



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

October 6, 2025

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

Location: Town Hall, 2nd 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, 4/22/25, 5/5/25, 5/20/25, 6/2/25, 6/16/25, 6/30/25, 8/11/25, 8/18/25, 9/8/25, 9/17/25, 9/22/25

New Business

- Treasurer - recommendation to award 1-year Bond Anticipation Note for \$94,000 to bank bidding lowest interest rate & sign loan documents (2nd of 3 years borrowing for the Fire Responder)
- Roof leak at Riverside Municipal Building 9/25/25 rainstorm
- LED light fixture fire at Gill Elementary School on 10/2/25
- Date for Gill's special town meeting to vote on the Regional Agreement as present by the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board – suggested date for Gill is Monday, November 10th
- Board of Assessors – recommendation/request to bring back Diane Sumrall as a temporary part-time employee to provide transitional coverage of the Assessors' Office and training of the new hire
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
- Warrants
FY26 #07 – Vendors (\$162,140.50) & Payroll (\$42,794.79) – reviewed/signed on 9/22/25
FY26 #08 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 10/6	7:00 PM	Special Town Meeting	Town Hall
Mon 10/20	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Mon 11/3	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2025

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: John Ward, Greg Snedeker, Charles Garbiel

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Tim Batchelder, Kate Savage, Erin-Leigh Hoffman, Dan Flagg, Bill Tomb, Lynn Tomb, Pam Lester

Review of Minutes: No minutes were available for review.

One-Day Liquor License: The Selectboard reviewed an application from Helene Grosvenor for a one-day beer & wine license for an acoustic concert to be held on October 4, 2025, outdoors at her home at 10 Cross Road. The application states a maximum of 100 attendees, with license hours from 11 AM to 7 PM. Accessible parking will be provided on site, and other parking will be at the nearby Gill Elementary School. The application has been reviewed by the Police Chief who noted no issues or concerns. Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Ward, to grant the license with a start date of October 3, 2025, and an end date of October 6, 2025. The additional licensed days before and after the event is to allow for proper transportation and storage of alcoholic beverages. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee: At its meeting on September 15, 2025, the Personnel Committee approved two recommendations: 1) that the Selectboard should establish the position of Principal Assessor as a position for the Town, and 2) that the position of Principal Assessor should be placed at Grade 6 on the Town's wage scale. To open the discussion of the first recommendation Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Ward, to establish the position of Principal Assessor. It was noted this new position would provide a pathway for advancement for someone hired as the Assistant to the Assessors, which is more of a clerk role. The Principal Assessor has significantly more training in the technical aspects of property appraisal and assessment.

Snedeker suggested in the future, when an Assistant to the Assessors is hired there should be a side letter agreement between the Town and the employee relative to how long the person stays in the Town's employ once achieving MAAO certification as an Assessor. Such an agreement would help ensure the Town receives some type of return on the investment it makes by paying for the coursework and training. Bill Tomb, Chair of the Board of Assessors, suggested the terms of the side letter agreement need to be relative to the Town's cost for the classes. He estimated there are four courses at a cost of \$500 each. Lester, a member of the Board of Assessors, noted the MAAO certification requires a minimum of two years of work experience in an Assessor-related position.

Lester, alluding to a subsequent item on the Selectboard's agenda, stated Diane Sumrall's resignation letter provided notice to the Town of Sumrall's intention to take employment in Erving, but Gill's Board of Assessors has not formally accepted the resignation. Depending on how the Selectboard acts on the two recommendations, there may not be a vacancy in the Assessors' Office. Bill Tomb confirmed the Board's intention is to only ever have one employee at any time, whether that employee is a Principal Assessor or an Assistant to the Assessors.

The Selectboard reviewed a supplied job description for the Principal Assessor position and confirmed the Education and Experience section contains clear requirements of holding and maintaining a certificate in municipal assessing. At the conclusion of the discussion the motion to establish the position of Principal Assessor was brought to a vote and was approved by a unanimous vote.

There was minimal discussion on the recommendation to place the Principal Assessor position at Grade 6 of the Town's wage scale. It was noted the Assistant to the Assessors position is at Grade 5 on the wage scale. Sumrall is currently at the top step (Level F) of Grade 5 and receives \$30.80 per hour. Last year she was at Grade 5 Level B (\$25.70/hr) and was advanced to Level F via the budget process for Fiscal Year 2026. The wage range for Grade 6 is \$30.46/hr (Level A) to \$37.07 (Level F). Ward made a motion, seconded by Snedeker, to place the Principal Assessor position at Grade 6 on the wage scale. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Lester thanked Lynn Tomb, John Ward, and the other members of the Personnel Committee for its actions and recommendations as this matter has lingered in meetings and discussions for more than two years. Similar thanks were given to the Selectboard for their decisions tonight.

Resignations: The Selectboard reviewed a 09/09/2025 letter from Diane Sumrall resigning as Assistant to the Assessors effective on 09/25/25. In light of the Principal Assessor discussions and votes the Selectboard took no action on the resignation and requested the Board of Assessors confer with Sumrall.

The Selectboard reviewed a letter from Tim Storrow resigning from the Board of Assessors effective 09/30/25. Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Ward, to accept the resignation with regret. Bill Tomb noted Storrow has been a valuable member of the Board of Assessors, and Lester explained Storrow did much of the legwork on the proposed settlement agreement with FirstLight regarding outstanding multiple years of Appellate Tax Board cases with the Town. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. It was noted the vacancy can be filled by a joint appointment made by the Selectboard and the two remaining members of the Board of Assessors. The appointment would be until the town election in May 2026, at which time the appointee could decide to run for election for the final year of the three-year term.

John Miner and Jeff Suprenant joined the meeting at 5:55 PM. Bill Tomb, Lynn Tomb, and Pam Lester left the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Veterans' District Renewal: Ward made a motion, seconded by Snedeker, to authorize Garbiel, as Chair, to sign an intermunicipal agreement with the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District for veterans' services for the Town for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The current agreement with the District expires on June 30, 2026.

Warrants: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2026 warrant # 07 with totals of \$162,140.50 for vendors and \$42,794.79 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 10/06/2025

John Ward, Selectboard Clerk

Dear Selectboard Members of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield and Warwick,

The STRPB continues to work with DESE to have the final Regional Agreement approved for a town meeting vote in November, or in the case of Montague a special election. Kevin Bresnahan, from the Law Offices of Murphy, Hess, Toomey and Lehan, has created the warrant article for these meetings/special election.

As you probably know, Chapter 71 Section 15 gives the towns with Open Meeting Town governance 30 days to schedule its meeting. Montague, being a Representative Town Meeting governance, has 35 days to schedule a special election ballot, but no more than 50 days. Thank you for working with the Planning Board to coordinate the timing of sending your towns the warrant article to coincide with your Town Meeting date.

On our behalf, we first asked Walter Ramsey to see if the six towns could hold their respective Town Meetings on November 15th to maximize voting and minimize political influence. However, since then it was pointed out that by doing so it might impede voters from having some of their questions answered before casting their vote. We are now trying to ensure Greg and/or I can attend all the STMs to answer any questions voters may have. The two of us have personally worked the most with consultants, lawyers, DESE, and others, and therefore are the most qualified to answer questions or address incomplete/inaccurate information. Of course this would need to be permitted by the moderator and voters.

It will be helpful if we can figure out a way to resolve this together and fully understand this is your Town Meeting and you alone decide when it will happen within the requirement of Chapter 71, Sec. 15 when you receive notification. We can only make a recommendation. So here is what we know:

Montague will hold its special elections at the Franklin County Technical Regional School on Tuesday, November 18. We will send out the Warrant requests to the Montague Selectboard on October 2nd. We will request that Gill hold its Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 10th and request Warwick hold its Special Town Meeting on November 18th.

I recently learned that Leyden has scheduled its Town Meeting on Saturday, November 15 beginning at 10 am.

This may create a conflict between Northfield and Bernardston if they also prefer to schedule their respective Town Meetings on this date. If so, is it possible to stagger the meeting times on November 15. 1 PM? 4 pm? Or some other time? Of course, any day/time is at your discretion.

The Planning Board has authorized us to send out the warrant request in accordance with the date you select to ensure we are working together to meet your needs and ours. As soon as we have this information we will send out the warrant article with a cover letter. We look forward to your response.

Thank you for all the good work you do on behalf of your towns.

Alan Genovese, STRPB Chair and Greg Snedeker, STRPB Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer