



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

August 10, 2026

***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: 2025: 3/24, 4/7, 4/22, 5/5, 5/20, 6/2, 6/16, 6/30, 8/11, 8/18, 9/8, 9/17, 10/6, 10/16, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/15, 12/29; 2026: 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/21, 5/4, 5/19, 7/27

New Business

- Election topics
 - Sign warrant for Primary Election on September 1, 2026
 - Approve dates & times for Early Voting for September 1 Primary Election
 - Sat 8/22 9 AM – 11 AM and 3 PM – 5 PM
 - Mon 8/24, Tues 8/25, and Wed 8/26 1 PM – 3 PM
 - Thur 8/27 3 PM – 5:30 PM
 - Adopt use of Hand Counting tabulation for all elections effective 8/11/26 (Will not affect use of ImageCast tabulator for 11/3 state election as 120-day deadline has passed for changing that.)
- Riverside Municipal Building (RMB) Use Committee
 - Discuss scope of work, role, deliverables, timeline, who final report goes to
 - Selectboard vote to establish the committee. 7 members, including 1 rep from Selectboard
 - Appoint members through June 30, 2027
 - Cathy Demars, Walnut Street Christopher Pelletier, Walnut Street
 - Amy Gordon, Setback Lane Samuel Plotkin, Oak Street
 - Karen Larsen, Main Road Jenn Waldron, Oak Street (Selectboard rep)
 - Rebecca Minor, Center Road
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
- Warrants
 - FY27 #03 – Vendors (\$134,096.14) & Payroll (\$33,759.60) – reviewed/signed on 7/27
 - FY27 #04 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 8/24	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Tues 9/1	7AM - 8PM	State Primary Election	Town Hall
Mon 9/7		Labor Day holiday	
Tues 9/8	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2026

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM in the middle classroom at the Riverside Municipal Building, 54 French King Highway.

Members Present: John Ward, Jenn Waldron, Charles Garbiel (joined at 5:30 PM)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; John Miner, Kit Carpenter, Dan Flagg, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Tim Batchelder, Kate Savage, and Janet Masucci.

Warrants: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2027 warrant # 03 with totals of \$134,096.14 for vendors and \$33,759.60 for payroll.

The video recording of the meeting started at 4:46 PM. Robert Perry and Ann Perry joined the meeting.

Review of Minutes: Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to approve the minutes of July 13, 2026. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Unpaved Roads Equipment Grant: Purington reported the grant contract has been received from the Mass Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for the Town's \$246,000 award through the Unpaved Roads Equipment Grant. The funds will be used to purchase a new front-end loader. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to accept the grant and authorize Purington to sign all documents necessary to accept and implement the grant. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

1985 Chipper as Surplus Equipment: Highway Superintendent John Miner met with the Selectboard and presented a request to declare the 1985 Morbark woodchipper as surplus and to authorize its disposal by an online auction using Auctions International. He explained the Town recently received the new chipper, the purchase of which was approved by Town Meeting vote in June. The purchase price of the chipper was several thousand dollars lower than the amount authorized by Town Meeting. The Selectboard briefly discussed whether it is ethical to sell a piece of equipment that is felt to be unsafe to operate. It was noted, however, the Selectboard has a fiduciary responsibility to maximize the return on surplus equipment that is sold, and selling the chipper as scrap metal would just mean the scrapyard would resell the still-working chipper and keep the profits. Miner noted the equipment is sold "as is" and the safe operation of the equipment is the buyer's responsibility. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to declare the chipper as surplus equipment and to sell the chipper via Auctions International. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

MOU for HHW Event: Purington presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for this year's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event scheduled for September 19th. He noted the Town's budget for this year's event is \$1,500 using funds provided by the state's Recycling Dividend Program grant. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to approve and sign the MOU. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Annual Agreements for Dog Shelter and Animal Control: Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to approve and authorize Purington to sign the agreements between the Town and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for Regional Animal Control Services and Regional Dog Shelter Services. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Payment Drop Box at RMB: Waldron disclosed her husband, Scott Waldron, is the Clerk/Treasurer for the Riverside Water District (RWD). The RWD has office space at the Riverside Municipal Building (RMB). To make it easier for residents to pay water bills without mailing payments to the RWD's post office box, Scott Waldron has requested the RWD be authorized to install a payment drop box at the RMB. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to approve the request. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Ray Steele, Anna Steele, and Holly Grosvenor joined the meeting.

Appointments: Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to appoint Tim Little of 17 Oak Street to the Sewer Commission through June 30, 2029. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to appoint Jim Asbel of 10 Cross Road to the Planning Board through June 30, 2028. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

GPS Receiver for use with GIS: Miner presented a purchase order request of \$3,325 for a GPS receiver bundle from Land Logics Group. The GPS receiver will increase the accuracy of the locational readings being taken when data is recorded in the Town's GIS software. Using just the iPad tablet, GPS readings have an accuracy of plus or minus 3 feet to 33 feet. By adding the GPS receiver, the readings will be accurate to plus or minus 33 cm (13 inches). The cost of the purchase will be split equally among the FY27 budgets for Highway, Trees, and Sewer, as all three departments use the GIS software. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Ward, to approve the purchase as requested. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting was recessed for approximately 20 minutes to allow the Selectboard and those attending the meeting to tour the basement and first floor of the Riverside Municipal Building. Charles Garbiel joined the meeting at 5:30 PM. Approximately 40 additional Gill residents joined the meeting.

Public Forum on Riverside Municipal Building: At 5:30 PM Ward welcomed those in attendance and opened a public forum to discuss the Riverside Municipal Building (RMB), with a focus on gathering residents' ideas and input on the building's needs, ways it could be used, and its importance to the Town. Ward explained the origin of this forum grew out of conversations during the Selectboard's and Finance Committee's meetings developing the FY27 budget, and the feeling there should be vision and clarity of the building's future use before too much money is invested in needed repairs and maintenance.

Bob Perry read a statement prepared by the Historical Commission. The statement gave details of the building's history as a town school built in 1926, the historical significance of the Riverside section of Gill and Native American activity dating back thousands of years, and the archaeological significance of the discovery of dinosaur tracks in the United States "right here in our own backyard" in the Connecticut River Valley. The statement explained the Commission's plans to expand their space in the building from one classroom to all three classrooms, and the setbacks encountered by the roof leak in September 2025. The Commission has dreams of the RMB being used to educate children and adults about the town and its history, being used for genealogical research, and as meeting space for presentations and community gatherings.

Residents offered the following comments:

- During the multi-year Battlefield Mapping Grant, which studied the 1676 battle known alternately as the Turners Falls Massacre and Greats Falls Massacre, hundreds of artifacts were unearthed in the Riverside area. There is no space and no place in Gill or Montague to display or exhibit those items.
- The Selectboard considered selling the building in the 1980s but ultimately decided to keep it. The building and its land are important for the Town to keep for future use. Dense housing units should be avoided out of concern for the capacity and age of the sewer infrastructure. If the RMB is sold, most of the land should be kept and made into a park.
- Has the Town made a list of what repairs the building needs?
- There was a meeting earlier this year with the Building Inspector. The front steps can be repaired, instead of being replaced. The roof can be patched or replaced. Sections of the roof can be replaced as "repairs" without triggering certain aspects of building codes. Asked about the current balance in the account for replacing the front steps, and if a Town Meeting vote could repurpose those funds for other building needs.
- Spoke against having volunteers repair or replace the roof. The work should be done safely by trained professionals.
- Replacing the roof is an ASAP priority. There should be a study of how the RMB fits into the Town's future. This study will be slower process with broad input.
- This is a good opportunity to take time to plan the Town's future, especially given the Town's recent designation as a Housing Choice Community, which can provide funding for professional planning consultants to guide the community through land use planning or a town master plan.
- There are limited spaces available in town for cultural events like the kind funded by the Cultural Council. The RMB's community room should be set up in a way that allows for this kind of use.
- The Four Winds School closed on June 30, 2024, after 20 years as a tenant at the RMB. Shortly thereafter the Selectboard voted to allow the Historical Commission to use all three classrooms (existing museum plus the two classrooms used by Four Winds).

- There was a 1982 Town Meeting vote to keep the building and use it for historical purposes. There was a 1993 Town Meeting vote that gave the Historical Commission the use of two classrooms.
- The FY27 budget meetings (Selectboard & Finance Committee) indicated the need for a committee to explore the use of the building.
- The land behind the RMB (almost 1 acre) could be used as outdoor communal space – a park or playground with trees and benches.
- The community room might be an ideal place to offer senior technology classes.
- The grounds would be a good place for a farmers' market.
- Gill has relatively few historical places left. The RMB ought to be preserved.
- The Planning Board is starting to focus on long range planning. This topic is coming at the right time.
- The RMB is actively being used by other Town groups. The Recreation Committee has storage space in the basement, and the Board of Health recently conducted a tick prevention clinic on the grounds. The Riverside Water District has an office on the first floor and storage in the basement.
- A new roof will cost money. Taxpayers need to be ready to pay.
- A show of hands was requested to indicate support for keeping the building. A large majority of hands were raised in support.
- A local contractor estimated the total cost to replace the roof, including all decking, using asphalt shingles, would be much less than \$500,000. The roof replacement could be done as a "Level 1 repair, a one-for-one."
- The front steps have needed to be replaced for the last 6-7 years and funds have been available.
- Install solar on the roof. Reduce the amount of space utilized by the Historical Commission to be able to lease some space to help defray costs.
- Multiple people volunteered to join a committee to study the use, as well as a committee to investigate and recommend a solution to the roof replacement question.

Ray Steele, Rob Marcalow, Stephen Greenwald, Charles Garbiel, and Bob Perry volunteered to serve on the committee to investigate and recommend a solution to the roof replacement question. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to establish a Riverside Municipal Building Roof Committee and to appoint Steele, Marcalow, Greenwald, and Perry to the committee through June 30, 2027, and to further appoint Garbiel as the Selectboard's representative to the Roof Committee through June 30, 2027. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Waldron offered to collect names of residents interested in serving on the committee to study the building's use and will make a report at the Selectboard's meeting on August 10, 2026. Don Shebell volunteered to serve on a "building and grounds committee" if such a committee is ever formed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/10/2026

Jenn Waldron, Selectboard Clerk