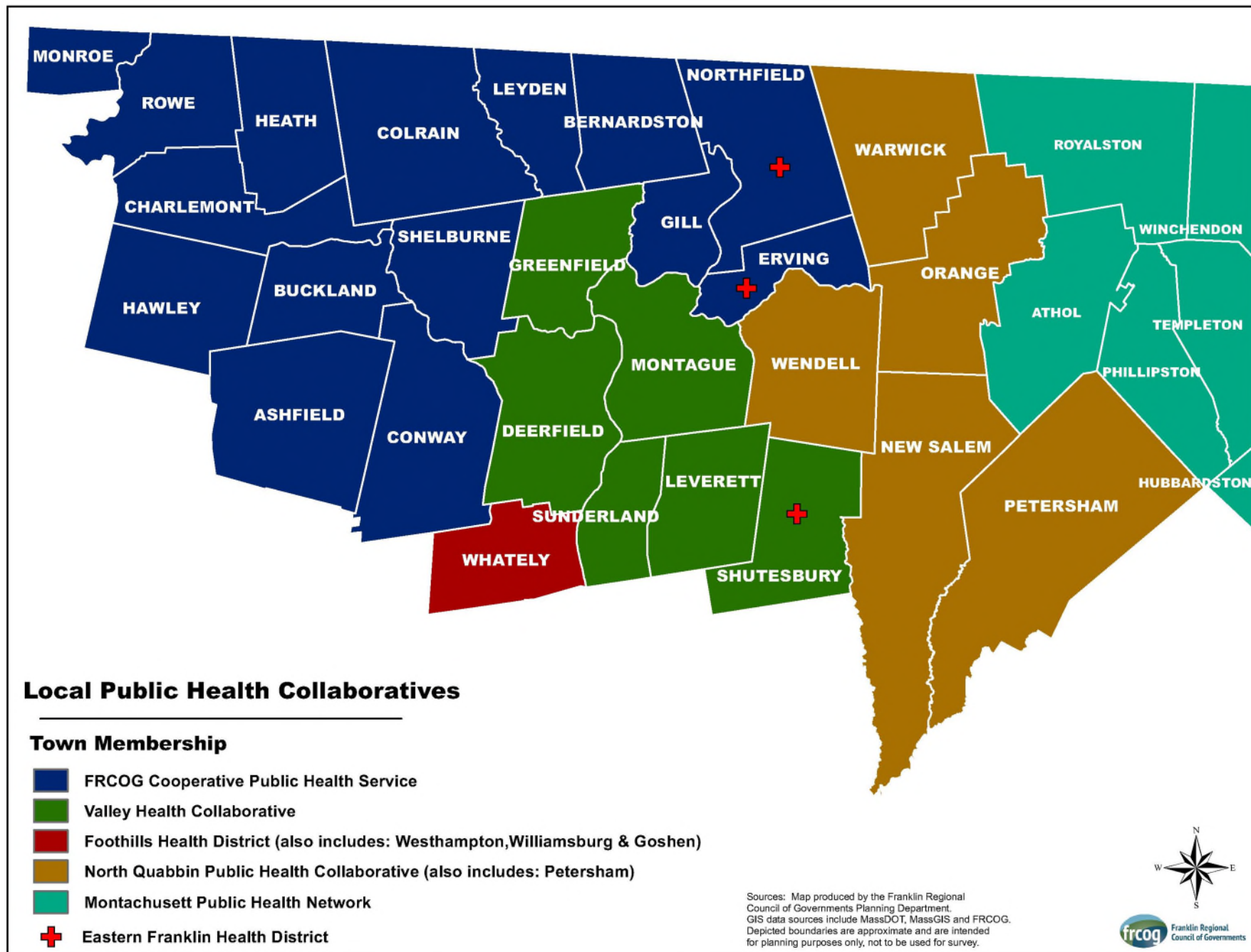
Current Settlement Totals in Franklin County in next 18 years

Town	Total
Ashfield	\$ 10,337
Bernardston	\$ 15,433
<i>Buckland</i>	<i>\$ 11,890</i>
Charlemont	\$ 25,285
Colrain	\$ 6,066
<i>Conway</i>	<i>\$ 134,286</i>
Deerfield	\$ 330,500
<i>Erving</i>	<i>\$ 194,562</i>
<i>Gill</i>	<i>\$ 12,230</i>
Greenfield	\$ 1,712,872
Hawley	\$ 1,019
Heath	\$ 4,465

Leverett	\$ 149,720
Leyden	\$ 2,912
Monroe	\$ 389
Montague	\$ 110,361
New Salem	\$ 9,269
Northfield	\$ 57,947
Orange	\$ 521,374
Rowe	\$ 91,822
Shelburne	\$ 55,180
Shutesbury	\$ 135,646
Sunderland	\$ 149,380
<i>Warwick</i>	<i>\$ 24,993</i>
<i>Wendell</i>	<i>\$ 3,979</i>
Whately	\$ 105,239
TOTAL	\$ 3,877,157

Colors highlight similar towns with dissimilar totals, due to the school employee data

CPHS: 15 Towns Sharing Public Health Nursing, Health Education, and Epidemiology



Cooperative
Public Health
Service Health
District Total
Opioid
Settlement
Funds:
\$34,600
average annual
amount

Ashfield	\$	10,337
Bernardston	\$	15,433
Buckland	\$	11,890
Charlemont	\$	25,285
Colrain	\$	6,066
Conway	\$	134,286
Erving	\$	194,562
Gill	\$	12,230
Hawley	\$	1,019
Heath	\$	4,465
Leyden	\$	2,912
Monroe	\$	389
Northfield	\$	57,947
Rowe	\$	91,822
Shelburne	\$	55,180
Total	\$	623,824

CPHS Regional Project totals, by year, for FY25 & 26

Item	Cost
Recover Project Weekly All-Recovery Meetings in West and North County, location TBD.	\$12,977
Moms Do Care Support for Pregnant People with Opioid Use Disorder – one mother through the regional funds and two additional mothers funded by Erving and Conway	\$15,193
Center for Human Development (CHD) Peer Recovery Coach Request for support for people in recovery – Real IDs, Birth Certificates, mail boxes, etc.	\$4,989
	\$33,159

CPHS Opioid Settlement Shared Spending – Relevant Sections of Settlement Agreement

Proposed Contract	Relevant Sections of the Massachusetts Abatement Terms, Section III: Municipal Use of Abatement Funds
<p align="center">Recover Project Request for All-Recovery Meetings in West and North County</p>	<p>1. Support and promote treatment of persons with OUD, including through programs or strategies that: (a). Expand mobile intervention, treatment, telehealth treatment, and recovery services offered by qualified providers, including peer recovery coaches.</p> <p>2. Support People in Treatment and Recovery: (d) Provide peer support specialists that support people in accessing OUD treatment, trauma-informed counseling and recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare or other services, including support for long-term recovery encompassing relapse, treatment, and continued recovery. (f) Support or expand peer-recovery centers, which may include support groups, social events, computer access, or other services for persons with OUD. 4. Harm Reduction: (h). Provide outreach and services for people who use drugs and are not yet in treatment, including services that build relationships with and support for people with OUD.</p>
<p>Moms Do Care Funding Request for Support for Pregnant People with Opioid Use Disorder</p>	<p>6. Support Pregnant Or Parenting Women And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, (c) the Moms Do Care recovery support program.</p>
<p>Center for Human Development (CHD) Peer Recovery Coach Request for support for people in recovery</p>	<p>1. Support and promote treatment of persons with OUD, including through programs or strategies that: (a). Expand mobile intervention, treatment, telehealth treatment, and recovery services offered by qualified providers, including peer recovery coaches.</p> <p>2. Support People in Treatment and Recovery (d) Provide peer support specialists that support people in accessing OUD treatment, trauma-informed counseling and recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare and or other services, including support for long-term recovery encompassing relapse, treatment, and continued recovery.</p>

