



# **SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE**

**April 22, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, 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: 3/24/25, 4/7/25

New Business

- Quintus Allen Fund request – Dr. Walter Huston, Principal, Gill Elementary School - \$4,065 for admission & transportation to Look Park (Northampton) – all students, all staff end-of-year event. Current fund balance ~ \$13,200
- Mass CEC Green School Works Grant – Vicky Jenkins & Claire Chang, Energy Commission – would like to apply for up to \$1 million toward costs of insulation, roof replacement, and possibly a metal roof for the Gill Elementary School. Application deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Appoint Board of Fire Engineers for term of May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026.
 

William Borcy	Stuart Elliott	Greg Parody	Forester Menson
Aaron Budine	Andrew Howell	Kyle MacLeay	Mitchell Waldron
Edward Curtis	William Kimball	Matthew McCarthy	Jake Whitney
- Appoint Miles Chattman, Dole Road, as a Junior Firefighter through June 30, 2025
- Memo from Chris Demars, Veterans Services Director, re “Hero Act” and two new local option veteran property tax exemption clauses (Clause 22I and 22J of MGL c. 59, s. 5)
- Review first draft of warrant articles for Annual Town Meeting (tentative)
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
  - Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Sat. April 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm, various locations
- Warrants
  - FY25 #21 – Vendors (\$44,868.77) & Payroll (\$32,201.67) – reviewed/signed on 4/7/25
  - FY25 #22 – review & sign

Adjournment

**Other Invitations/Meetings:**

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 5/5	?? PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Mon 5/5	7:00 PM	Annual Town Meeting	Town Hall
Mon 5/19	10AM-6PM	Town Election	Town Hall
Tues 5/20	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall



**GILL**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

48 Boyle Road, Gill, Massachusetts  
Dr. Walter G. Huston, Principal

Tel. 413-863-3255 Fax 413-863-3268  
Christine Abercrombie, Administrative Assistant

April 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of Gill Elementary School to request \$4,065 from the Quintas Allen Fund. This money would allow for the entire Gill School, staff & students to go on an end of year field trip to Look Memorial Park in Northampton, MA on June 6, 2025. We did this last year and it was a great way to celebrate a successful year. It was so successful that staff and students were asking it about doing it again this year.

Look Memorial Park is a private run non-profit park. Look Park offers an activity-filled field trip for students. We will be able to enjoy mini-golf, pedal boats, a steamer train, water spray park & the Christenson Wildlife Center. There are also sand volleyball courts, basketball courts and softball fields to use. We will be able to enjoy lunch at a scenic picnic site.

The park gives a discount to groups to pay \$15 per person for an attraction bracelet, which is a savings of \$5 off the regular price. The bracelet entitles the wearer to unlimited rides on all the attractions. We will also receive one free chaperone bracelet for each 10 bracelets purchased. This cost also allows the use of picnic tables to accommodate the group.

The amount we are requesting will cover the cost of admission to the park, in an amount of \$1815.00, and 3 buses to transport everyone to & from the park, in an amount of \$2250.00. This will allow all students to attend and not put a burden on our families.

Thank you for your support with this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Huston, Ed.D.  
Principal, Gill Elementary School



# Gill Fire Department

196A MAIN ROAD • GILL, MA 01354-1805 • (413) 863-8955 • FAX: (413) 863-0126

Chief William R. Kimball E-mail: [firedept@gillmass.org](mailto:firedept@gillmass.org)

27 March 2025

The Board of Selectmen  
Town of Gill  
325 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354

Dear Selectmen,

Today, the Board of Fire Engineers nominated the following candidates for appointment as members for the 2025-26 fiscal year:

William Borcy  
Aaron Budine  
Edward Curtis  
Stuart Elliott  
Andrew Howell  
William Kimball  
Greg Parody  
Kyle Macleay  
Mathew McCarthy  
Forester Menson  
Mitchell Waldron  
Jake Whitney

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stuart Elliott, clerk



**Department of Veteran Services**  
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301  
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401  
[www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)

Christopher Demars, Director  
 Laura Thorne, Assistant  
 Stacey Geneczko, Deputy Director  
 Jeffrey Cochran, VSO

**UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT**

*Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district*

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
- Gill*
- Greenfield*
- Hawley*
- Heath*
- Leverett*
- Leyden*
- Monroe*
- Montague*
- New Salem*
- Northfield*
- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

Town of Gill Select Board  
 Gill Town Hall  
 325 Main Street  
 Gill, MA 01354

Select Board Chair Greg Snedeker,

The Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Service members and Veteran (Hero Act) Chapter 178 of the Acts 2024 has allowed the Cities and Towns of Massachusetts to adopt Section 23 which adds two new veteran property tax exemptions clauses, Clause 22I and 22J to the General Laws, c.59, §5.

I have attached the DLS Bulletin BUL-2024-5 that has been sent to each municipality for review. As of today, the only City or Town of our District to vote and enact these clauses is the City of Greenfield.

As the Director of Veterans Services, I highly encourage each and every town in our district to adopt these new clauses for our veterans. I have received many calls from veterans within our District about the adoption of these clauses and I always refer them to speak to their local government to have them voted on.

I am inquiring as the Towns Veteran Services Director to know if your Town has looked into these new clauses and whether or not they will be brought forward for a vote to adopt.

Respectfully,

Chris Demars  
 Director



# Bulletin

BUL-2024-5

## RECENT LEGISLATION

TO: Local Officials  
 FROM: Kenneth Woodland, Chief, Municipal Finance Law Bureau  
 DATE: August 2024  
 SUBJECT: An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans ("HERO" Act) Chapter 178 of the Acts 2024.

To keep you informed of legislative developments, the Division of Local Services ("Division") periodically publishes a **BULLETIN** summarizing new laws that affect municipal budgets and local tax assessment, administration and collection. Each issue usually contains a cumulative summary of session laws enacted to that time and indicates whether the Division has issued any further implementation guidelines. This edition of the **BULLETIN** instead focuses on a recent legislative change affecting municipal finance found in Chapter 178 of the Acts 2024 (hereinafter "Act"), entitled An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans ("HERO" Act).

These changes provide two new local options that increase certain veteran exemption amounts and changes how to determine eligibility for the motor vehicle exemption for a veteran with a 100% disability rating or is unemployable due to their service-connected disability.

1. Generally, what are the municipal finance related provisions in the "HERO" Act?

Section 23 adds two new veteran property tax exemption clauses, Clauses 221 and 221, to General Laws, c. 59, §5, which is the statute that establishes local property tax exemptions for individuals and organizations. Additionally, Section 24 changes how eligibility for the motor vehicle exemption for a veteran with a service-connected disability is established under G.L. c. 60A, § 1.

**2. When do these provisions go into effect?**

As the Act contained a preamble, the Act's effective date is the date it was signed by the Governor – August 8, 2024. However, for exemptions allowed under G.L. c. 59, § 5, the exemption qualifying date is generally July 1. Changes in property tax exemption laws will generally apply prospectively as of the next qualification date after the effective date of the amendments. As such, municipalities will be able to adopt Clauses 22I and 22J, as described herein, for Fiscal Year 2026.

Conversely, the change under G.L. c. 60A, § 1 is effective presently for calendar year 2024 excises.

**3. How does a municipality implement these changes?**

Clauses 22I and 22J are local options that must be accepted by a city or town to apply in that municipality. Acceptance requires a vote of the legislative body (town meeting, town council or city council) subject to the municipality's charter. G.L. c. 4, § 4. No local action is needed for the change under G.L. c. 60A, § 1 to go into effect.

**4. What would be the impact of Clause 22I?**

Clause 22I, if accepted, would increase the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F annually by a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) determined by the Department of Revenue (DOR) based on the consumer price index (CPI). This would work like the annual COLA adjustment determined by DOR that is already a local option for certain senior exemption amounts and financial means standards. See G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clauses 17E, 17F and 41D.

For example, if a Clause 22 recipient will receive a \$400 exemption and the community accepts this option, and the CPI increases by 5%, the total exemption amount would increase to \$420.

**5. What would be the impact of Clause 22J?**

Clause 22J, if accepted, provides an additional exemption up to 100% of the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F. This would work like the optional additional exemption that is already a local option under G.L. c. 59, § 5C for all persons granted exemptions on their domiciles as veterans, seniors, blind persons, and surviving spouses. Clause 22J will not apply in a year in which the city or town already uses G.L. c. 59, § 5C to grant an additional exemption to all persons granted exemptions. It is an option for cities and towns that do not use that general additional exemption to be able to just grant one for persons granted veteran exemptions. As with the general additional exemption, the application of the Clause 22J additional exemption cannot reduce the tax owed below what the taxpayer would owe on 10% of the current assessed valuation of the domicile. However, unlike the general additional exemption, the exemption granted to veterans can result in the taxpayer paying less than the taxes paid in the preceding fiscal year. To implement, the city or town must vote to accept the statute and establish the additional exemption percentage before the July 1 beginning of the fiscal year in which that percentage will first apply. The voted percentage will continue to apply in subsequent years unless and until another percentage is voted before the July 1 beginning of a later fiscal year.

6. How does the change to G.L. c. 60A, § 1 effect the veteran motor vehicle excise process?

This section changes how eligibility for the motor vehicle exemption for a veteran with a service-connected disability is established under G.L. c. 60A, § 1. Currently, the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) within the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) determines that the veteran has the qualifying disability. Under the amendment, eligibility will be based on a disability determination by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), as is the case with other motor vehicle and property tax exemptions available to veterans. Now, a veteran will qualify for a motor vehicle exemption if the VA determines they have a 100% disability rating or deems them unemployable due to their service-connected disability.

7. What is the impact in a community that adopts both Clause 22I and 22J?

Both Clauses would operate together. For example, if a Clause 22 recipient will receive a \$400 exemption and the community accepts Clause 22I, and the CPI increases by 5%, the total exemption amount would increase to \$420. If the community further accepts Clause 22J (or G.L. c. 59, § 5C) and increases by the maximum 100% the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans, in this example, the total exemption will increase to \$840.

8. Do any of these provisions effect the state reimbursement?

As Clauses 22I and 22J are local options that must be accepted by a city or town to apply in that municipality, there is no additional state reimbursement for the cost of the additional exemptions.

Conversely, the veteran exemptions granted pursuant to the new provisions in G.L. c. 60A, § 1 will be fully reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

**SAMPLE ACCEPTANCE VOTES**  
(Consult with municipal counsel)

**ADJUSTED EXEMPTION AMOUNT CLAUSE 22I**

VOTED: That the city/town accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, \_\_\_\_\_.

**OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL VETERAN EXEMPTION CLAUSE 22J**

VOTED: That the city/town accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by [insert percentage increase up to 100% e.g., 50%, 70%, 100%] of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, \_\_\_\_\_.

FY2025 Exemptions based on FY2024 Applications

Clause	Date Town Adopted Clause	Exemption Amount	Exemption Amount in Today's Dollars	State Reimbursement	Quantity	No Changes	50% Increase in Exemption	100% Increase in Exemption	COLA 3.4%	COLA 3.4% and 50% Increase in Exemption	COLA 3.4% and 100% Increase in Exemption
17D - Senior Exemption	11/18/1986	\$175.00	\$491	Total amount reimbursed in last year Clause 17 used \$525 max*	2	-\$175.00	\$0.00	\$175.00	-\$163.10	\$17.85	\$198.80
41C - Senior Exemption	11/18/1986; Modified 5/23/2022	\$1,000.00	1438*	\$500 per exemption, up to the number of exemptions granted in the last year Clause 41 used \$3,012 max*	6	\$2,988.00	\$5,988.00	\$8,988.00	\$3,192.00	\$6,294.00	\$9,396.00
37A - Blind Exemption	37A - 5/12/1984; 37 - 5/6/2024	\$437.50	\$1,325	\$87.50 per exemption	1	\$412.50	\$662.50	\$912.50	\$429.50	\$688.00	\$946.50
22 - Veteran Exemption		\$400.00	1531**	\$225 per exemption	13	\$2,275.00	\$4,875.00	\$7,475.00	\$2,451.80	\$5,140.20	\$7,828.60
22E - Veteran Exemption		\$1,000.00	3826**	\$825 per exemption	7	\$1,225.00	\$4,725.00	\$8,225.00	\$1,463.00	\$5,082.00	\$8,701.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>29</b>	<b>\$6,725.50</b>	<b>\$16,250.50</b>	<b>\$25,775.50</b>	<b>\$7,373.20</b>	<b>\$17,222.05</b>	<b>\$27,070.90</b>
Less Existing Cost to Town						-\$6,725.50	-\$6,725.50	-\$6,725.50	-\$6,725.50	-\$6,725.50	-\$6,725.50
<b>Additional Expense to Town</b>						<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$9,525.00</b>	<b>\$19,050.00</b>	<b>\$647.70</b>	<b>\$10,496.55</b>	<b>\$20,345.40</b>

\* based on \$500 adoption limit in 1984

\*\* Veteran Exemption is one of the State's oldest exemptions and is state law.

There are some veteran exemptions that are local options but Gill has not adopted those.