



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

March 24, 2025

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

Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

5:00 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: ~~5/21/24~~, 2/10/25 exec sess, 2/24/25 exec sess, ~~3/10/25~~

New Business

- Highway Department – Spring FY25 projects
 - Chapter 90 work – West Gill Road milling & paving two sections (from Main Rd to House # 144 and from House # 194 to pole # 42) - \$337,490.50 estimated cost
 - Crack sealing (from Highway budget) – ~~Mountain Road (south section, from Main Rd to House # 97)~~ Dole Road (entire length) and River Road (entire paved length) - \$24,920 estimated cost
- Sanctuary Community discussion – topic requested by James Asbel, 10 Cross Road
- Renewal of Seasonal Restaurant Liquor License for 2025 – Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein
- Proposal from FRCOG to assist the town in completing the MVP 1.0 planning process – lump sum cost of \$20,000, funded by MVP Planning Grant received in January 2023
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
 - Community Dance – Sunday, March 30th @ 2 PM at the Town Hall
- Warrants
 - FY25 #19 – Vendors (\$540,042.79) & Payroll (\$31,746.42) – reviewed/signed on 3/10/25
 - FY25 #20 – review & sign

(Selectboard meeting will recess at 6:00 PM for a joint budget meeting with the Finance Committee)

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 4/7	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Mon 4/21		Patriots' Day holiday	
Tues 4/22	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

February 10, 2025

Minutes of an Executive Session

The meeting was held in the Town Administrator's office at the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill.

Called to Order: The Executive Session was called to order at 5:03 PM.

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

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Chris Redmond, Police Chief

The Executive Session was held to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. a contract for the police chief.

Police Chief Chris Redmond is in his 8th year as police chief, and as of July 1, 2025 will have been employed by the Town for 33 years. As of today's date, he has worked 587 days beyond the date when he achieved his maximum retirement pension percentage. Redmond stated he is interested in renewing his employment contract and is fine with all of the terms of the current contract. His current annual salary is \$105,987 plus a \$1,000 longevity bonus. He requested a 22% salary increase (\$23,317) for a 3-year contract renewal. In exchange for the increase Redmond stated a willingness to take on new duties as the Town's Emergency Management Director (EMD) or Assistant EMD. The role and duties of Harbormaster could also be added to his contract. Redmond also stated he would not expect a COLA during any of the three years of the contract.

It was noted Gene Beaubien recently retired after more than 23 years as Fire Chief, and Police Sergeant John Richardson has only been working for Gill for 4-5 months. A contract renewal would provide experienced leadership in the Town's emergency services departments for another three years.

The statewide demand for hiring police officers at the local and state levels is unprecedented. Some area departments are offering hiring bonuses of up to \$10,000 for new patrol officers. A State Trooper earns a base salary of \$138,000 after six years on the force, and Shelburne's police chief is now earning \$131,000 per year. There was consensus Redmond's salary, when considering his years of experience, is on the low end for Franklin County.

The Selectboard noted if Redmond retired this June at the end of the current contract, he would be entitled to receive the Town's health insurance which is paid 75% by the Town and 25% by the employee/retiree. With his retirement, the budget for FY26 would need to include the cost of a family health insurance plan for the person hired to replace Redmond. The FY26 cost of a family plan is approximately \$2,400/month. For a full year, the Town's 75% share is roughly \$21,600, which is only slightly less than the salary increase Redmond has requested.

Crochier suggested the Selectboard consider a 3-year contract renewal with Redmond at the requested salary with no automatic COLAs for FY26, FY27, or FY28. Snedeker requested time to think this over, and another Executive Session was set for February 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote. The Executive Session adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 03/24/2025

Charles Garbiel, Selectboard Clerk

Voted to be released as a public document on: 03/24/2025

TOWN OF GILL

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



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2025

Minutes of an Executive Session

The meeting was held in the Town Administrator's office at the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill.

Called to Order: The Executive Session was called to order at 5:04 PM.

Members Present: Greg Snedeker (5:20 PM), Charles Garbiel and Randy Crochier Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Chris Redmond, Police Chief

The Executive Session was held to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. a contract for the police chief.

Purington reported he checked with current Emergency Management Director (EMD) Gene Beaubien, who recently retired as Fire Chief and had expressed uncertainty about staying on as EMD, and Beaubien wants to continue as EMD for FY26.

The Selectboard discussed the difficulty of recruiting and hiring new police officers, and noted some area towns have had positions remain open for months. For a town like Gill, with only two fulltime police officers, to only have one officer for months would be untenable. Sending a new-hire to the police academy is expected to cost \$6,000 for the coming year, and the Town would be providing a cruiser and paying the officer's wages and benefits without receiving any patrol hours in town for roughly 26 weeks. Additionally, there is a strong likelihood a new-hire who has completed the academy and become POST-certified would be poached by another department or by the state police offering higher wages. The Selectboard also stated there is tremendous value to retaining a seasoned police chief who loves the town of Gill and has been employed by Gill for 33 years.

Snedeker joined the meeting at 5:20 PM. Snedeker stated frustration with the burdens and hiring difficulties the state has placed on local police departments. While many aspects of 2020's police reform legislation were positive, a consequence has been an extreme shortage of new police officers. This result was expected by many people who work in law enforcement, but the Legislature, Governor, and Executive Branch haven't done enough to address the problem.

Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to approve a 3-year contract extension with Chris Redmond for his services as Police Chief, Assistant EMD, and Harbormaster with a 22% increase in FY25's salary for FY26, with no COLA for FY26 and COLAs in FY27 and FY28 at the discretion of the Selectboard. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Selectboard thanked Redmond for his willingness to stay for another three years and Redmond thanked the Selectboard for their willingness to have him stay. There was consensus among the Selectboard this contract extension is good for Gill and good for Franklin County as a whole.

Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote. The Executive Session adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 03/24/2025

Charles Garbiel, Selectboard Clerk

Voted to be released as a public document on: 03/24/2025

CHAPTER 90 BALANCE SHEET

INFORMATION ONLY

GILL		12/31/2024	Ch 90	Ch 90	CONTRACT:	50809	CHAPTER 90 BALANCE SHEET			
FY 2008	318,132.60	includes roll over bal.	Ch 90	115,505.00						
FY 2009	115,383.00									
FY 2010	114,794.00									
FY 2011	118,034.00									
FY 2012	152,763.00									
FY 2013	152,121.00									
FY 2014	151,816.00									
FY 2015	226,392.00									
FY 2016	150,995.00									
FY 2017	149,861.00									
FY 2018	148,714.00									
FY 2019	177,865.00	includes FY19 supplemental \$29644.00		148,221.00						
FY 2020	162,696.00	includes FY20 supplemental \$14791.00		147,906.00						
FY 2021	147,769.00									
FY 2022	147,099.00									
FY 2023	146,308.65									
FY 2024	257,013.94	94,045.00	FY24 Fair Share Supplemental	146,725.94	110,288.00	Rural Roads				
FY 2025	256,779.37				110,277.01	Rural Roads				
					CURRENT	AVAILABLE	PROJECT	UNPAID	AGREEMENT	
					PROJECTS	BALANCES	PAYMENTS	BALANCES	BALANCE	
TOTALS (\$):		3,094,536.56			2,510,182.66	584,353.90	2,510,182.66	0.00	584,353.90	
PROJECT APPROVAL DATE	CURRENT APPROVED PROJECTS:		TYPE	AMOUNT (\$)	CONTRACT ID	Active Projects	PAYMENTS	UNPAID BAL	PAY #47	
3/11/2024	Various Roads (6) Crack Sealing		resurfacing	14,200.76	ID 50809		14,200.76	0.00		
3/11/2024	Various Roads (3) Mill & Fill HMA		resurfacing	81,178.72	ID 50809		81,178.72	0.00		
					Total Active		0.00			
					2,510,182.66	TOTAL PROJECTS	2,510,182.66	0.00	0.00	

TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org
highway@gillmass.org

TO: Town of Gill Selectboard
CC: Ray Purington, Town of Gill Town Administrator
FROM: John Miner, Town of Gill Highway Superintendent
DATE: 3/10/2025
REASON: Project Authorization

Spring FY2025

Town of Gill Highway Department

Proposed Projects and Figures

Authorization is being sought to proceed with the paperwork for a Milling/Paving project that I would like to get scheduled for Spring FY2025. This project includes two sections of West Gill Road. The first section starts at the intersection of Main Road and West Gill Road and ends at House #144 (Tom Underwood). The second section begins at House #194 (Harvey Lafleur) and ends at pole #42, which is located just after the trees at the golf course.

Both sections will be milled by Northeast Paving/Eurovia at a rate of \$2.55 per square yard, with the milling depth being two inches. The millings produced will be transported to the Highway Garage for future use in various projects, including reinforcing roadway edges and grading unpaved roads.

When Northeast Paving/Eurovia returns for paving, they will apply a coat of Tack (liquid asphalt) to the roadway to help the old blacktop adhere to the new layer at a cost of \$8.90 per gallon. This step is required by MASSDOT when using Chapter 90 funding.

Northeast Paving/Eurovia will pave the roadway with two inches of asphalt, priced at \$90.00 per ton. Upon completion of all work, the Highway Department will back up and level the edges of the roadway using gravel/millings or loam where necessary.

Current Available Chapter 90 Funds-	\$584,353.90
Proposed FY2025 West Gill Road Milling/Paving Project-	\$293,470.00
15% Contingency-	\$44,020.50
Total Project Request-	\$337,490.50

Project will be using FCROG FY2025 Bid Prices

Prepared by John Miner Town of Gill Highway Superintendent

Approved/Denied by Selectboard on –

Please see attached Chapter 90 Balance Sheet



STATE AID REIMBURSABLE PROGRAM – PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

Chapter 90

City /Town of: Town of Gill Contract # 50809

Project Name: Chapter 90-Gill-West Gill Road Milling & Paving

Project Location/Road: West Gill Road

Date:

ITEM #	QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	UNIT PRICE \$	AMOUNT \$
415.3	22,000.00	Sq Yds	Asphalt Milling	\$ 2.55	\$ 56,100.00
452	1,100.00	Gallons	Asphalt Emulsion For Tack Coat	\$ 8.90	\$ 9,790.00
450.3	2,470.00	Tons	Hot Mix Asphalt	\$ 90.00	\$ 222,300.00
999.001	64.00	Hours	Police Detail	\$ 60.00	\$ 3,840.00
999.002	16.00	Hours	Police Detail Overtime	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,440.00
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			15% Contingency		\$ 44,020.50
TOTAL					\$ 337,490.50

John Miner

3/10/2025

TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org
highway@gillmass.org

TO: Town of Gill Selectboard
CC: Ray Purington, Town of Gill Town Administrator
FROM: John Miner, Town of Gill Highway Superintendent
DATE: 3/10/2025
REASON: Project Authorization

Spring FY2025

Town of Gill Highway Department

Proposed Projects and Figures

Authorization is being sought to proceed with the scheduling for a Crack Sealing project that I would like to get scheduled for Spring FY2025. This project includes two roadways.

The first roadway is Dole Road. This would consist of Crack Sealing Starting at West Gill Road and Ending at the Gill/Bernardston Town Line.

The second roadway is River Road. This would consist of Crack Sealing the entire paved section of River Road starting at Main Road and ending where the roadway turns to gravel.

Crack Sealing the two roadways will be funded using budgeted funds. The Highway Department **budgeted \$25,568.00** to be used for Crack Sealing.

Proposed FY2025 Crack Sealing price including police details-\$24,920.00

**Project will be using FCROG FY2025 Bid Prices
Prepared by John Miner Town of Gill Highway Superintendent
Approved/Denied by Selectboard on –**



STATE AID REIMBURSABLE PROGRAM – PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

Chapter 90

City /Town of: Town of Gill Contract # 50809

Project Name: Chapter 90-Gill-Various Roadways Crack Sealing

Project Location/Road: Dole Road, River Road

Date:

ITEM #	QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	UNIT PRICE \$	AMOUNT \$
107.86	1,600.00	gallons	PCRM material (PG 64-28 binder & 3 performance additives -fiber, polymer & crumb rubber)	\$ 14.75	\$ 23,600.00
999.001	16.00	hours	Police Detail	\$ 60.00	\$ 960.00
999.002	4.00	hours	Police Detail Overtime	\$ 90.00	\$ 360.00
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TOTAL					\$ 24,920.00

John Miner

3/10/2025

What is the current status of Immigrant Sanctuary in Gill under the Trump Administration? *A query by James Asbel and other Gill citizens attending Town of Gill Selectboard Meeting, March 24, 2025; 5pm*

Recap of Informational Session with State Sen. Jo Comerford for discussion with Gill Selectboard and Police

Recent Federal Policy Changes:

- Removal of immigrant priority status
- Lincoln-Riley Act: mandatory detention
- Cancellation of sanctuary policy: no locale is off limits to ICE

Available Recourses:

- Courts, state legislature, police
- Prohibition of court from holding detainees
- Coordination of state and local police policy and response

Pending Bills in Statehouse:

Safe Communities Act: SD1670, HD3816

- - Would prohibit law enforcement from asking subjects about immigration status
- - Would ensure legal counsel before interrogation
- - Would prevent local law enforcement from coordinating with ICE
- - Would prevent local law enforcement from pursuing and arresting immigrants for non-crime related matters

Immigrant Legal Defense Act: SD2057, HD4072

-Would provide state funding for legal representation

Dignity Not Deportation: SD 1107, HD3596

- Would ensure that MA funds and resources are not used to support any ICE activities
- Would prohibit MA entities from contracting with ICE to rent bed space
- Would prohibit MA agencies from donating employee time.

Non-profit Support Agencies

-Center for New Americans; www.cnam.org

- Pioneer Valley Workers Center; <https://pvworkerscenter.org/>, rapid response line: ### ##

- Community Legal Aid: Central West Justice Center; www.cwjusticecenter

-Jewish Family Services Center; s.bedford@jfswm.org



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

12 Olive St., Suite 2 | Greenfield, MA 01301
413-774-3167 | <https://frcog.org>

PROPOSAL to Assist the Town of Gill in Completing the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 1.0 Planning Process

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) will support the Town of Gill in completing a comprehensive, baseline climate change and natural hazard vulnerability assessment and developing a list of prioritized actions for dealing with priority hazards using the Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop guide provided by EEA, and beginning broader community outreach. FRCOG will incorporate the downscaled climate change projections, available on the www.resilientMA.org website, into the planning process.

This scope of work aligns with requirements of Attachment A – Scope of Services and Additional Terms and Conditions of the Town of Gill’s contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, revised February 2025, for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) award.

FRCOG proposes to complete this scope of work by June 30, 2026 for the lump sum amount of \$20,000 (Twenty thousand dollars), inclusive of staff time (wages and overhead) and direct costs (such as travel, meeting supplies, copies, etc.).

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Understand connections between ongoing community issues, climate change and natural hazards, and local planning and actions in the Gill;
2. Understand how climate change will exacerbate or lead to new community issues, hazards and other challenges the municipality faces;
3. Identify and map vulnerabilities and strengths to develop infrastructure, societal, and natural resource risk profiles for the town;
4. Explore nature-based solutions to build resiliency in Gill;
5. Develop and prioritize actions and clearly delineated next steps for the municipality, local organizations, businesses, private citizens, neighborhoods, and community groups; and,
6. Identify opportunities to advance actions that further reduce the impact of climate change and natural hazards and increase resilience across and within municipalities.

TASK 1: Prepare for the Community Workshop

- 1.1 FRCOG will work with the town to establish a Core Team and identify and engage stakeholders from the municipality, including but not limited to municipal officials, business, private non-profits, and community residents.
- 1.2 FRCOG will prepare background materials materials for the workshop including:
 - Base maps of the town with relevant layers identified including important town assets, past hazards, natural features, roadways and other infrastructure, and any other relevant data
 - Summary of climate data and impacts to present to the municipality to help frame the discussion
 - Risk matrices from the www.communityresiliencebuilding.com site
 - Background data sets and any information collected from the municipality or staff interviews relevant to the workshops
 - Existing local plans
- 1.3 FRCOG will work with the town to schedule either (1) 8 hour workshop or (2) 4 hour workshops, depending upon the needs of the town.

TASK 2: Conduct the Community Workshop

FRCOG will provide lead facilitation and small group facilitation to conduct the Community Workshop and complete the following components of the MVP planning process:

- 2.1 Characterize hazards: identify past, current and future impacts using the best available data including newly developed climate projections available from www.resilientMA.org and determine the highest priority hazards.
- 2.2 Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths
- 2.3 Identify vulnerabilities and strengths for the following sectors: infrastructure, societal, environmental and other sectors chosen by the town.
- 2.4 Identify and Prioritize Community Actions
 - Infrastructure actions
 - Societal actions
 - Environmental actions
 - Other actions, including nature-based solutions
- 2.5 Determine the Overall Priority Actions
 - Identify highest-priority actions
 - Further define urgency and timing

TASK 3: Conduct Public Meeting to Gather Input and Prepare Draft and Final Report

FRCOG will assist the town in conducting (1) public listening session to gather input on the risk matrix and priority actions developed under Task 2, above. FRCOG will use the input from the public meeting and information from Tasks 1 and 2 to prepare a draft report using the MVP Program Summary of Findings template guidance provided by EEA. FRCOG will submit the draft report to the town for review and comment. FRCOG will incorporate comments from the town and issue a final report that the town can submit to EEA with a request to be designated a MVP Climate Community.

TASK 4: Plan for Next Steps to Maintain MVP Designation

FRCOG will use a progress report template to be provided by EEA and assist the town in developing a list of “next steps” to complete to help the town maintain their MVP designation in coming years.

TASK 5: Reporting and Project Invoicing

At the end of each quarter, FRCOG will prepare a brief narrative report and invoicing and submit it to the town. FRCOG will assist the town in completing quarterly reporting to EEA.